

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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[Kasich Administration Marks One Year](#)

1. Ohio's New Initiative on Health Care Payment Reform

On January 10, 2011, John Kasich was sworn-in as Ohio's 69th Governor. At the outset of the new Administration, he commented,

*"Getting people to be in a position where they can see a better tomorrow.
That's what we need to be doing."*

- Governor John Kasich, at January 2011 inauguration

And exactly one year later, Governor John Kasich's Administration launched a formal initiative to partner with health care stakeholders to begin to change Ohio's public and private health care business models from one that is based on volume, to one based on value and performance.

The Office of Ohio Health Plans (Ohio Medicaid) has begun to work with Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR), *making Ohio Medicaid the first state Medicaid program to participate in the organization's efforts*. CPR is an independent, national, non-profit organization that leverages the collective strength of private and public sector health care purchasers to achieve greater value and quality in health care. Other members include General Electric, Wal-Mart, and Xerox Corp.

[The Administration furthered its effort to match health care payments to outcomes also announcing that the Medicaid program will include provisions prioritizing quality over quantity in future contracts with managed care plans.](#)

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody commented, “We must do a better job of meeting the health needs of individuals, and creating a healthy and productive workforce at a price that is affordable for businesses, governments, individuals, and other payers. In partnership with CPR, we are setting clear expectations for providers and health plans in Ohio and developing tools to give Ohioans more bang for their health care buck.”

The overall goal of the new initiative is to improve the health of the many Ohioans who rely on Medicaid for care, and to save taxpayers money.

The Administration also will be scheduling discussions with public and private sector partners in Ohio to align priorities and move forward on payment reform. OHT Director Moody adds, “We will be working with all stakeholders to develop expectations that put individuals and taxpayers first, and then make sure how we pay is aligned with those expectations.”

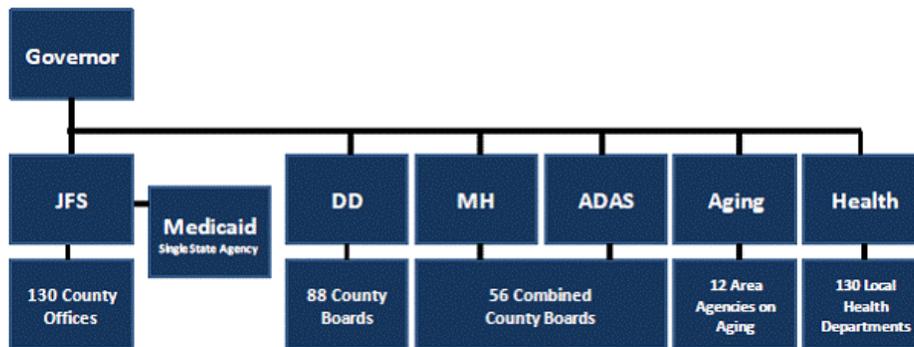


Illustration above shows Ohio agencies utilizing the Medicaid funding stream. Graph reprinted from Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 4 February 16, 2011

Managed Care Contracts

Following the January 10, 2012, announcement regarding the CPR partnership, the Kasich Administration announced on January 12 that it was rebidding the state’s Medicaid managed care contracts, which serve a large percentage of nearly 2.2 million Ohioans who rely on the tax-funded health insurance, many of whom have disabling conditions.

The new contracts will withhold a portion of each Medicaid managed care plan’s payment until performance standards are met that are aimed at improving patients’ health. *The financial incentives are intended to drive improvements in the health of patients served, and lower costs for taxpayers.* Under new contracts, Medicaid recipients will have a choice of four plans. To increase competition and lower administrative costs the state will reduce the number of service regions which managed care companies can serve, from eight to three. Preliminary contract awards are expected to be named in April, and contracts finalized by the end of 2012.

Related story at: www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/01/10/state-tackles-medicaid-costs.htm and [Kasich announces new contracts for Ohio's Medicaid program](#)



The Movers & Shakers

2. Family Advisory Council Welcomes Waivers and Work

New SELF waiver, employment opportunities, among discussion topics at first FAC meeting of 2012.

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) began the year continuing its commitment to providing families an open forum for the information they need to make good decisions for family members who have developmental disabilities, and to improve the system of services and supports, statewide. In that ongoing effort, topics suggested by this important stakeholder group were apparent in the mix at the January 10th meeting, including the following:

- ‘Director’s Chat’ with John Martin – “Keys to Sustainability”
- Medicaid updates and the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver
- Developmental Center updates
- *Where Are We Going?* Representatives of Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA)
- Employment updates and opportunities for Ohio

Keys to Sustainability

Director John Martin noted that in 2011, DODD made good progress in gathering data that helps drive decision-making, including benchmarks that rate Ohio’s DD services performance as perceived by individuals served, as well as compared to performance outcomes of other states. He stated that affiliations with national efforts such as the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative and the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) have ...”Provided new windows of understanding in the process of improving our service system, and helping us to plan for greater sustainability.”

In the area of sustainability, Director Martin added that one of the keys to making the most of available resources is the recognition and development of *parents’ inherent expertise*. He noted, “Parents understand their children best. We know this. Better understanding of Medicaid-funded waivers, including some new services, will help families to make the most of available dollars. For example, we are excited about the opportunities presented by the SELF waiver, and by the P.L.A.Y.* approach to interacting with children.” He added,

“Providing families more effective options at key transitional stages will help individuals and families, and ultimately benefit the state’s economic health.”

*More about PLAY at <http://www.playproject.org/> and at [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 17 August 3, 2011](#) ‘In Support of Young Children with Autism and Their Families’



What's all this talk about waivers?

Family Advisory Council attendees get thoroughly involved in waiver conversations over lunch, following a presentation on the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver and other Medicaid-funded waiver updates. DODD appreciates the Ohio Association of County Boards' generosity in sponsoring lunch, and providing interesting speakers at many meetings.

Also Plenty of Interest in ...

Updates on DODD-operated Developmental Centers, in terms of downsizing and increased usage of the Centers as *resources within their local communities* prompted interest, including how people in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) could obtain a waiver. They also wanted to know more about the capital housing dollars that go along with it.

In addition, meeting attendees heard more about the growth of *self determination* activities across the state, spearheaded by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and other active groups such as People First. These efforts are focused on achieving specific outcomes for individuals, such as community employment, residential options, and understanding voting rights. Dana Charleton and Jeanne Stuntz of OSDA presented some of the organization's ambitious plans for 2012, and noted that self advocacy in Ohio is represented by many individuals throughout the state, not just those in larger communities. (See www.ohiosda.org)

OSDA believes that individuals with disabilities should have the freedom to plan their own lives, and to pursue the things that are important to them, with the help of independent planning and support coordination.

(See www.ohiosda.org)

State Employment Leadership Network

Meeting attendees also learned more about opportunities for Ohio via DODD's recent affiliation with the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN). A *Findings and Observations Report* prepared by SELN, describing Ohio's strengths and challenges in the area of employing individuals with disabilities, was issued last week and will be very important in fundamental system planning.

The SELN Report is now online: ([linked here](#))

Share comments/ideas at: <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/765500/SELN-Ohio-Findings-and-Observations-Report>.

Among the recommendations addressed are several avenues to explore for better outcomes in the area of community-based employment. According to presenter Teresa Kobelt, DODD Community Policy Advisor, the expectation in 2012 is that, “We can do better, and we will.” Excerpting from the report:

“A greater emphasis must be placed in support of individuals to live inclusively in the fabric of their communities. A core goal should be to expand the use of waiver funding for supported employment.”

Overall, the SELN report reinforces the importance of keeping employment-related discussions ‘front and center’ in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, and is expected to provide a strong framework for progress in 2012 and beyond.

Wrapping up the meeting, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin commented that there were many new faces in attendance, including people who are both parents *and* professionals in the field. “These parents bring a unique perspective to us, having the background both as a caregiver and a professional – we can learn a lot from them.”

The next Family Advisory Council meeting will be March 13, 2012.

For more information, contact Michele Kanode at (614) 644-0265; michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov

FAC meetings are open to all interested members of Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

To be a great advocate, stay informed! Join the FAC listserv at joinfamilyadvisory@list.dodd.ohio.gov FAC contact is Peggy Martin. She may be reached via email at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov; or by phone at (614) 466-8706.



[Transition Services, Stark County](#)

3. “Transition U’ Sends Students to College

In North Canton, Ohio, teacher Patti Thoman has seven students who participate in a unique collaboration between North Canton City Schools and Walsh University. She describes the moment Timmy got his Walsh University ID. She said, “He takes his ID, looks at it, kisses it and says, ‘I’m a college man now.’ ”

Timmy, who has Down syndrome, and his six classmates, are students of *Transition U*, a program specifically designed for students with cognitive or multiple disabilities, ages 18-22, who have completed ‘social graduation’ with North Canton City Schools. In this setting, ‘social graduation’ means that students who have been on Individual Education Plans throughout their school career and are exempt from testing, have earned enough credits to move on.

The unique collaboration between North Canton City Schools and Walsh University allows them to have a real college experience with their same-age peers ... something neither the students nor their parents thought possible. The students learn social skills through such activities as eating in the cafeteria, attending sporting events, and hanging out with friends between classes. Thoman

(the program coordinator) and two assistants teach the students on the Walsh campus each morning. They check email, pack lunches, and learn skills that will make them employable later.

According to Lisa Parramore, communications manager at the Stark County Board of DD, Thoman is also the parent of a young person with developmental disabilities, and so,

“ She works it and lives it. She knows how much this kind of opportunity can mean to these students. She knows it first-hand. ”

In the afternoon, some students go off to jobs, while others stay on campus for work on life-skills activities such as using a cell phone, ordering and paying for a restaurant meal, and shopping for groceries. Technically, the program is an extension of Hoover High School, but, says Thoman, “If you ask any one of these students, they will tell you they are Walsh University students. They wear the (school-identifying) garb. They sit in the cafeteria.”

It all started when ...

Thoman explains that the idea for the program began when she heard one of her students talk about her dream of going to college. She said that when taking the idea to Walsh school administrators, “Everyone felt this was the right thing to do.”

Walsh T-shirts and student IDs were prepared, and the students were invited to the matriculation proceedings with Walsh’s 515 freshmen. They watched the processional of faculty and staff, and then were introduced to their new classmates. Just like the other students, their parents were invited to Parents’ Night, and received “Walsh Mom” and “Walsh Dad” coffee mugs.

“What’s neat is that Walsh University has opened their arms to this idea,” said North Canton Schools Superintendent Mike Gallina. “Patti Thoman is the ultimate educator with regard to heart and passion for her students. She is always looking for a way to accomplish it, rather than hearing that we can’t.”

Planning is already underway for the day that Transition U students move on, and there will be a formal ceremony. As Thoman has said many times since the school year began, “We want a true college experience for these kids.”



Photo courtesy Canton Repository

Walsh education intervention specialist students Judd Ellinger, Lauren Birtcher and Derek Anders work with Hoover students Alyssa Sutter, Kelly Stevenson, Timmy Tedrow, and Kristen Hall. Walsh University and North Canton Schools have partnered to create a program called 'Transition U', which pairs Walsh students with young adults as they learn life skills.

Portions excerpted from *The Canton Repository: Transition U sends special-needs students to college*
Contact Lisa Parramore, ParramoreL@starkdd.org



[Now's the time to start looking into ...](#)

4. Workforce Recruitment Program Targets College Students

If you know of a college student with a disability who is currently attending school or recently graduated, you may wish to connect that student with the Work Recruitment Program. The WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects *federal* and *private sector* employers nationwide, with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are ready to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs. The program is jointly managed by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, and the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Diversity Management & Equal Opportunity.

Since 1995, more than 6000 students and recent graduates have received temporary and permanent employment opportunities through the WRP.

In 2011, the Office of Personnel Management highlighted the WRP as a model strategy in its guidance to federal agencies regarding the recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities. Each year, Workforce Recruitment Program staff conduct personal interviews with interested candidates on college and university campuses across the country. Candidates represent all majors, and range from college freshmen to graduate students and law students.

Employers in the private sector, federal employers, and students interested in federal or private sector employment, can take advantage of the WRP through the National Employer Technical Assistance Center at www.askEARN.org.



[The Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities – In Action](#)

5. Bill of Rights – Livin' It in 2012

Between the bold headline at the top and the many faces the bottom of the updated *Bill of Rights* poster at www.publicimagesnetwork.org there are 24 plainly-stated rights that serve as a guide for all who are a part of Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Find the complete updated poster: [Download here](#)

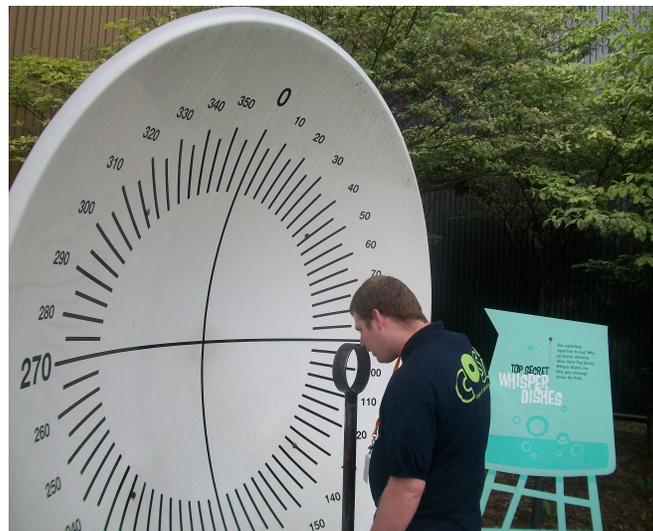
Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|--|
| I | Be treated nicely at all times and as a person | XIII | Be able to work and make money |
| XII | Be able to join in activities and do things that will help you grow to be the best person you can be | XXIV | To say yes or no to being part of a study or experiment. |



As plans get underway for the month of March's annual celebration of *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* throughout the state, *Pipeline* will be taking a look at how these rights are being addressed – and enjoyed – in individual lives and communities.

For example, in the spring of 2009, when Columbus Developmental Center began a Day Habilitation program, its mission was ...”To offer CDC residents an array of opportunities with a focus on vocational preparation and social skills, reflecting their talents and interests.” According to CDC staff member, Dorreetha Irby, ‘Right #XII’ (see above), was high on the list for Darryl, who is now ... enjoying activities that have helped him grow and be the best person he can be ...



**Oh, the things one can learn at COSI! Darryl learns –
‘Talk softly and it projects: You don’t have to yell to make an impact.’**

Says Irby, “When Darryl started in our day habilitation program he completed an admission document listing what his likes, goals, and interests were. With the help of CDC staff, Darryl began exploring skill-building opportunities such as touring guests around the CDC campus, and later was ready to take his skills into the community. Following an interview at COSI, Darryl

began working one day per week as an official COSI Volunteer, and hopes to work toward another one of those Rights -- *paid* employment in the community. For now, Darryl is living 'Right #XII'.

Have a short item illustrating one of the 24 Rights in action?
Email it to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov and it will be considered for the Pipeline series,
'Bill of Rights in Action, 2012'



Health & Safety

6. Winter Weather Reminders

Throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community, service providers report that preparation and watchfulness are key to winter safety for individuals served, as well as for employees, and guests visiting residences. Whether it be a developmental center or a family home, extra care pays dividends toward a safer and healthier winter. Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) provided these tips in a recent newsletter:

- When going outdoors, dress in layers. Wear a hat to trap body heat and a scarf to cover your neck and face. Mittens keep fingers warmer than gloves, making them a better choice for hand protection.
- Wear appropriate footwear. Shoes or boots with a good tread can help prevent accidental slips and falls.
- Be alert when operating a vehicle or walking outdoors. There are various hazards that naturally occur during the winter. Hidden areas of ice, potholes, and raised edges/breaks along concrete walkways are just a few. Sometimes hazards are marked with a cone or post, but some go undetected until ... whoops! It's too late.

Even an Earthquake!

While some winter hazards are to be expected in Ohio, a few are more rare. In the Youngstown area, New Year's Eve was marked by such a rarity -- an earthquake. While the shaking and ground movement were felt on the Youngstown Developmental Center campus, there were no reports of serious damage and no reports of injuries. One resident, Tyler P., injected a bit of humor into the situation. As the shaking began in his residence building, Tyler looked around and quickly assured the staff, "It wasn't me!"

Thanks to YDC's John Trevelline for the Earthquake Report.



In case you missed it ...



Mahoning County - Pearl Street Mission Kitchen Crew and Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) Staff

... read about them in the most recent issue of

Pipeline Quarterly

at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx>



PostScripts

Mark Your Calendar for March 1, 2012

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff

Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 1, 2012, from 10 a.m. – noon.

**Our
Community
is Better
together**

Carrying forward from 2011, the 'Together' theme in 2012 will depict community involvement in posters and other representations. Theme materials are now available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

“*Our Community is Better Together*,” the statewide theme for 2012, focuses this event and other awareness efforts on understanding and welcoming peoples' differences *and* similarities. The event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit around the state, and is expected to draw approximately 500 attendees. Self advocates from throughout the state are spotlighted throughout the program, and will share their unique experiences.

Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

People First of Ohio, “Blazing New Trails” Conference, March 22-24

Mark your calendar for the *People First of Ohio* Conference, "Blazing New Trails," March 22-24, at Roberts Convention Centre, Wilmington, Ohio. Self advocates plan the conference and generally lead the sessions – which will include information about voting, employment, leadership, Medicaid Buy-In, and more. Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, is a featured speaker. *Who should attend?* SSA's, providers and other professionals, families, County Board staff, and self advocates. CEU's will be awarded for trainings. Registration materials available via U.S. Mail and on the *People First* website at www.peoplefirstohio.org, or by calling (740) 397-6100; or, email Carrie Swingle at carrie@peoplefirstohio.org.

Registration is now open! [Click here](#)> [People First Conference Registration Form](#)

Office of Health Transformation Launches New Website

On January 13, the one-year anniversary of Governor Kasich's creation of the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), the organization launched a new website. The site provides easy navigation to track Ohio's efforts to modernize Medicaid, streamline health and human services, and improve overall health system performance.

New Website : <http://healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.

Ohio | Department of
Developmental Disabilities