

# Pipeline Quarterly

A quarterly feature publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2012

"That's just another solution  
the SELF waiver offers me!"

-page 4

## Statewide Efforts, Reaching Out Into the Community

During the summer of 2012, Ohioans who have developmental disabilities and their advocates were busy in local communities, exploring new options, and reaching out to achieve greater independence.



Exploring the new SELF Waiver, different employment options via the Employment First initiative, new residential opportunities and more, this issue of Pipeline Quarterly captures some of the excitement of progress around the state.

☞

### Now THIS is What You Call OUTREACH!

Members of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Outreach Sub-Committee recently stepped it up a notch, and became the DD Council Outreach Committee – a 'standing committee' – It's a big step for Ohio's disability community, and an outlook for progress. See story on page 3.

Ohio's more than 90,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and other advocates have had a busy summer. Listening to people at conferences, seminars, meetings, and in everyday conversations, one gets the sense that not only is progress being made, but it's being made *by* and *for* the people served - not just toward some number

or chart. DODD salutes the empowering efforts of people at County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Centers, and other service providers, in organizations such as *People First*; and programs such as *Project STIR* that help people with disabilities live successfully and inclusively in their communities.

☞

Ada enjoys more options.  
"She has more of a happy face  
these days."

- page 6



The 6th Annual Venture Crew Scout Camp was held in July at the Muskingum Valley Scout Reservation, near Conesville. Attendees were pretty excited about it. They said,

"Venture Crew Rocks."  
-page 5

### In this Issue of PQ



"...Good progress for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities ... p. 3

- p. 2 *Spotlight on Employment First, Working Around the State*
- p. 3 *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Outreach Efforts*
- p. 4 *A New Waiver, A New Apartment -- Christine Brown and the SELF Waiver*
- p. 5 *The 'Big Picture' ... of People Out in the Community*
- p. 6-8 *Developmental Centers a Part of the Future ICF-IID System*

- Director's Message -  
'Progress on Several Fronts'

## Employment First Initiative, Working Around the State



Photo Courtesy, THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER

### On-the-Job in Wood County

Ben Hollinger (left) and Director John Martin (foreground) with Tiffany Shaner of Heritage Corner Health Care, while touring the facility.

Always looking for ways to share good information and ideas, DODD Director John Martin asked Wood County leaders this summer for their thoughts on successful community employment for people with developmental disabilities that could be shared and implemented elsewhere. He noted that an analysis of recent employment data has shown that Wood County is the most successful of Ohio's 88 counties in terms of people with disabilities working in the community.

**Director Martin and DODD staff in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction will share the information and ideas with other counties that have not yet gotten so successfully 'on-board' with employment programs, in an effort to develop some consistent best practices.**

At a community employment roundtable discussion, local leaders stated that Wood County has had a long-standing commitment to employing people with developmental disabilities, dating back to 1985. The county is *number one in the state* in that employment category, with 40% of enrolled adults employed in the community. Approximately 100 businesses are a part of that local employment network.



Wood County's David Schult (left) and Adult Services Director Jay Salvage. Schult received honors for long-term service and good humor.

Also participating in leadership roundtable discussions in Wood and other counties around the state, Ben Hollinger (see below), commented that statewide, County Boards of DD report that an average of 15% of enrolled adults are employed in the community, as compared to Wood County's 40%. While 130 individuals work at the County Board's Wood Lane Industries, 225 work in the community for minimum wage or more. Wood County Commissioner Tim Brown, explained,

**"It's just become second nature to see these folks in the work force. The word is out that this is a viable component of the work force."**

Wood Lane Director of Adult Services Jay Salvage observed that success in employing adults with DD may be attributed to the community and its leaders recognizing the economic and social value in increasing community employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

(cont. on p. 5)



Ben Hollinger

**The Employment First initiative's policy and task force will encourage Ohioans with DD to take part in the community workforce whenever possible, rather than in more traditional 'sheltered workshop' settings.**

Ben Hollinger joined DODD in May as Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction. He is spearheading DODD's *Employment First* initiative and related efforts, including the *Employment First Task Force*, which will identify best practices, effective partnerships, sources of funds, and opportunities for shared services among County Boards and other service providers, as well as identify and expand model community-based employment options.

Contact Ben at [ben.hollinger@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ben.hollinger@dodd.ohio.gov)



## Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Reaches Out Cover Photo Illustrates Members' Enthusiasm for "Outreach"

The DODD Office of Legal & Oversight oversees the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ("DD Council"), a planning and advocacy body committed to community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. As one of a national network of state councils, the Council receives federal funding for innovative advocacy, capacity-building, and systems change activities, designed to contribute to a coordinated system of services, supports, and other assistance centered around and driven by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. To carry out its mission, DD Council develops a state plan, conducts advocacy and systems change activities, and funds projects.

To that end, a sub-committee of the organization, the Outreach Sub-Committee, was charged several years ago with focusing *specifically* and *only* on assuring that no segment of the DD population in the state would be unserved or under-served, overlooked or excluded from needed services. Gradually the sub-committee's approach to awarding grant funds for this work became fine-tuned. The group was ready to become a full-fledged Standing Committee, accorded the responsibilities of other Committees within the Council.

This summer, DD Council approved this change, and to the members of the new Committee, it was a huge step forward. According to Michael Schroeder, Committee chairperson, "Subcommittees aren't permanent committees, so they don't have the same standing, the same weight...they report to an executive committee and offer recommendations ... they don't make final decisions." He adds,

**"Part of a state DD Council's operation is paying attention to and reaching out to the unserved and under-served populations. ... niches within the population that need assistance. The Amish community, for example, is one that has many individuals in need of DD services, and represents certain cultural differences that must be understood in the process of offering services.**

**Appalachian areas would be another .. and there are so many more.**

**We are thrilled to continue this work with renewed enthusiasm."**

A July 2012 report by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and The Ohio State University further underscores this mindset. The *Vocational Rehabilitation Statewide Needs Assessment* states, "Formalized efforts to understand processes and procedures used in counties that demonstrate effective methods for conducting research and addressing the employment needs of individuals with disabilities is a key recommendation to be pursued statewide ... significant numbers of individuals may not be being served."



### Ridin' High in Union County

Posted on Rt. 33 in Union County, the first of the new DD Council billboards reaches out to the community in a big way, with the 'Just Like You' theme of awareness and understanding.

## - Director's Message - Progress on Several Fronts



by John Martin  
Director, DODD  
(614) 466-5214  
[John.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:John.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov)

### SELF Waiver

As I noted in the previous issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* reporting on Spring 2012, enrollment for Ohio's new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began July 1, 2012. The developmental disabilities community, both statewide and nationally, has shown excitement about this new waiver option, as it is the first to allow individuals with developmental disabilities the freedom to determine *how* and *where* they receive supports paid with the state's Medicaid funding. As promised, in this issue we feature the first individual to be enrolled on the SELF waiver, Christine Brown.

(see p. 4)

### ICF-IID Program

DODD has released a vision paper, *The Future of the ICF-IID\* Program*. It describes the Department's support of rebalancing efforts, as the state's developmental disabilities system moves toward more choice and community integration for people served. The vision paper makes it clear that ICFs, of which our state-operated Developmental Centers are a part, will remain a vital part of the future of service delivery, but over the next ten years will transition to a smaller, more targeted role.

In these two areas and others, I see this Administration making good progress for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities, and am pleased to report on these efforts.

-Respectfully, John Martin

ICF-IID\*: Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

## A New Waiver, A New Apartment – Christine Brown's In Town

Ohio's first SELF Waiver Recipient says, "I'm ready to get started on this!"

As owner of *Brown-Cooley Associates in Self-Determination* Christine Brown is well known to many in Ohio's developmental disabilities service system. She has been actively advocating for people with disabilities since 1994, and has a real passion for positive change, and expanding choices for people with disabilities.

Christine has worked with many County Boards, families, and local officials to foster awareness for disability issues affecting individuals in communities around the state.

She has received recognition from many organizations for her enthusiastic advocacy efforts, including Ohio Public Images' Self-Advocate of the Year Award in 2005, and affiliations with several groups and projects that promote concepts related to self-determination, including serving as the *Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA)* Central Region Chair, and as a member of *People First* of Franklin County.

See the new SELF Waiver handbook at [dodd.ohio.gov](http://dodd.ohio.gov), click on 'Publications'



**WOW! Just Look at All My Cabinets.**

In her new apartment since August, Christine (right) loves her new kitchen and all the amenities. After a day at work, Christine's service coordinator, Megan Larkin, stops by to see how she's doing and chat for a while. Christine says, "I found this great place through Creative Housing – my other place had water problems." Megan agrees, "Big time water problems. It's a real improvement."



**Congratulations, Christine!**

Christine with Jeanne Stuntz, friend and advocate. Christine has lived in Franklin County since May 2009

Christine was very excited to hear that she had been the first individual approved for services via the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver, stating, "I tried to get all the paperwork in right away and did some research into how everything should be done – I'm ready to get started on this!"

A few weeks into 'life with the SELF Waiver,' Christine noted, "the participant-directed services part of it is just great for me. For example, I found I could use Yellow Cab to go to church, instead of waiting for a big group of people to decide to go to the same church at the same time and ride a van or other group-oriented transportation. She smiled,

**"So, that's just another solution the SELF waiver offers me!"**

Christine added, "I'm my own Support Broker (a SELF option), too, and I love that. I invited several support people to my first SELF budget meeting to get a good picture of what I need to do to make the most of these waiver services, and then teach others about it. That's what I like to do!"

## The Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver

Enrollment for the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began on July 1, 2012. The first waiver to allow Ohioans with developmental disabilities the freedom to determine *how* and *where* they receive supports paid with the state's Medicaid funding, the SELF Waiver was named by people with disabilities at the OSDA Conference in 2010. In addition, their input greatly influenced the language describing SELF Waiver services.

**SELF waiver capacity for the first year is 'up to 500 individuals,' accumulates to 1000 in the second year, and to 2000 in the third year. Capacity also includes 100 children with intensive behavioral needs who meet criteria.**

Unique to the SELF waiver, *an explanation must be provided when an individual chooses an Adult Day service that is not an employment service.* And, Community Inclusion services available with the waiver support individuals' full participation the community. For example, the services can include peer support activities and organization of self-advocacy events.

## Employment First, Working Around the State

cont, from p. 2

He added that they are committed to expanding educational and other opportunities that can enhance individuals' self-determination, noting, "Any county that wants to move forward with the *Employment First* initiative really must embrace these values first."

Salvage also commented, regarding the Wood County Board program's 50-Year Anniversary, "We live in an interesting, exciting time regarding employment for people with disabilities. As we move forward, though, we sure don't want to forget the people and the work that brought us to this point and make this future possible."\* He added,

**"Ohio has joined other states, through the Employment First initiative, in renewing its commitment to creating new employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The basic goal of Employment First is to provide a meaningful job in the community for anyone who wants one. Anyone."**

"There is a lot of excitement and buzz around this initiative. It generates hope. There is a real possibility that we

will increase the number of real jobs in the community for people who have developmental disabilities. If that doesn't excite us, what does?""\*

### Challenges Yet to be Met

Always looking for ways to solve problems and improve the state's environment for community employment, Director Martin expressed to Wood County roundtable participants that he will continue to consider ways to meet the different challenges faced in counties across the state. He observed,

**" Incentives for businesses, more job development via business networking, and more transportation options for the many individuals that do not drive ... these are things that I am hearing about, and issues that need to be addressed in order to support the promise of Employment First."**

SO

*\*From opening remarks at the celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the "Wood County Sheltered Workshop Association" that became a non-profit organization on August 31, 1962.*

*More at [www.woodlane.us](http://www.woodlane.us)*

## The 'Big Picture' - Out in their Communities



### "Hopewell Happenings"

Fifteen participants in the adult program of the Coshocton County Board of DD ('Hopewell programs') are happily mixed in here, having a great time with the rest of the scouts, during a true camping experience in the 'wilds' of Muskingum County.

Photo and story provided by Bob Nicholson, MCBDD

The Sixth Annual Venture Crew Boy Scout Camp was a three-day event at Muskingum Valley Scout Reservation. Fifteen members of Hopewell's Venture Crew #435 (with all the other campers this summer) were treated to a wonderful camp experience, thanks to the collaboration of the Muskingum Valley Scout Council. The scouts staffed the activities, provided the meals, training for all activities, and lifeguard services. The entire 'camping experience' was there for the individuals from Hopewell to enjoy, including swimming, row boating, archery, rifle shooting, leather crafts, rope making, flag ceremonies, a three-mile hike, campfires and fishing. Individuals stayed overnight at the Hopewell Cabin.

SO

## Developmental Centers Open Doors to Explore Community Living

### Mount Vernon Developmental Center, Knox County, shares success stories

Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) is located in Knox County and serves approximately 125 residents in seven different living areas. Most of the residents at MVDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. MVDC serves Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington counties.

**The number of individuals served at MVDC and at all of Ohio's Developmental Centers is getting smaller, as community-based residential service waivers are accessed through a planned, ongoing census reduction.**

Since January 2010, MVDC has successfully transitioned 49 people into the community, with 22 moving to Medicaid waiver-funded homes, and 27 moving to Intermediate Care Facility settings.

Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) continue a gradual downsizing process and sharper focus on community involvement. Facilities report that strong regional support from their service areas has offered exciting opportunities for DC residents. MVDC reports some successes and challenges, and helping hands from community partners.

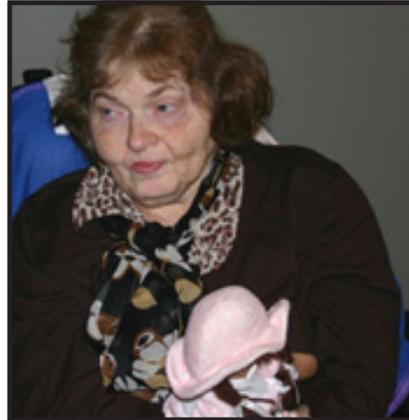
MVDC's first experience with broad-based community development was as a partner with the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities (KCBDD). They invited MVDC staff and residents to help plan, renovate and decorate a four-bedroom home in Mount Vernon with a specific purpose in mind ... and with a firm grasp of managing the large project from the ground up.

In June 2011, Ada, Patsy, and Robert moved into their new home in Mount Vernon. Molly Wobbecke, now Community Support Advisor with DODD, was the Community Services Director for KCBDD at the time. She explained, "The Madison Avenue home was purchased by the Eastern Ohio Housing Development Corporation as coordinated by KCBDD and the Knox Metro Housing Authority. Funding for the purchase was provided by the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and DODD."

#### On Madison Avenue

Ada's Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) representative Daryl Davison reports, "Ada is happier and more active since the move to the house on Madison Avenue, and her participation in Core Connections Adult Day Services. She's more relaxed, and seems to have a sense of belonging with her new peer group." He adds,

*Thanks to Laurie Johnson L.S.W., Dana Mattison, and Ernie Fischer at MVDC for this story.  
More about WDC online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Click on Residential Services, Developmental Centers.*



**Ada enjoys more options. Ada reflects on the day's events, and the many choices she has recently gained while living in the community.**



**"It's my opinion that Ada enjoys more options getting out into the community, and is able to lead a more traditional life. She has more of a happy face these days."**

Pennie Chappell, director of Supported Living at the Center for Disability Services (CDS) Core Connections program, comments, "I feel honored to share about Patsy, Robert, and Ada's transition to community living. First, let me say that the main reason it has been successful is due to the cooperation, dedication, and hard work of so many teams ... people at MVDC, KCBDD, CDS, and Advocacy & Protective Services (APSI). This was true at the time of transition, and just as true one year later." She adds,

**"Patsy, Robert, and Ada represent what a successful community placement looks like, and it is all possible when teams get together and support each other."**

Despite the vigilant efforts of her provider, Patsy was hospitalized in July. Due to the extent of her medical needs, she was discharged from the hospital to a local Skilled Nursing Facility in Mount Vernon. She now is unable to return to her waiver-funded home. APSI and MVDC explored options for her future residential needs.

MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer notes that after discussions with APSI (Patsy's guardian) the nursing home, and MVDC staff, it was determined that Patsy's medical and other needs would best be served by having Patsy return to the Developmental Center. So, in early September Patsy returned to MVDC, moving back into the familiar cottage and room she had before she moved out. He explains, "The resolution to this situation points out that Developmental Centers will continue to provide support

*(cont. on p. 7)*

## Exploring Community Living, New Homes, New Opportunities

(cont. from p. 6)

to residents and their providers after they move into the community and will serve as a safety net, should circumstances so dictate." MVDC is working with the Madison Avenue home provider to fill the vacancy created by Patsy's leaving ... with another individual living at MVDC.

### What About Brandon?

Earlier this year, Brandon moved from MVDC to be 77 miles closer to his family in Urbana. He is now only 11 miles from the family home. If not for the hard work and dedication of Brandon's parents/guardians, the Champaign County Board of DD, Consumer Support Services (CSS) and his MVDC team, this dream would have not have become a reality!

Brandon's Service/Support Administrator, Nicole Nawman-DeWitt comments, "I think Brandon has adjusted well to his new home and work environment, especially with the many life changes he was making all at once. There have been a few bumps during his transition, but he has a good team working with him, and has great supports to help him." Brandon's parents recently wrote to MVDC:

*"When moving from a Developmental Center to a community setting, it's important to plan several months ahead. Before Brandon's move we had several meetings with all the MVDC staff involved with Brandon. We also had many meetings with the Champaign County (Board of DD) where Brandon was moving. As we got closer to Brandon moving to his new home, we had meetings with the MVDC team and County Board team together.*

**It is so important to plan, and have as many supports such as physicians, dentists, providers, and specialists ... in place before the move.**

The letter further explains the transition process:

*"Brandon first moved from MVDC to our home. He was familiar with coming to our home, and stayed there one week. During that week, he visited his new home, met with the staff, spent time there with his roommate to-be, and visited his new workplace.*

*He moved to his new home in late February, and started his new job the next day at Lawnview Industries. He transitioned well. Today, Brandon works Monday - Friday and participates in a morning walking club, library visits, and cooking class. He helps take care of his new home. He mows the lawn and does other chores. After work he may run the sweeper, clear the table and wipe it down after meals. We are very proud of Brandon and thankful for his team's support. Thanks to everyone!"*

-Dana & Sheri Horsley

**Marsha using her new ipad with special communications software, and with her favorite cat, 'Yum-Yum.'** >

**Marsha's found a home.**



Yes, we had a photo of Brandon mowing his lawn, but this one looked like A LOT more fun ... Brandon (left) and his dad, enjoying some water-based recreation.

### Gallipolis DC and APSI Present...

#### Marsha Finds a Family

Marsha Mace lived at Gallipolis Developmental Center from 1999 - 2011. Her support team knew she wanted to live in a smaller community environment, but her aggressive behaviors were working against a placement outside of GDC. After some work on those issues, Marsha moved to a group setting in Hocking County with two former GDC residents. It wasn't what Marsha was looking for.

After a second move to an apartment of her own, with support from staff, Marsha's team thought perhaps this was the answer. But Marsha wasn't thriving there.

Earlier this year, Hocking County Board staff Beth Hackney and Matt Nobile told Marsha's APSI guardian, Brittany Brown, about a local family's home that had an opening. They had lost an individual who had lived with them for many years. Beth explained that Bill Shepler and his family take only one individual into their home, and they make that person a part of their family. Marsha and Brittany Brown met the Sheplers and toured their home. (cont. on p. 8)



## Developmental Center Superintendents Honor Jim Krumer



### Jim Krumer Moves from SODC to Scioto

Jim Krumer's several years at the helm of Southwest Ohio Developmental Center were honored in early September, as he moved from the Superintendent post at SODC to become Superintendent at the Scioto County Board of DD. Honoring him with an engraved glass prism were many of the staff in the DODD Division of Residential Resources: (L. to R., front) Ginnie Whisman, Wendy DiGregorio, Cindy Renner, Jim (with award), Ernie Fischer, Brent Baer, Sara Lawson. (L. to R., back) Nancy Banks, Troy McCollister, Susan Arnosczyk, Mike Snow, Dick Suehrstedt, Lisa Hutchison, and Mike Fitch.

In commenting on Jim's many contributions to Ohio's DD community while at SODC, Deputy Director for Residential Resources Ginnie Whisman noted, "Jim has been at the forefront of demonstrating to the local community that a Developmental Center can assist people in moving from a DC into the community if they want to -- and do it in a very collaborative way -- a very regional way. We will look to Jim in the future at the Scioto County Board to be a resource for this kind of approach in the future."



### Marsha Finds a Family (cont. from p. 7)

There was no hesitation on Marsha's part – she had finally found a home! In March, Marsha moved into her own bedroom at the Shepler's. Their daughter, Kimberly, shared: "Marsha fit into our family easily. She has a bedroom decorated with her personal belongings. Along with things we purchased for her ...

"... we worked with the County Board and APSI to get Marsha a much-needed wheeled walker, a wheelchair for long distances, a new iPad3 with Porloquo2Go software for her communication needs and a custom bicycle for exercise and fun. Marsha's eyeglasses had been lost, and we replaced those, and worked with her doctor and dentist to assure all her medical needs were addressed."

Marsha has started vocalizing freely with the family, and is learning to use the iPad for communication. Former behaviors fueled by anger and frustration don't have a place in this busy family atmosphere. The family took Marsha on vacation with them to North Carolina, and while there, they made a detour to visit Marsha's biological sister, whom she hadn't seen in ten years. Now the sisters speak on the phone daily. Clearly, Marsha's found a home.



### Pipeline Quarterly

Published four times annually (fall, winter, spring, summer) by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications, *Pipeline Quarterly* focuses on people, highlights topics of interest to the developmental disabilities community, and reinforces DODD core concepts and philosophy.

We thank all who have allowed us to speak with them for this issue, and all who have contributed to its preparation. Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are welcomed!

Submit ideas for *Pipeline Quarterly* to editor Sherry Steinman: [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov), or call (614) 644-0262. *Pipeline Quarterly* and the twice-monthly *Pipeline* are archived at [dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/](http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/)



Tiffin Developmental Center residents, David, Kevin, Pat, and Ralph show their Buckeye spirit at the Statehouse ...

O - H - I - O !