

Pipeline

2009 Archive



Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

- 1. Open Letter from ODMRDD Director John Martin
- 2. CMS Approves Additional Capacity for Level One Waiver
- 3. New Program to Help Protect Victims with Disabilities
- 4. NASDDDS Releases Health Reform White Paper
- 5. 2009 Scholarships for Students with Parents Who Have Disabilities
- 6. Governor Strickland Signs House Bill 129, Vetoes Others

Happy New Year!



1. Open Letter from ODMRDD Director John Martin

Dear MRDD Community:

Like all of us, I have been reflecting on things – the way we all have become so used to doing with the advent of a new year. It occurs to me that in many ways, this year’s annual process of examination is no different from any other new year. Like you, I have been thinking about what changes 2009 might bring, what might come from my own efforts (as a person, a public servant, and as a member of the community). I wonder, also, what I might learn from past experiences.

This annual ritual has become so familiar that the results sometimes seem trite or trivial. I wonder how many of us have resolved (maybe once again!) to do some of those “familiar” things. Have we resolved to save a little more, waste a little less, and use our resources for what matters most? Are we trying to make better choices in our diets, our habits, and how we care for our health? Maybe we are planning to be kinder toward our loved ones, more helpful to our neighbors, and more understanding of other people? Maybe we are hoping to improve or stabilize our financial situation? Maybe we are committed to doing the best we can with what we have.

I recall many new year conversations where someone remarks with humor, that, “Yes, indeed, this is the year I will start exercising! This time it will happen.”

Maybe it does, and with great gusto at first. As time marches on, the gusto is gone, and so we try again next January. We find that next January what we did before wasn’t all that successful – wasn’t what we really meant to do, or tried to do. It might mean we will have a ‘harder row to hoe’ as we try again.

This is when we may realize that this understanding brings with it some challenges and opportunities. It doesn't mean we shouldn't try – and even though we didn't quite realize all we had resolved to, generally all is not lost. There are consequences to deal with, and feelings of disappointment to resolve, but with the new year we try again.

Over the years I have observed that so many goals really do come to fruition through continued effort, through adjusting an approach, or sometimes when something happens that makes *not changing* no longer a viable option.

In 2009, it occurs to me that there is much that is familiar about the annual new year ritual that gives us the fresh opportunity to try again, try something different, or learn from the past. It fosters a spirit of hope and renewal.

For example, take saving more and wasting less. Maybe this one matters a great deal more than it did just a short while ago. For that matter, I wonder if that may be true for each of the things I mentioned earlier that we ponder each new year. I think it is truer than ever in 2009 that our community may have to grapple with things more urgently, or a little differently, and in light of what is changing around us. Throughout it all, we must bear in mind what we have learned together these past few years.

In December, *Pipeline* readers learned about the impact of the national economy’s deterioration, the budget reductions we need to make in Ohio, and how Governor Strickland and our department plan to approach these challenges. You may remember Governor Strickland saying last month,

“Our great state is confronted with economic challenges of historic proportions. But armed with a true understanding of the challenges we face, Ohioans will be better equipped to honestly address these difficult circumstances with the same strong resolve and spirit of cooperation we have applied to trying times in our past.”

And, you may remember my thoughts on the budget, as well ...

“ It is important to stay focused on our mission to provide opportunities for the continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. It is our hope that with an increase in federal funding, the impact of these budget cuts can be softened. ”

What is most true for me this year is the commitment that we are all in this together. I believe there are things we can do this year to help us get through these challenging times. I have always believed that by listening to each other, we learn from each other. I have always believed that by

working together, we strengthen and preserve those common values, aspirations, and commitments that bind us. When we cannot have everything that each of us wants or needs, I believe that it is through dialogue and constructive problem-solving that we will be able to look back on 2009 as the year that we were able to do the very best we could for the individuals and families needing our help.

Most importantly, I am hopeful that we will look back and know that this was done with the involvement and in solidarity with all segments of the MRDD community.

Last fall, I wrote to you in *Pipeline* that ...

“Approximately 24 years ago I drove from Philadelphia to Toledo to interview at Sunshine Inc. for the Director’s position. Prior to the interview I was given a tour of the program. The person who gave me that tour was Leola (‘Lee’) Howe. I was extremely impressed by her caring, commitment, and overall knowledge of all of the individuals I met there that day. Having been a direct care worker myself, I thought, “If everyone here is like Lee Howe, this is a place I want to work.”

Today, as I write this letter to you, I will get into the car and drive to Byesville, Ohio. And, tomorrow I will drive to Findlay, Ohio ... and if you look at the schedule below, you’ll see that I am going around the state ... to hear ideas about how to make the best use of the resources we have. *I am especially looking forward to hearing from individuals and families needing or receiving services, along with those who help them.*

I believe that in 2009, the choices we make together will affect what many more January’s to come will look like. I anticipate listening and learning, and working with all of you, not just these first few weeks of January, but throughout the year, and in many settings. I know you have ideas for saving more, and wasting less. And, some 24 years after I first drove to Toledo to interview for a position in this field, I know that our community *is* “like Lee Howe” – and that despite our challenges, Ohio is *still* the place I want to be.

If we resolve to listen and make choices that mean the resources we have are used in the best possible ways to protect the health and safety of the people depending on us, I know we will look back on 2009 as the year we did very important things together, affecting not only what we will be thinking about in January 2010, or even 2011, but for many years to come. I look forward to this journey with you. – *John Martin*

**Schedule of Statewide ‘Budget Conversations’
- All Meetings will be from 7-9 p.m. -**

January 7, 2009
Guernsey County Board of MRDD
60770 Southgate Road
Byesville, Ohio 43723-9699
(740) 439-4451

January 8, 2009
The Findlay Inn & Conference Center

200 E. Main Cross Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840
(419) 422-5682

January 12, 2009
Cox Arboretum & Gardens Metro Park
6733 Springboro Pike
Dayton, Ohio 45449
(937) 434-9005

January 13, 2009
Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington
7007 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(614) 436-0700

January 15, 2009
Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
1989 Front Street
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
(330) 929-3000



2. CMS Approves Additional Capacity for Level One Waiver

On Friday, January 2, 2009, ODMRDD received notification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that our Request for Amendment to increase capacity for the Level One waiver was approved. This gives ODMRDD the ability to allocate approximately 2,000 additional Level One waivers to County Boards of MRDD, which brings the total number of available capacity for the Level One waiver to 8500. ODMRDD will begin processing the requests for allocation of this additional capacity and will be sending allocation letters to the County Boards of MRDD as soon as possible.

Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director, Medicaid Development and Administration, notes,

“The increase in capacity of the Level One waiver allocation is encouraging for Ohio in these difficult economic times. We are pleased that CMS has approved our request.”



Allen, Hardin and Putnam Counties

3. New Program to Help Protect Victims with Disabilities

Crime Victim Services in the Lima, Ohio, area announced last month that it has received one of three national grants awarded to protect victims with disabilities. The grant will serve Allen, Hardin and Putnam counties, and was awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of

Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. It is administered through the Massachusetts Building Partnerships for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

After a competitive bid process, the State of Delaware; Ohio's Allen, Hardin, and Putnam Counties; and, the City of Portland, Oregon, were selected to receive awards of \$60,000 each, over the next two years, to replicate the Massachusetts multi-disciplinary approach.

The project will be coordinated in Ohio by Allen County Board of MRDD Investigative Agents, in cooperation with Crime Victim Services. According to a recent press release, the project will be implemented through the collaboration of community partners, including: Hardin and Putnam County Boards of MRDD; local law enforcement and prosecutors; The Arc; Adult Protection Services in each county; and, other victim service agencies.

Historically, crimes committed against persons with disabilities have not been adequately recognized or reported to the appropriate authorities, and, given the complex nature of the cases, prosecution rates are low. Some reasons for under-reporting or inadequate investigation are:

- Lack of awareness by victims and caregivers regarding the definition of abuse and the systems used for reporting;
- Lack of effective coordination between law enforcement, adult protection, and human service agencies; and,
- Reluctance by police, prosecutors, and judges to rely on the testimony of a person with a disability.

According to the Crime Victim Services press release,

“Through formalized agreements among local police, prosecutors, law enforcement, victim services agencies, and adult protective services, the newly-funded program creates a continuum of protection for our most vulnerable persons. It has clearly changed how professionals in Massachusetts address victimization of persons with disabilities, by affording them the same protections and rights as the public at large, and ensuring that suspected criminal activities are investigated and prosecuted by trained law enforcement.”

It is hoped that through the grant opportunity, positive changes result from training, policy development, and a multidisciplinary approach -- enhancing the safety and well-being of people with disabilities.

Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Rape Crisis Coordinator, and licensed clinical social worker for Crime Victim Services in Allen and Putnam Counties, is project supervisor for the grant. Contact her at 419-222-8666



4. NASDDDS Releases Health Reform White Paper

The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) has released a document titled, *Health Care Reform: Long-Term Services and Supports for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities*. This policy paper is meant to inform the national health care reform debate by focusing attention on long term care and articulating a set of key principles for legislators to consider when approaching the long term care system -- specifically services for people with developmental disabilities.

The principles described in the paper include:

- The outcome of supports and services should be a good everyday life in the community.
- People with developmental disabilities must have control over their lives.
- Employment is a central feature of independence and life in the community.
- Families play a central role in supporting both adults and children with disabilities.
- Waiting Lists must be addressed.
- Services must be coordinated and managed.
- Disability-specific expertise must be retained as part of the service system.
- Quality of services and supports are an essential feature of a service system.
- Information technology is an essential element to delivering quality services.

The complete document can be found at <http://www.nasddds.org/pdf/HealthCareReform.pdf>



[2009 Scholarships...](#)

5. For Students with *Parents Who Have Disabilities*

Through the Looking Glass, and its [New National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families](#), will award new scholarships specifically for high school seniors and college students who have *parents with disabilities*. These scholarships are part of a new federal grant, and are new awards that have different application procedures than in the past.

There are two separate scholarship awards, and each has separate eligibility requirements:

- *High School Seniors*: To be eligible, a student must be a high school graduate (or graduating senior) by Summer 2009, planning to attend college in Fall 2009, and have at least one *parent with a disability*. Five separate \$1000 awards will be awarded in Fall 2009. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.
- *College Students*: To be eligible, a student must be currently enrolled in a college or university, be 21 years of age or younger as of March 16, 2009, and have at least one *parent with a disability*. Five separate \$1000 awards will be awarded in Fall 2009. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.

Selection criteria for all scholarships include academic performance, community activities and service, letters of recommendation, and an original essay describing the experience of growing up with a parent with a disability.

Research Study

These scholarships are also part of a research study on young adult children of parents with disabilities. Applicants should be willing to participate in an optional survey about young adult children of parents with disabilities. Once a person consents to participate in the optional survey, it will be emailed after receipt of the completed application. The additional information submitted on this survey will *not* affect a person's scholarship chances, and will *not* be disclosed to anyone other than the project researchers. All identifying information will be removed.

All application materials must be completed and postmarked by March 16, 2009.

*For more information, contact: Scholarships Coordinator, Through the Looking Glass,
The National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families
2198 Sixth Street, Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94710
(800) 644-2666 (voice); (800) 804-1616 (TDD/TTY); FAX: (510) 848-4445
Website: <http://www.lookingglass.org/>*



6. Governor Strickland Signs House Bill 129, Vetoes Others

House Bill 129 (*HB 129 -- Pilot program: Certain councils/boards meet by means of telecommunication*) was sent to Governor Ted Strickland on December 31, 2008, after passing both houses of the Ohio General Assembly. The bill was signed into law on January 6, 2009, and will allow, as a pilot program for two years, specific Councils and Boards (*see legislative summary below*) to adopt a rule to allow members to participate in their public meetings by teleconference or by interactive video conference. A minimum of three members must be physically present to participate.

Why HB129 is Important to the MRDD Community

Each Council or Board must subsequently prepare a report on the results of this pilot program for the General Assembly on the effects of this pilot program. If the recipients of the reports determine that the pilot program results could be profitably applied to meetings of all public bodies or only to public bodies whose members must travel long distances to attend meetings, the recipient may recommend the relevant type of legislation for introduction.

The pilot program also will allow the outlined Board and Council Members to 'be present' meetings while not needing to travel long distances or brave inclement weather. Additionally, this will give people with significant disabilities the opportunity to become Board or Council Members and participate in proceedings without concern for stamina or physical issues that might limit travel or attendance at meetings.

HB129 will increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have input into programs and services that affect their daily lives. Moreover, members of the public should be able to attend these meetings without concern regarding the cost or the distance of travel. This pilot will allow these organizations to take full advantage of the talents and abilities of persons with disabilities without barriers due to travel or other individual disability issues.



Summary of HB 129

For a period of two years immediately following the bill's effective date, a pilot program is authorized that allows –

- Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council;
- Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council;
- Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; and,
- The facility governing board and judicial advisory board that govern and advise the STAR Community Justice Center located in Franklin Furnace, Ohio;

– each to adopt a rule that authorizes its members to be present at council or board meetings open to the public *by teleconference or by interactive video teleconference*, in lieu of being present in person, in order to be considered *present, or to vote at those meetings* and for purposes of determining whether *a quorum is present* at those meetings, provided that a minimum of three members be physically present to participate and to count towards a quorum at those meetings. Additionally, during the second year of the pilot program a council or board must hold at least one meeting at which members must be physically present to participate and to count towards a quorum.

A council or board that desires to allow its members to participate in meetings in this manner must *adopt a rule that:*

- Authorizes the participation of the council's or board's members in the pilot program;
- Establishes a method to authenticate the identity of members who will be present at those meetings by teleconference or by interactive video teleconference; and,
- Establishes a policy regarding the distribution and circulation of appropriate documents to the council or board members, the public, and the media, in advance of the meeting.

Reporting Responsibilities

If such a rule is adopted by a council or board, each must provide, not later than 18 months after the bill's effective date (to the House Speaker, Senate President, and House and Senate Minority Leaders) a report that describes the effects on the operation of the council or board of member participation in council or board meetings by teleconference or by interactive video teleconference. The report must describe any additional costs the council or board incurred, and any cost savings the council or board realized, through member participation in council or board meetings in this manner. In addition, the report must document various other prescribed elements (complete text at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=127_HB_129).

If any report recipient determines that the pilot program results could profitably be applied to meetings of all public bodies, or only to public bodies whose members must travel long distances to attend meetings, the recipient may recommend the relevant legislation for introduction.

In addition to the signing of HB 129, Governor Strickland, as expected, vetoed three measures that his administration had declined to endorse in the waning days of the 127th General Assembly. These included an update to election laws; a tax credit program for the movie industry; and, a military veterans bonus plan financed with 'rainy day' funds. The governor had promised to veto the veterans bonus measure, stating that he preferred a bond-backed approach.

*Description and analysis of this bill provided by Mark Seifarth, ODMRDD Legislative Liaison.
Mark.Seifarth@dmr.state.oh.us*



Toll-Free Hotline

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

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.



1-866-313-MRDD (6733)

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

Questions? Comments? Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about Pipeline at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline** ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 2

- 1. Ohio's Budget Conversations Yield Much to Consider
- 2. Facilities Development Training Explains New Options
- 3. People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting March 7, 2009
- 4. Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary April 14-16, 2009
- 5. Annual MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event Gearing Up with Statewide Support



"We must build a world free of unnecessary barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination ... policies must be developed, attitudes must be shaped, and buildings and organizations must be designed to ensure that everyone has a chance to get the education they need and live independently as full citizens in their communities." – President Barack Obama

Learn more about President Obama's comprehensive agenda to empower individuals with disabilities by visiting <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/>.

1. Ohio's Budget Conversations Yield Much to Consider



We are sharpening our pencils to make the most of scarce financial resources.

It's a good thing ODMRDD Director John Martin is a highly social person with lots of stamina. The schedule of five 'budget conversations' across the state between January 7 and 15 was a fairly challenging one, given the wintery travel conditions and days ending well after 9 p.m. Ever humble, however, Director Martin simply noted, "I was so pleased to see so many people

attend these meetings to share their ideas and their views, that it was actually more energizing than tiring.”

The overall goal of the budget conversations was to gather input and ideas from a broad spectrum of participants, and consider new ways to approach the challenges ahead. Was this goal achieved? The answer to this question is, “Definitely.” And the follow-up to that is, “Now what?” We’ll answer that here shortly, but first here’s a quick look at one of the budget conversations...

A Wintery Evening in Worthington

Pipeline traveled to the budget conversation in Worthington, Ohio, on January 13, which drew approximately 75 participants. ODMRDD, along with collaborative sponsors The Arc, the Ohio Provider Resource Assn. (OPRA), the Ohio Assn. of County Boards of MRDD, The League, and the Ohio Assn. of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD, opened this fourth of five meetings across the state with The Arc’s Gary Tonks addressing the audience noting,

“This is not the time to be silent! We have a member of the Governor’s Cabinet (Director Martin) here – asking for our input – and it’s time to respond to that invitation. Whatever you feel might be worth considering, please say it.”

ODMRDD’s Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, also reminded the group at the outset,

“This administration really values its customers – you! The concerns you have for yourselves and for your sons and daughters, are the things we want to hear about. These forums are very important to us, and we thank you for taking the time to participate.”

Director Martin reviewed a short PowerPoint presentation focusing on the state’s budget and how it is affecting ODMRDD (it’s also posted on the ODMRDD website at [Virtual Budget Forum](#)) and he discussed the ongoing theme of, “Just getting the work done, no matter how many times we’ve looked at an issue or repeated a function.” He illustrated this theme with “The Porch Screen Story.”



The Porch Screen Story

Director Martin is known for his engaging stories, and this one’s worth asking him about. Briefly, The Porch Screen Story highlights the repairing of several old porch screens, the need to re-do them almost immediately due to an overly-enthusiastic family dog, and the calm attitude with which his father-in law approached the repetitive work. It certainly spoke to measuring one’s approach to things, including the budget work at-hand.

The meat of the Worthington meeting then involved attendees responding to two questions:

1. What do you see as the most fragile parts of our system?
2. What ways do see that we can save money and be more efficient?

Now What?

Answers and ideas were plentiful, and all were recorded by ODMRDD staff for consolidation following the completion of all budget forums (January 15). The compilation of all ideas is now in process, and input will be carefully reviewed by ODMRDD leadership and collaborating organizations. Next steps will move forward based on this careful review.

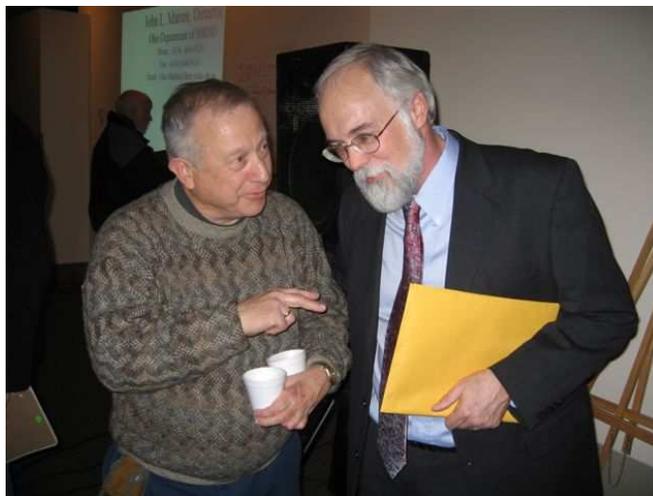
Reflecting upon the Worthington meeting, and the overall budget conversation activity, one might quote Don Short, a Central Ohio parent advocate. He took the microphone more than once to state his ideas and share his experiences, at one point noting,

“While this budget situation hurts – and it does – we may become stronger for this. I truly believe that. We may become stronger and better for looking at things this way.”

Beyond the five statewide budget conversations, similar opportunities for input throughout Ohio’s Developmental Center system are being hosted at each Center, focusing on the same information and open format. In addition, the ODMRDD website at www.mrdd.ohio.gov is regularly posting information on its homepage, under the headings, [Virtual Budget Forum](#) and [Budget Information](#).

As Director Martin has stated from the outset, issues concerning the state’s budget continue to challenge all Ohioans ...

“We are a public entity, and the people served deserve the best listening skills we can offer. This empowers us all, and is what the past few weeks on the road have been very much about.”



In Dayton on January 12, the Cox Arboretum & Gardens Metro Park hosted a group of more than 100 participants, including Jack Doub (left), who took a moment for some one-on-one conversation with ODMRDD Director John Martin, and a couple of cups of coffee.



On January 13, the Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington hosted nearly 100 participants, including many individuals, direct care providers, and County Board staff.



Living in the Community

2. Facilities Development Training Explains New Options for Housing, Construction and Newly-Purchased Homes

ODMRDD's Facilities Development staff manage the Department's Community Capital Assistance program, through which money is provided to counties and non-profit agencies to be used for the purchase, construction and/or renovation of homes, Early Childhood Centers, and Adult Services facilities. They also are responsible for leases, easements, and property disposition. Additionally, the group plans, develops, and oversees the agency's Developmental Center capital projects, ensuring an efficient and cost-effective use of the Department's Capital Funds.

More than Forms, Opportunities Knock

ODMRDD Facilities Development staff last week presented an overview of the application processes for purchasing homes with Community Capital Assistance (CCA) funding. Leading the training was the Facilities Development team of John Sommer, Steve Matas, and Robert Arey. While it may be no surprise that there are many forms to be completed in the process of constructing or obtaining housing for people in the MRDD community, the main goal was to highlight some of the new opportunities available, provide updated information, and answer questions posed by the more than 40 attendees.

Most of the training concentrated on New Housing Construction, since CCA funds are available for new construction for the first time beginning with the 2009-10 capital budget.

The three application processes are:

- Housing Purchase (existing homes);

- Newly Constructed Homes (not built by a housing corporation, never occupied, on the market for at least six months); and,
- New Housing Construction (built by a housing corporation).

2009-10 Capital Budget Funding Overview

The 2009-10 capital budget dollars were appropriated in May 2008 and are currently being disbursed by ODMRDD. The total available funding for Facilities Development in the capital budget – which also covers early child care and senior services – was \$13 million.

Allocation of these capital budget dollars by Facilities Development is as follows:

- 55 homes acquired – Facilities Development received more than 165 requests for new acquisitions in 2009-10.
- 307 Residential Renovation Projects (RRP's) funded – These funds are intended for capital projects in housing owned by nonprofit housing corporations originally purchased with CCA funds. These projects were funded at \$10,000 each. Facilities Development was able to fund 100% of the applications for eligible properties.
- 96 Residential Handicap Accessibility Projects (RHAPs) funded – These funds are intended for projects that will increase accessibility for any home owned by nonprofit housing corporations that house four or fewer individuals, regardless of the source of funds for purchase. These projects were funded at \$10,000 each. Facilities Development was able to fund 100% of the applications for eligible properties.
- Also, 25 sprinkler systems have been allocated for new construction or newly-constructed homes.

In preparation for the 2011-12 capital budget, which will be passed in spring/summer 2010, housing corporations will be given information by Facilities Development to complete Letters of Intent in June 2009.

Briefly, the training overview defined and described the following:

Housing Purchase (existing homes)

"Housing Purchase," the simplest of the three processes, refers to homes that were built by someone other than the housing corporation and are being acquired for use as rental property for individuals in the MRDD system.

Newly-Constructed Homes

"Newly Constructed Homes" refers to homes that were built by someone other than the housing corporation and have never been occupied. A new rule, to take effect in mid-February 2009, eliminates a former 'six months on-the-market' limitation, stipulating simply that the home not have been occupied since construction was completed.

New Housing Construction

"New Housing Construction" refers to homes that are being built and will be owned by the nonprofit housing corporation. Of the three processes, this is the most complicated, and incorporates the most restrictions. Facilities Development staff reviewed many of the new rules that will be in effect for using CCA funds for new housing construction. Two areas, in particular, were topics of conversation during the training:

- *Environmental Review* – The rules require that a full environmental review and assessment be completed prior to construction.
- *Appraisal* – The rules require that there be an appraisal of the property prior to payment for the home construction, and that ODMRDD will not make payment if the cost of the construction is more than 110% of the appraisal.



Some housing corporation staff stated that the appraisal requirement could be problematic because additional elements in accessible homes (certain plumbing, additional safety features, wider door frames, larger doors, etc.) not only increase costs but may not necessarily register as ‘higher quality’ with the appraiser. In addition, housing corporations often build in lower-cost neighborhoods which could be reflected in the appraisal.

The appraisal discussion underscored the need to work with appraisers to incorporate the full cost of the construction elements into their appraisal.

Printed materials, including forms, were distributed at the meeting, and are available through ODMRDD Facilities Development. Contact John Sommer at John.Sommer@dmr.state.oh.us. Facilities Management will be hosting another similar training in 4-6 weeks, reviewing the same material covered this month.

*Acknowledgements, and special thanks for information contained in this article, to
Steve Farrell, Executive Director, Disability Housing Network,
8 E. Broad St., Suite 1001, Columbus, OH 43215
614.586.5855 www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org*



3. People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting March 7, 2009

You do not have to have a People First chapter in your area, or be a member, to attend this meeting. According to organizers, it is about advocacy and training and if you are interested you may attend.

“YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE, YOUR LIFE”

Saturday, March 7, 2009

**Where: Robert’s Convention Center
123 Gano Road
Wilmington, Ohio 45177**

Registration: 9:00 a.m.
Meeting begins: 10:00 a.m.
Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker, Ollie Cantos, is Special Council to the Assistant Attorney General in Washington D.C., Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. He will address issues involving advocacy in today's environment. The meeting also will include the election of new Board Members.

Event cost is \$15.00 per person, and includes a pizza buffet, salad, dessert, and beverage. A dance will directly follow the annual meeting, training, and elections.

Click the file below for a registration form. Return to the address indicated by February 15, 2009



People First of Ohio
Annual Meetin1 regist

For more information, contact Rhonda at (740) 397-6100.



4. Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary, April 14-16

Solidarity 2009, billed as, 'Ohio's leading conference by and for people with disabilities' returns April 14 -16, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus. The tenth anniversary celebration will continue *Solidarity's* tradition of bringing vital information to people with disabilities so that they, their friends and families, may be more aware of -- and better advocates for -- issues important to the disability community.

Governor Ted Strickland is scheduled to address the *Solidarity* attendees, as well as:

- Joyce Bender, host of "*Disability Matters*," the internationally-acclaimed radio program about employing and empowering people with disabilities;
- Matt Roloff, star of The Learning Channel's "*Little People, Big World*"; and,
- Actor Chris Burke and *The Chris Burke Band*

Solidarity 2009 also will include legislative training, and more than 30 practical workshops. According to Dayton resident, Shari Cooper, Ms. Wheelchair Ohio 2008,

"Solidarity is well organized, and one of the best tools for people with disabilities to network, and help them to become employed, tax-paying citizens."



Workshop topics will include:

- Employment;
- The Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Service animals and the law;
- Medicaid Buy-In;
- Getting out the vote;
- Obtaining assistive technology;
- Dealing with depression, and much more.

Vendor displays and a Health and Wellness Fair also will give participants an opportunity to try out the newest technology, and receive health screenings.

Solidarity '09 sponsors include ODMRDD, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Invacare, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and others.

The conference fee, \$175, includes three days of workshops and activities, a meal each day, snacks, and entertainment. Scholarships covering the conference fee are available to eligible people with disabilities on a first-request basis. Registration materials are available at www.dnos.org or, see below:

*Solidarity is a project of the Disability Network of Ohio—Solidarity, Inc.
Sue Willis, Conference Manager
249 E. Cooke Rd., Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 262-8124
axiscenter@aol.com*



SOLIDARITY reg
bk.doc



5. MRDD Awareness Month, March **Annual Kickoff Event Gearing Up with Statewide Support**

The beautiful Ohio Statehouse Atrium will again host the annual *MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 5, 2009, from 10 a.m. - noon. The ODMRDD and Ohio

Public Images (OPI), in collaboration with other statewide organizations, will host the event spotlighting Ohioans with disabilities who are exploring and developing opportunities for success in their communities.

Included will be groups of self-advocates and organizations representing ideas in action from across the state. In addition to a short structured program, attendees to this free public event also are encouraged to take time to tour the Statehouse and meet their legislators.

While the program is not yet complete, Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to attend, as will legislators with a specific interest in the MRDD community.

Space for information/display tables to promote positive opportunities for people with disabilities will be available, but is limited. Contact ODMRDD Public Information Officer, Sherry Steinman, at (614) 644-0262, or email sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us. Tables will be assigned on a first-come/first served basis.

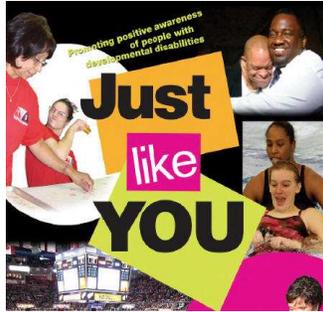
Sharing Ideas from Belmont County this year will be representatives of The Freedom Readers...



The Freedom Readers: Read more about them in the *Pipeline Quarterly* archive at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/publications/quarterly/2008/PQFinal2008.pdf>

Front (l-r): Tim Rutter, Amber DeVienzio, Annette Ponsetti, Brad Stephens, Greg Hocking. Back: Willie Jones, Darlene Pempek, Brea Holstein, Tommie Lindell, Brad George, Mike Parkinson, and Erik Keylor.
(Shown at PAR conference, Oct. '08)

Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials supporting this year's for MRDD Awareness Month theme, "Just Like You."



Toll-Free Hotline

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

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.



1-866-313-MRDD (6733)

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*** ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

January 28, 2009

State of the State Address Highlights Education Plans and Approach to Budget Issues

Special thanks to the Governor's Communications Team and Gongwer News Service for timely information.

Governor Ted Strickland announced today that it is ... "Our duty to make something of this moment ..." and took the opportunity to do exactly that by focusing clearly on education, budget, and economic opportunity issues in his annual State of the State Address.

The Governor then described his comprehensive school funding and education plan, fulfilling a campaign promise. Governor Strickland acknowledged the challenging economy, and said the situation exemplifies what writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, once stated:

"This is a very good time if we but know what to do with it."

In his speech, Governor Strickland sounded warnings about the condition of Ohio's economy, and resulting challenges for the upcoming state budget process. He told lawmakers his budget proposal would be balanced without raising taxes, and he noted that the spending plan will include fee, fine, and penalty increases, and some funding reductions.

The budget plan, which will include \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus payments, will adjust Medicaid policies and will freeze community college tuition for two years. In addition, tuition at four-year institutions would be capped in 2010, and universities would be asked to limit 2011 tuition hikes to 3.5%.

The Governor also added that with funding provided in this budget, "... We will soon be able to say that healthcare coverage will be available to every child in Ohio," and that, "We will also provide more choices to Ohioans in need of long-term care, provided in the least restrictive environment possible."

Progress in Proportion to Teamwork

In addition to the specifics of the plans outlined today ([Text of Speech & Accompanying Materials](#)), ODMRDD Director John Martin was greatly impressed by the overall theme of teamwork presented by the Governor with respect to planning and decision-making.

Director Martin noted, “I listened carefully to Governor Strickland as he called on all state agencies to make government services simpler, faster, better, and less costly. He also challenged us to look at *how* things are accomplished, not just at the accomplishment itself. Believing in the power of collaboration and focusing on common goals is exactly what we at the ODMRDD have been engaged in doing, in concert with the MRDD community’s diverse and many stakeholders, partners.”

And, Director Martin reflected,

“As a person who enjoys a good story that illustrates a point, I especially liked the reference Governor Strickland made to why geese fly in a ‘V’ formation: The story explains the fact that the ‘V’ formation reduces wind resistance for the bird flying behind it, and is much more effective than the flock simply flying in a bunch, or side by side. The formation actually strengthens each individual bird, allowing the geese to fly greater distances together than could otherwise be flown alone. This is not unlike our approach to the ODMRDD Futures recommendations, and any number of other collaborative projects we are currently undertaking with our constituents, stakeholders, and staff.”

Director Martin emphasises that these collaborative efforts continue to focus on:

The ODMRDD Five Goals

- Less complex service delivery, with fair and logical payment systems;
- Good stewardship of limited resources;
- Quality outcomes, through a combination of people and processes;
- Service delivery models designed in response to choices made by people served, in alliance with community supports; and,
- A system-wide vision developed with stakeholders.

Wrapping up the State of the State Address, Governor Strickland was visibly pleased to see that, in addition to the simple truth illustrated by the “Geese Story”, the teamwork concept was not lost on the audience listening to the address at the Statehouse today. He stated, “My friends, surely we are as smart as the goose.”

In the coming days, Pipeline will report on the results of the Director’s budget conversations, and on Monday, the Governor’s executive budget will be introduced.



Pipeline Extra feedback

Questions? Comments? Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the MRDD arena. The regular Pipeline publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor’s Notes: ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the ODMRDD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the ODMRDD website, at <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/privacy/odmrdd.htm>.* To subscribe to Pipeline newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You may also read issues of this newsletter on the web at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

January 30, 2009

Open Letter from Director John Martin **Budget Conversations Spur Action**



Thank you for helping us to sharpen our pencils and strengthen our resolve to make the most of scarce financial resources.

Hello Pipeline readers and thank you for taking a moment to read this letter, detailing the results of the January Budget Conversations throughout the state:

In 2008, the nation's economic situation became abundantly clear – rough times were ahead. In the next two years, we will confront the most serious erosion in revenues in five decades, reflecting the realities of an economic downturn that will affect every state agency, including the ODMRDD.

State governments, unlike the federal government, cannot operate on a deficit. Ohio's Governor must balance the budget. Because less state tax revenue is being collected, difficult choices, including reductions in spending, must be made.

In January 2008, Governor Strickland addressed the economic situation and ordered the first of three budget adjustments. For ODMRDD, the first of the three cuts (\$17.2 million) resulted in a reduction to its Central Office administration and Developmental Center costs. Central Office staff was reduced by nearly 16 percent. In the ten Developmental Centers, staff was reduced by 286 positions. We also reduced overall census at Developmental Centers by 132 residents.

In September 2008, national economic indicators plummeted. Governor Strickland ordered a further reduction in ODMRDD's budget by \$16.9 million. Savings of this magnitude could not be absorbed by Central Office. The Department looked to the

community to make necessary adjustments, and reduced Family Support Services and County Board Subsidy line items to make the necessary reductions. It was important to us all to assure that these reductions did not adversely affect the health and safety of residents at the Developmental Centers. In addition, the Governor ordered that Medicaid-funded services were to be held harmless.

Only two months later, in December 2008, in the face of an unprecedented economic environment, the Governor acted once again to ensure a balanced budget for the fiscal year by reducing ODMRDD's annual budget by an additional \$19.1 million. Overall, within 11 months, \$53.1 million had been removed from the ODMRDD budget.

Following the Governor's third budget announcement, ODMRDD convened a group of stakeholders, including leadership of MRDD system partners. We discussed the seriousness of the situation before us. This group suggested that I work with a few stakeholder organizations to conduct a series of community forums across Ohio to discuss the budget, and ask two essential questions. My goal was to listen.

More than 500 individuals, families, and service providers participated and offered ways to make the most of what we have, protect what is most important, and suggest ways we might do things differently. At each of the five forums, I provided an overview of the budget situation, a brief history of the how the eroding national economy has affected the Department and the State of Ohio, and asked participants two questions:

1. What are you most concerned about regarding the budget, that is, what aspects of the MRDD system do you think are most vulnerable/fragile?
2. What are your suggestions for how ODMRDD and the entire MRDD system can save money and be more efficient?

We did the same thing at each of the ten Developmental Centers, and I met with all ODMRDD Central Office staff. I asked the same questions. We also knew that not everybody would be able to participate in person, so we created a virtual forum at our website, so everyone could be heard.

Despite the sobering subject matter, I truly enjoyed this opportunity to have an honest conversation regarding all aspects of our system. I came away from this process both impressed and energized by the thoughtful and constructive dialogue. In each corner of the state, the concerns were similar. And, in most instances, the feedback provided reinforcement for the work of the MRDD Futures Committee.

A majority of participants were concerned about:

- What will happen at Developmental Centers;
- The dilemma of aging caregivers;
- The need for well-trained and qualified direct care workers; and
- The need to provide better supports to family care givers, especially those with young children.

Suggestions that were made time and again included:

- Sharing resources among state agencies, county boards, providers, and families;
- Seeking regulatory relief cutting through the red tape that hinders creativity in

providing services;

- Examination of shared services and use of technology to provide more flexible options that could save dollars in the long run; and,
- Making it a priority to invest in people living at home with families.

Collectively, these comments -- along with the guidance of the MRDD Futures Committee -- validate our direction and strengthen our resolve to act upon what we have learned.

So what's next? During the past two years, we have listened and learned what we need to do to achieve the Department's Five Goals:

- Less complex service delivery with fair and logical payment systems;
- Good stewardship of limited resources;
- Quality outcomes, through a combination of people and processes;
- Service delivery models designed in response to choices made by people served; in alliance with community services; and
- A system-wide vision developed with stakeholders.

We have already taken steps, with these goals in mind, to improve our system. I encourage you to read what people have contributed (*see attached PDF*). I think you will agree that it is time to make the parts of our system work better together for individuals and families, the people serving them, and the community as a whole.

I am grateful for the dedicated members of our community who helped to make my travels around the state fruitful – your voices resonate as we move confidently forward. Together, we will successfully navigate the rough patches ahead, and achieve our mission to provide opportunities for the continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.



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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline Extra* is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the MRDD arena. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor's Notes: ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the ODMRDD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the ODMRDD website, at <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/privacy/odmrdd.htm>.* To subscribe to Pipeline newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You may also read issues of this newsletter on the web at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

February 2, 2009

State Budget Announcement Highlights Fiscal Sustainability



We are sharpening our pencils to make the most of scarce financial resources.

Ohio's Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) J. Pari Sabety today described a state budget for 2010-11 that will be driven by continually asking the question, "Is this spending fiscally responsible and fiscally sustainable?" The responsibility factor weighs heavily on all state agencies to provide services to individuals and families with increasing needs, as their agency resources decrease. And sustainability is what will allow agencies to meet anticipated long-term needs with -- not what we wish we had -- but what we do have.

In a press conference today, OBM's Sabety clearly outlined a budget (See documents at <http://obm.ohio.gov/SectionPages/Budget/FY1011/ExecutiveBudget.aspx>) that responds to an unprecedented set of economic circumstances as a result of the national recession. As Governor Ted Strickland described, in part, last week:

... The budget would reduce spending by \$3.2 billion compared to '2009 planning levels,' while being bolstered with fee and fine hikes, \$3.4 billion in federal bailout money, and nearly \$1 billion from the state's rainy day fund.

According to Sabety's presentation, "This budget does not raise taxes for Ohioans, and continues the momentum in key investments -- such as education -- that are critical to rebuilding Ohio's economy and positioning it for recovery." The budget bill also includes increased funding for special education, as well as community engagement staff in schools, and assumes significant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s1/show>, which would offset lower state revenues available for the budget.

The ARRA has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, is currently before the Senate, and is strongly supported by President Obama, who is working for bipartisan support of the Act.

Other compelling budget considerations noted during the OBM presentation today include a discussion with state employees' union representatives regarding the need for shared sacrifice among all union and non-union state employees. The Executive Budget makes specific recommendations regarding non-collective bargaining unit employees. Discussion includes proposals that may reduce pay, increase the amount of employee buy-in to insurance coverage, and request possible unpaid 'furlough' days during the year, among other considerations. These discussions are ongoing, and expected to continue through June 2009.

According to ODMRDD Director, John Martin, fiscal sustainability means living within one's budget for an extended period of time. He notes,

"Throughout the budget process we are seeing unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability from the Office of Budget and Management, and we will respond in-kind as this process proceeds."

Putting the state's budget into perspective for the more than 80,000 Ohioans with disabilities and their families who receive services statewide, ODMRDD Director John Martin adds that two areas described as 'safety net' services were spared reductions in the proposed budget:

- MRDD Waivers services funded by the *Martin v. Strickland* settlement ('Martin Waivers') will continue at current funding levels, and,
- Disability Financial Assistance is fully funded at a rate consistent with projected caseloads.

Director Martin reinforced the impact of 2008 budget cuts with a group of MRDD stakeholders today, while reviewing some details contained in the budget announcement. In this context it is important to note that 2008 ODMRDD reduced Central Office administration by 16%, reduced census at our Developmental Centers by 132 residents, and instituted a number of other cost-saving measures. Director Martin noted, "It is gratifying to see today, that the Governor's Office and OBM have taken steps, given such difficult economic circumstances, to preserve the safety net for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens. From this understanding we will navigate the budget challenges in 2009."

In particular, Director Martin described funding line items 'Family Support Services' and 'County Board Subsidies' as being funded in this proposed bill at 95% of the FY2009 earlier appropriation, nearly restoring these important service components to levels following the first budget reduction. The budget bill also preserves the proposed New Futures Waiver funding, earmarked for children with intensive behavioral needs. (See information at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futures/NewFuturesWaiverFeedback.htm>)

"We now will move forward according to the direction this budget affords us, and in line with the input we have received from stakeholders and constituents during our recent series of open budget conversations, across the state.* ODMRDD's plans will be built upon the foundation of the *servant leadership strategy* we set forth early in 2007 and reaffirmed in 2008, as we worked together with our funding partners through the challenges posed by steep budget cuts."

(*See: MRDD Community Budget Conversations: Concerns and Suggestions Jan. 30, 2009).

According to Ann Rengert, ODMRDD Deputy Director Fiscal Administration, budget language submitted for consideration by ODMRDD included the following (summarized):

- *Supported Living*: Proposal to voluntarily amend the definition of Supported Living to raise the limit on the number of unrelated persons with MRDD who may live together while receiving supported living *from four to five*.
- *Plan for Fiscal Sustainability*: Implement measures to address the fiscal sustainability of home and community-based services.
- *501 subsidy formula*: The ODMRDD, in consultation with County Boards of MRDD, shall develop a formula for allocating County Boards Subsidy.
- *Unpaid match invoices*: If a County Board fails to pay the invoiced amount by the timeline established by the Department, the Department may withhold any subsidies due the board.
- *Franchise fee*: Language in the Department of Job and Family Services budget regarding Developmental Centers to pay a franchise fee.

The complete text of the Office of Budget and Management press conference today is posted at <http://obm.ohio.gov/SectionPages/Budget/FY1011/ExecutiveBudget.aspx>

The ODMRDD budget will be posted at www.mrdd.ohio.gov this week as well, under 'Budget Information.'



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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline Extra* is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the MRDD arena. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor's Notes: ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the ODMRDD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the ODMRDD website, at <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/privacy/odmrdd.htm>.* To subscribe to Pipeline newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You may also read issues of this newsletter on the web at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 3

- 1. Family Advisory Council – Dayton-Area Families Tell It Like It Is
- 2. Positive Culture Initiative: ODMRDD to Lead Effort on Development of State Policy
- 3. Young Adult Transition Corps, Camp Opportunities
- 4. ODMRDD Website Updates Include Agency Overview, New Futures Waiver Information
- 5. Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for March 31, April 1
- 6. People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting March 7
- 7. Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary, April 14-16
- 8. Annual MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event Gearing Up with Statewide Support

Information pertaining to the State Budget has been released in *Pipeline Extras* during the past week, and is archived at

<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/topics/budget.htm> and <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/publications/pipeline.htm>

The Movers & Shakers – Family Advisory Council

1. Dayton-Area Families Tell It Like It Is

Following a tried-and-true format of regular meetings involving interested families from throughout Ohio, the Family Advisory Council (FAC) gathered January 21, 2009, at the Columbus Developmental Center. They did not know that ‘The Advocates Video Diary’ would start the meeting with such a solid dose of in-your-living-room reality ... and they loved it.

Wynema Mebane, parent advocate, long-time FAC member, and Dayton area resident, brought some of the The Advocates family members with her, and they spoke compellingly following the documentary-style video. Wynema stated,

“We put this video together with a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council as a way to tell legislators and others with a need-to-know, how we deal with issues that affect our families every day. Issues such as residential opportunities for our adult-age children, the need for therapy and respite services, and other issues and challenges that we face every day – the video shows the reality of these things.”

Three families were featured in the production: April Plummer and son JC; Nathaniel and Holly Dull and their three children; and Arthur and Sherry Stauber, with son, Russell, each displayed

an unvarnished approach to sharing their lives. (For more information about this video, contact The Advocates at TADV110@sbcglobal.net)

Director Chats

The meeting also included the ever-popular ‘Director’s Chats’ with ODMRDD Director John Martin. He spoke candidly with FAC members, responding to questions and comments ranging from ways the ODMRDD can be more efficient, to what kinds of things they would be most concerned about not having if dollars were unavailable.

As the FAC provided yet another venue for ‘budget conversations’, Director Martin stated,

“We want to run things by you and be vigilant, to be sure we link into what your’re dealing with day-to-day. You’re the people ‘on the ground’ – Your voices are incredibly important to us. We are listening, and making careful decisions. Indeed, we have a great responsibility to make good decisions.”

Following the Director’s discussion was Tracy (Williams) Plouck, Deputy Director, Office of Budget and Management (OBM) who provided an interesting look at the impact of the state’s Budget on agencies and services. She shared information illustrating the historic challenges of budget cuts, and a glimpse at what the FY2010-2011 Operating Budget might look like.



April Plummer and son, JC

April illustrates the fact that she and JC are a matched set when it comes to fashion, as well as lots of other more important things.

“When it comes to understanding families like ours, you either get it or your don’t. Luckily, my boss, Bob, gets it!”



Sherry Stauber explains her initial reaction to participating in the video diary.

Sherry and Arthur Stauber, and their son, Russell, were a part of The Advocates Video Diary. She noted their initial nervousness about participating, and the natural way it all turned out.

“I guess I’d say we just decided to be as natural and comfortable as possible in telling our story, and it looks like we accomplished that.”



Wynema and son, Todd

Wynema Mebane and son, Todd, are movers and shakers in the Dayton area, reminding The Advocates and others to ...

“Use your gifts to help other people! The Advocates Video Diary is inspirational. I hope it helps us to reach people who can make a difference – who can change what needs to be changed.”

The primary purpose of the Family Advisory Council is to provide information to policy makers who impact direct services for children of all ages. The FAC also provides an opportunity to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to families who have children with disabilities.

Rippling out from the FAC, the resulting family network hopes to reach many other families in Ohio, and provide them with information and education regarding changes in our system. Members also share what resources have been developed in their County that could benefit others. Collaboration between the ODMRDD and the FAC will continue to improve and enhance services, statewide.

For more information about the FAC, contact [Peggy Martin](mailto:peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us) at peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us; or phone (614) 466-8706. Peggy says,

“To be the best advocate possible for your child, stay informed! Here's a way to do so ... become a part of the Family Advisory Council (FAC), and get updated information and announcements. Join our listserv at: join_family_advisory@odmrdd.state.oh.us .



2. [Positive Culture Initiative](#) **ODMRDD to Lead Effort on Development of State Policy**

The Cleveland Plain Dealer and many other Ohio newspapers last week picked up an article via the Associated Press on the subject of prone (face-down) restraint, that authorities say contributed to the death of a teenager at an Ohio treatment center. The ODMRDD had banned usage of the restraint position in November 2008, before 17-year-old Faith Finley died at a Cleveland-area facility in December. The notice issued by ODMRDD in November (08-11-03  Prone Restraint), banned the face-to-the-floor restraint, saying that "overwhelming findings support the belief that its use poses an unacceptable risk to health and safety." A coroner ruled the teen's death a homicide, saying she choked on vomit and suffocated.

Governor Ted Strickland has called for the development of a state policy on the use of physical restraints, due to concerns about how Faith Finley died. In addition, agencies in at least 14 other states have severely curtailed or banned some restraints, most commonly the face-down position.

[The ODMRDD has been asked by Governor Strickland to lead the effort to develop a standard policy, in the hope that the Department's ban will be adopted across Ohio.](#)

Currently, Ohio is among the many states with 'piecemeal' regulations and tracking mechanisms on the subject of the use of restraints. Ohio leaves it up to individual agencies to set their own regulations for how the restraints -- blamed for at least 40 child deaths in the U.S. since 1993 -- should be used. There also is currently no single state agency that collects reports of all injuries or deaths caused by restraints.

This inter-agency committee, to be lead by ODMRDD, will study and make recommendations on the use of prone restraints, and will move toward banning dangerous restraints by sharing ODMRDD research on the subject, according to Michael Rench, Deputy Director of Community Services, who will be leading the group along with Pam Berry.

Development of a policy that explores the use of other intervention methods to phase out the use of prone restraints will be an important step in the new policy development, as well.

Six other state agencies will be asked for input in crafting the policy:

- Department of Youth Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Job and Family Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Alcohol and Drug and Addiction Services
- Department of Health

The Children's Health Act of 2000 limited the use of restraints, and asked states to create their own policies -- http://www.samhsa.gov/legislate/Sept01/childhealth_Title31.htm -- but many states have not complied. According to one practitioner who works with agencies that care for children with physical and cognitive disabilities, "There are more regulations on how to humanely treat animals than there are on (how to humanely treat) people."

Tom Hemmert, of the Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS), notes that the agency hopes the state creates a definitive ban on the restraints, adding that it is not something that can be managed quickly. "It will take time. It's a culture change, and not something that occurs overnight," he said, adding, "It's important to have alternative procedures and options in place, so that service providers have other effective ways to deal with difficult situations."

Positive Intervention Culture Initiative

According to Michael Rench, ODMRDD's Positive Culture Initiative (PCI), introduced in September 2008 (08-09-02  Positive Intervention Culture), is essential for building an environment that enhances the quality of life for the individuals we support throughout the state. He notes,

"The ultimate goal of statewide training, which is scheduled throughout 2009, is to encourage the field to examine the current culture of supports, and make a commitment to a positive approach. The Positive Culture Initiative essentially will work toward the reduction and eventual elimination of aversive interventions with individuals – especially time-out and restraint – except when there is imminent risk to health and safety."

ODMRDD Community Services staff member and Senior Policy Advisor, Pamela Berry, drives the Positive Culture efforts throughout the agency, working with staff and service providers to support positive interactions with all people. According to Michael Rench, "Pam will continue to lead this initiative from the perspective of facilitating statewide collaboration across systems; organizing and leading community based networks; supporting the work of the statewide advisory and regional behavior support committees; researching similar efforts in other states, and overseeing policy decisions at ODMRDD."

Through this initiative we will identify system changes necessary to move the field toward an overall more positive culture, and organize support for making those changes throughout Ohio.

Pam explains,

“If we change the way we see people, then we will change our approach to supporting them. The focus must be on building relationships and helping people feel safe, rather than seeing only challenging behaviors or focusing on compliance.”

With all of this in mind, the original terminology of Positive *Intervention* Culture Initiative will be streamlined as *Positive Culture Initiative*, emphasizing the overall ideology. In this effort, when you see this simple logo, it will symbolize our collaborative efforts:

PCI

What do you think? Please email Pam.Berry@dmr.state.oh.us with any feedback.

Look for more information on the Positive Culture Initiative in future issues of Pipeline and on the www.mrdd.ohio.gov website in the coming months.



3. Young Adult Transition Corps (YATC) Camp Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for the first-ever YATC summer camp, offering sessions in the Columbus, Ohio area on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 16, 2009. Two sessions will be offered -- a morning session, 9 a.m. – noon, and an evening session, 6-9 p.m. Both are six-week sessions.

Young Adult Transition Corps is a unique AmeriCorps program of the [Ohio State University Nisonger Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#). YATC is dedicated to serving young adults with disabilities and their families, and promoting successful transitions to adulthood.

AmeriCorps/YATC members collaborate with high school students with disabilities to develop ongoing service learning projects. Members also engage young adults with disabilities in educational and community-based programs in the Columbus area that promote community service, community access, and social skill development -- three areas critical to successful transition.

YATC's summer camp is designed to help young adults with disabilities develop life skills for independent adult living. Session topics will include community resources, healthy lifestyles, healthy relationships, professionalism, building employment skills, and financial skills. The program is free and registration is limited, so early sign-up is encouraged. For more information about summer camp, call (614) 292-9894 and ask for Allison or Chris.



If you would like more information about Young Adult Transition Corps, visit their website at <http://yatcohoio.org>



www.mrdd.ohio.gov

4. ODMRDD Website Updates Include Agency Overview, New Futures Waiver Information

An ODMRDD Primer featuring priority goals, strategies, and Division functions is now posted at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/about/> (click on 'About Us' at the top left of the ODMRDD homepage.) The Department's Office of Policy and Constituent Support prepared the document as a basic agency overview, and will update it periodically to reflect major changes as they may occur.

While it is not exhaustive in description, the Primer provides a simple and current snapshot of responsibilities in each Division area:

1. Audits
2. Community Services
3. Fiscal
4. Human Resources
5. Information Technology Services
6. Legal and Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Services
7. Medicaid Development and Administration
8. Office of Policy and Constituent Support

Public Information Officer, Sherry Steinman, notes that several County Boards of MRDD have requested such a document to assist new staff, new Board members, and others in learning more about the ODMRDD in general. "I'd like to credit Barb Luce at the Licking County Board of MRDD for providing the final push in getting this Primer completed. We've been fine-tuning it for a while, and when Barb's recent Licking County Board Meeting deadline loomed large, it was the extra nudge we needed to clean up the final details."

Due to budget constraints, ODMRDD will print no paper copies of the Primer, however user downloads of the pdf document <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/about/docs/ODMRDD-Primer09.pdf> will print a clean, 5-page/ 2-sided document.

New Futures Waiver

In addition to posting the new Primer, the website has been updated with a direct link from the homepage under 'Learn More About' featuring information on the proposed New Futures Waiver. Direct: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/futures/NewFuturesWaiverFeedback.htm>

As ODMRDD continues the development of the New Futures Waiver, we are asking for feedback on the current plans, as outlined. If you have any feedback, click on the "Contact Us" button, and e-mail your comments to us at futures-feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us



Looking to the Future



5. Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for March 31, April 1

A Legislative Advocacy Day, sponsored by The Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Autism Society, and other disability organizations will be held March 31-April 1 2009, at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. The schedule includes trainings on March 31 from 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., with legislative visits scheduled for April 1, 9 a.m. - noon at the Ohio Statehouse.

According to organizers, the purpose of Legislative Advocacy Day is to allow parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, MRDD professionals, self advocates, and other interested parties to attend a coordinated single advocacy day to allow all to attend specific training, and meet with their legislators on policy issues to impact public policy and effect system change.

Assistance will be provided for lodging and transportation expenses on a request basis only, as limited funds are available.

Contact Carmen Shelton, Advocacy Coordinator at (740)505-8337 with any questions.



6. People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting March 7, 2009

You do not have to have a People First chapter in your area, or be a member, to attend this meeting. According to organizers, it is about advocacy and training and if you are interested you may attend.

“YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE, YOUR LIFE”

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Where: Robert's Convention Center

123 Gano Road

Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Registration: 9:00 a.m.
Meeting begins: 10:00 a.m.
Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker, Ollie Cantos, is Special Council to the Assistant Attorney General in Washington D.C., Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. He will address issues involving advocacy in today's environment. The meeting also will include the election of new Board Members.

Event cost is \$15.00 per person, and includes a pizza buffet, salad, dessert, and beverage. A dance will directly follow the annual meeting, training, and elections.

For more information, contact Rhonda at (740) 397-6100.



7. Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary, April 14-16

Solidarity 2009, billed as, 'Ohio's leading conference by and for people with disabilities' returns April 14 -16, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus. The tenth anniversary celebration will continue *Solidarity's* tradition of bringing vital information to people with disabilities so that they, their friends and families, may be more aware of -- and better advocates for -- issues important to the disability community.

Governor Ted Strickland is scheduled to address the *Solidarity* attendees, as well as:

- Joyce Bender, host of "*Disability Matters*," the internationally-acclaimed radio program about employing and empowering people with disabilities;
- Matt Roloff, star of The Learning Channel's "*Little People, Big World*"; and,
- Actor Chris Burke and *The Chris Burke Band*

Solidarity 2009 also will include legislative training, and more than 30 practical workshops. According to Dayton resident, Shari Cooper, Ms. Wheelchair Ohio 2008,

"Solidarity is well organized, and one of the best tools for people with disabilities to network, and help them to become employed, tax-paying citizens."



Vendor displays and a Health and Wellness Fair also will give participants an opportunity to explore the newest technology, and receive health screenings.

Solidarity '09 sponsors include the ODMRDD, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Invacare, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and others.

The conference fee of \$175, includes three days of workshops and activities, a meal each day, snacks, and entertainment. Scholarships covering the conference fee are available to eligible people with disabilities on a first-request basis. Registration materials are available at www.dnos.org or, see below:

*Solidarity is a project of the Disability Network of Ohio—Solidarity, Inc.
Sue Willis, Conference Manager
249 E. Cooke Rd., Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 262-8124
axiscenter@aol.com*



8. MRDD Awareness Month, March **Annual Kickoff Event Gearing Up with Statewide Support**

The beautiful Ohio Statehouse Atrium will again host the annual *MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 5, 2009, from 10 a.m. - noon. The ODMRDD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), in collaboration with other statewide organizations, develop the event spotlighting Ohioans with disabilities who are exploring and creating opportunities for success in their communities.

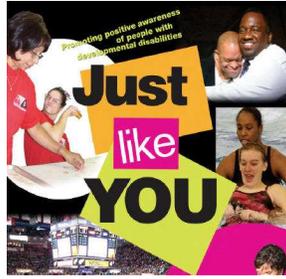
Included will be groups of self-advocates and organizations representing ideas in action from across the state. In addition to a short structured program, attendees to this free public event also are encouraged to take time to tour the Statehouse and meet their legislators.

While the program is not yet complete, Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to attend, as will legislators with a specific interest in the MRDD community.

Space for information/display tables to promote positive opportunities for people with disabilities will be available, and is limited. Contact ODMRDD Public Information Officer, Sherry Steinman, at (614) 644-0262, or email sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us. Tables will be assigned on a first-come/first served basis.

Among those sharing ideas from throughout the state this year will be representatives of organizations including self-advocates with the (Belmont County) Freedom Readers, People First of Ohio, the Ohio Self-Determination Assn., Kiwanis International AKTION Clubs, and the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD.

Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials supporting this year's MRDD Awareness Month theme, "*Just Like You.*"



Toll-Free Hotline

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

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.



1-866-313-MRDD (6733)

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*** ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 4

- 1. President Obama Posts Disabilities Agenda
- 2. Employment Status of People with Disabilities, Focus of New Monthly Data Series
- 3. Creative Housing Inc. Apartments Earn *Best Housing Award*
- 4. *The Riot* to Host National Conversations of State Budgets
- 5. UCP Announces New Website: *My Child Without Limits*
- 6. Forums to Focus on Access to Dental Care

Reminders:

- Annual MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event, March 5
- People First Annual Meeting, March 7
- Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for March 31, April 1
- Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary, April 14-16

March is MRDD Awareness Month

Look for news and information on the subject at www.mrdd.ohio.gov throughout March.

Important Budget Update

Governor Announces Federal Stimulus Package Includes \$8.2 Billion in Funding for Ohio

Governor Ted Strickland has announced that Ohio will receive at least \$8.2 billion in federal funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that President Barack Obama signed into law yesterday.

"I applaud President Barack Obama's visionary leadership and the efforts of Senator Sherrod Brown and the other members of Ohio's congressional delegation who voted for this vital and necessary bill," Strickland said.

He continued, "The federal stimulus is the right investment at exactly the right time to jumpstart the stalled economy. These resources will save or create more than 130,000 jobs for Ohioans and provide tax cuts to working families, while helping to protect essential state services that Ohioans rely upon every day."

Concerning this latest budget announcement, ODMRDD Director John Martin notes, "I greatly appreciate the advocacy efforts in Washington D.C. by our stakeholders. In addition, I know that the Strickland Administration is carefully analyzing the impact of stimulus funds on Ohio's

budget. The ODMRDD is focused on making the most of our funding by implementing suggestions and ideas given us during our recent statewide budget conversations, and continuing progress on the Futures Committee recommendations. It is our intent to achieve greater cost-efficiencies so that our system can be sustainable over the long-term.”



1. President Obama Posts Disabilities Agenda

Disabilities is one of 24 topics included in the Obama Administration agenda posted on the White House website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/> shortly after the inauguration. Obama’s plan discusses initiatives to improve education and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, supporting community-based living, and ending discrimination.

Briefly, the White House ‘disabilities agenda’ calls for providing Americans with disabilities with the educational opportunities needed to succeed by:

- Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- Supporting early intervention and universal screening for children with disabilities;
- Improving college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities; and,
- Making college more affordable.

According to the disabilities agenda, President Obama also seeks to:

- End discrimination and promote equal opportunity by restoring the Americans with Disabilities Act and increase funding for enforcement;
- Support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act;
- Ensure affordable, accessible health care for all; and,
- Improve mental health care.

The plan also seeks to increase the employment rate of workers with disabilities by implementing regulations that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities, provide private-sector employers with resources to accommodate employees with disabilities, and encourage those employers to use existing tax benefits to hire more workers with disabilities. The plan also seeks to support small businesses owned by people with disabilities.

The plan calls for the Administration to:

- Support independent, community-based living for Americans with disabilities by enforcing the Community Choice Act, allowing Americans with significant disabilities the choice of living in their community rather than having to live in a nursing home or other institution; and,
- Create a voluntary, budget-neutral national insurance program to help adults who either have or develop functional disabilities to remain independent and in their communities, and streamline the Social Security approval process.

The White House disabilities agenda is posted at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/>
Acknowledgements to Beltway Briefs for additional information on this subject.



Employment: Bureau of Labor Statistics Debuts New Informational Series **2. Employment Status of People with Disabilities, Focus of New Monthly Data Series**

In June 2008, questions were added to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Current Population Survey (CPS) to identify persons with a disability in the civilian non-institutional population, ages 16 and older. The addition of these questions allows the BLS to begin providing monthly labor force data from the Survey, specifically reflecting activity for people with disabilities.

Publication of CPS disability data began this month, issuing January 2009 labor force information and is posted at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability.htm/>
Support materials are available in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of this website.

The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy sponsors the collection of this new data, which should be helpful in identifying and following trends when compared to historical information.



Economic Development ... Federal Funding ... Public-Private Partnerships **3. Apartments Earn Best Housing Award**

The City of Gahanna Department of Development presented Creative Housing Inc.'s *Apartments at Stoneridge* its award for "Best New Housing" for 2008. The award was presented at Gahanna's annual Economic Development Breakfast attended by more than 200 business and civic leaders.



Funding for the ten-unit *fully accessible apartment building* was provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Franklin County Board of MRDD, and the Ohio Finance Fund.

The project is part of a multi-year plan developed in partnership with the Franklin County Board of MRDD to develop fully accessible apartments throughout the Columbus metropolitan area. The plan has attracted more than \$5,000,000 in Federal housing grants. Five sites have been completed, and a sixth currently is under construction and scheduled for occupancy this summer.



Accepting the award, left to right: Gahanna City Mayor, Becky Stichcomb; Creative Housing CEO, Patrick Rafter; City Council President, Thomas Evers.



Self-Advocates on the Move

4. *The Riot!* Hosts National Conversations on State Budgets

One of the MRDD Futures Committee recommendations' key themes is empowering people in the MRDD system. In line with that effort, we share this opportunity, organized by 'The Riot'. 'The Riot' is affiliated with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). In the fields of developmental disabilities, mental health, and child welfare, HSRI works to assist human service organizations to develop support systems for children, adults, and families. In addition, 'The Riot' publishes a newsletter and hosts a website at www.theriotrocks.org frequented by self advocates.

The Riot's Invitation to Participate



***The Riot* notes, "Self-advocates and State Directors of Developmental Disability Services need to talk about things and work together to reduce the impact of budget cuts on people's lives. But first, we must work together to come up with some common solutions."**

The Riot extends an invitation to join in a National Conversation on the State of the States' Budgets, noting, "Sign up now to participate in three teleconferences featuring real talk between self-advocates and state Developmental Disabilities Directors."

The Riot is hosting three teleconferences on the State of the States' Budgets on March 2, 2009; April 6, 2009; and May 4, 2009. Each 90-minute session will begin at 3 p.m. Eastern Time, and will include a 60-minute panel discussion followed by a 30-minute Question/Answer session.

Participants will include State Directors and self-advocates. Topics to be discussed are listed at <http://www.hsri.org/leaders/theriot/National%20Conversation.html> along with other details on the organization's website at www.theriotrocks.org.

Organizers note that the registration fee is \$25 per teleconference, per phone line. Participants are encouraged to use a speaker-phone or other voice-sharing system and gather people to listen together. To register for the teleconferences, visit www.theriotrocks.org and follow the registration link.

The registration deadline for the first teleconference, March 2, 2009, is February 25th.



5. UCP Announces New Website: *My Child Without Limits*

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) announces the launch of a new website for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities. *My Child Without Limits* at www.mychildwithoutlimits.org is based on the organization's vision of *Life without Limits* for people with disabilities.

An informational and social networking resource for caregivers of children ages 0-5 with **developmental disabilities** and the professionals who work with them, the site features comprehensive information on **Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Rett Syndrome and Spina Bifida**.

According to Kathy Streblo, UCP of Ohio's Executive Director, "We are really excited about this new site, as it provides opportunities for parents to be connected with other parents, and the whole concept is very family-friendly, and easy to navigate."



6. Forums to Focus on Access to Dental Care

Six regional public meetings have been scheduled throughout the state on the subject of oral health and access to dental care. The forums will be lead by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), which has convened the 2009 Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care to make recommendations on how to increase statewide access to oral health and prevention services.



The six regional meetings are designed to obtain input from individuals and families, providers, and other stakeholders, and there will be two sessions at each location. Morning sessions will

focus on needs and challenges of people receiving services, while afternoon sessions will focus on the needs and challenges of providers. Regional meetings are slated for:

- February 24, 2009 Lisbon, Ohio
- February 25, 2009 North Royalton, Ohio
- March 3, 2009 Columbus, Ohio
- March 5, 2009 Nelsonville, Ohio
- March 10, 2009 Bowling Green, Ohio
- March 16, 2009 Cincinnati, Ohio

According to ODMRDD Director, John Martin, it is important to keep in mind that in recent years during the state budget process, the General Assembly has discussed the elimination of Medicaid coverage for dental care. He states,

“It is important to continue to assure that the Governor's budget supports ongoing dental care for individuals with Medicaid coverage. Simply having the coverage doesn't guarantee access for everyone! The 2009 Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care will provide an important forum on this subject, and we encourage participation in this process by people served within the MRDD system.”

Additional information on the Task Force on Oral Health & Access to Dental Care can be found at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/oralfaq/Taskforce.aspx> Contact Mark Seigal (614) 466-4180 at ODH with any questions concerning the Task force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care.



Reminders for Your Calendar

MRDD Awareness Month Statewide Kickoff Event, March 5

The beautiful Ohio Statehouse Atrium will again host the annual *MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 5, 2009, 10 a.m. - noon. The ODMRDD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), in collaboration with other statewide organizations, develop the event spotlighting Ohioans with disabilities who are exploring and creating opportunities for success in their communities.

Included will be groups of self-advocates and organizations representing ideas in action from across the state. In addition to a short structured program, attendees to this free public event also are encouraged to take time to tour the Statehouse and meet their legislators. Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials supporting this year's MRDD Awareness Month theme, “*Just Like You.*” For event information contact Sherry Steinman at (614) 644-0262.

People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting, March 7

People First of Ohio's Annual Meeting will be March 7, 2009 at Robert's Convention Center, 123 Gano Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The meeting theme is, “*Your Voice,*

Your Choice, Your Life.” Guest Speaker, Ollie Cantos, is Special Council to the Assistant Attorney General in Washington D.C., Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. He will address issues involving advocacy in today’s environment. The meeting also will include the election of new Board Members. Event cost is \$15.00 per person, and includes a pizza buffet, salad, dessert, and beverage. A dance will follow the annual meeting, training, and elections. For more information, contact Rhonda at (740) 397-6100.

Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for March 31, April 1

‘The Voice of One, The Power of Many’ -- a Legislative Advocacy Day, sponsored by The Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Autism Society, and other disability organizations will be held March 31-April 1 2009, at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. Schedule includes trainings on March 31 from 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., with legislative visits scheduled for April 1, 9 a.m. - noon at the Ohio Statehouse.

According to organizers, the purpose of the event is to allow parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, MRDD professionals, self advocates, and other interested parties to attend a coordinated single advocacy day to allow all to attend specific training, and meet with their legislators on policy issues to impact public policy and effect system change. For more information, contact Carmen Shelton at (740)505-8337, or, call 1-800-875-2723.

Solidarity 2009 to Celebrate 10th Anniversary, April 14-16

Solidarity 2009, billed as, ‘Ohio’s leading conference by and for people with disabilities’ returns to the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, April 14 -16, 2009. The tenth anniversary celebration will continue Solidarity’s tradition of bringing information to people with disabilities so that they, their friends and families, may be more aware of -- and better advocates for -- issues important to the disability community. Solidarity 2009 also will include legislative training, and more than 30 practical workshops.

Solidarity ’09 sponsors include the ODMRDD, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Invacare, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and others. Registration materials are available at www.dnos.org or, call 1-866-966-2028, the toll-free number for the conference.



Pipeline Feedback

Family Advisory Council (FAC) member, Wynema Mebane, notes, “The Advocates Video Diary”, in the February 4th *Pipeline* story, “Dayton Area Families Tell It Like It Is”, [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 3](#), stated that funding for the video was provided by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC). While the ODDC did provide funding for distribution of the DVD, the funding for the development of the video came from the Brighter Tomorrow Foundation of Dayton. Wynema thanks *Pipeline* readers for their interest in the video. She may be reached at TADV110@sbcglobal.net .



Toll-Free Hotline

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

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.



1-866-313-MRDD (6733)

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*** ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

***Pipeline** . . . direct from the state . . .*

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 5

- 1. ODMRDD Budget Testimony Focuses on Fiscal Sustainability
- 2. Dispelling Myths, Key to Awareness and Understanding
- 3. Columbus Hosts Center for Self Determination Training
- 4. Successful Residential Options Geared to Individual Needs
- 5. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling of Four

Reminders:

- Annual MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event, March 5
- People First Annual Meeting, March 7

MRDD Awareness Month is in Full Swing

Look for news and information on the subject at www.mrdd.ohio.gov throughout March.

The only real disability in life is a bad attitude. - Anonymous

1. ODMRDD Budget Testimony Focuses on Fiscal Sustainability

ODMRDD Director John Martin provided budget testimony yesterday, March 3, 2009, to the members of the Human Services Subcommittee. The testimony touched on several topics, including the challenges of unstable funding streams and waiting lists; fiscal sustainability; and, several initiatives built on the foundation of the MRDD Futures Committee. In addition, Director Martin addressed the ODMRDD's response to the economic downturn -- specifically three budget reductions totaling \$53.5 million in General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriations.

Biennial Budget Initiatives

Director Martin also described biennial budget initiatives, including usage of Federal Economic Stimulus Package funds in FY 2011 -- an influx of one-time funding that can help offset GRF reductions as we make system changes to assure greater financial stability beginning in 2012. In addition, he described residential options available through the Martin Settlement Agreement; funding for a New Futures Waiver to serve children with intensive behavioral health needs; and, language changes that allow for more flexibility in sharing services between individuals, service providers, and County Boards of MRDD. During budget testimony, Director Martin noted,

“Ohio’s MRDD community is working together to address the long-term fiscal sustainability of our system. I will explain our pathway to working through these challenges, as we make changes to achieve the best possible and most sustainable uses of available resources. I will share how our

response to the current budget's reductions has been guided by the commitment to address long term fiscal sustainability, and how we continue to prepare our system to address both the constraints and the opportunities that lie ahead in the upcoming biennium, 2012-13, and beyond."

View Director Martin's complete testimony on the ODMRDD website at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/topics/Department-of-MRDD-Testimony.pdf>



We're Sharpening Our Pencils to Maximize Financial Resources.



2. Dispelling Myths, Key to Awareness and Understanding

Each year the ODMRDD, in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI), hosts the annual MRDD Awareness Month kickoff event at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. This year the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD is also partnering in the event, and we greatly appreciate their support, as well as that of several additional stakeholders who will be on hand at information and outreach tables.

At this event, more than 200 people from across the state will recognize and celebrate many positive efforts throughout Ohio that afford opportunities for people with disabilities to be successful in their communities. The theme for this year's celebration is, "*Just Like You.*"

We are delighted to note that Governor Ted Strickland will be on hand at the outset of the event and will address the group briefly.

Meanwhile, we share a glimpse of last year's event (below) followed by an article that addresses the subject of MRDD Awareness as a practical matter that benefits everyone.

Looking Back ... at the Statehouse Kickoff Event, 2008



Community/Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program participants at Columbus State Community College attended en masse. Instructor, Jackie Teny-Miller, invites event participants to contact her if they would like to apply for the next class session (Jtenym10@aol.com).

Upon receiving certificates, students of the class are prepared for human services jobs in the community.

P.S. Jackie and friends will be at the event March 5, 2009, also.



Emergency Preparedness team members made kits, trained groups on why they should have them, and suggested that everyone who lives in the community should have an emergency kit that contains what they need, including any medications they take regularly.

**Their mantra? "Put it in your ISP!"
Say, 'I want an Emergency Preparedness Kit this year.'**

That's what you call self-determination.

Looking Ahead ... Coverage of tomorrow's event will be in *Pipeline*, March 18, 2009.



About Dispelling Myths and Gaining Understanding

Myths attempt to explain or make sense of things by using what is understandable or familiar to us to explain things we don't know much about. The explanations are not necessarily based on facts, but they seem plausible. For example, in Greek mythology, Helios, the sun god, was believed to drive his sun chariot across the skies each day, which explained the daily rising and setting of the sun. It certainly made sense, given the information they had at the time.

Certain modern-day myths exist because people choose to believe them without researching them ... because people wish to believe them as they simplify things ... or for a variety of other reasons that are not based on fact.

One thing is clear – Myths about people with disabilities create roadblocks that interfere with their opportunities to live work, learn, and otherwise connect with their communities.

And, while these myths masquerade as facts, they simply cloud the understanding that would be there if the myths were not.

In March, MRDD Awareness Month, it is appropriate that people in the MRDD community shine some light on the subject, and replace some common myths with empowering facts.

- Three Common Myths and Corresponding Empowering Facts -

Myth #1

Many expensive concessions are needed to accommodate people with disabilities on the job.

Empowering Fact

As with all statements inclusive of a group, 'people with disabilities' refers to many different individuals with many different needs. Some people with disabilities may need a small accommodation to accomplish a task. The percentage of all work-related accommodations that could be deemed 'expensive concessions' (costing more than \$500) is about 5%, according to a study of employers done by the DuPont Company, and most were found to cost less than \$100.

Minor modifications include raising or lowering a work-area counter; replacing a door knob with a door-opening lever handle; and, installing a flashing light on a phone to show a person who is deaf that it is ringing.

Myth #2

Hiring employees with disabilities increases Worker's Compensation insurance rates.

Empowering Fact

In fact, insurance rates are based solely on the relative hazards of the job involved, and the organization's or business' accident experience or history – not on whether or not workers have disabilities. While there are workers with and without disabilities who ignore safety issues, most employees adhere to safety recommendations when employers make their observance a priority.

Myth #3

People with disabilities should be protected from failing, so it's best not give them anything very taxing to do.

Empowering Fact

Working, living, and learning in the community involves trial and error. Many people provide smaller challenges or fewer opportunities to individuals with disabilities so that they can continue to feel successful by not failing. While success in small steps is positive, a real challenge now and then helps people with and without disabilities reach new goals.

Just Like You, a better apartment, a new group of friends, or earning more money are goals that people with disabilities can achieve with a little extra encouragement, or a shot at a new opportunity. People with disabilities have the right to participate in the full range of human experiences, including failure and success.

If we stop to think about it, there are many widely-held beliefs about people with disabilities that should be challenged from time to time. After all, without challenging a myth now and then, people would still believe in Helios, traveling across the sky carrying the sun every morning and evening.

– Sherry Steinman, Pipeline editor



**People with disabilities are people with possibilities.
Celebrate MRDD Awareness Month.**



3. Columbus Hosts Center for Self Determination Training

On March 24 and 25, 2009, the nationally-recognized Center for Self Determination will host a training in Columbus titled, *“Inventing the Future: Implementing Self Determination Across Disability and Aging.”* According to training organizers, Columbus is one of only five locations selected for the training, nationwide.

The Center for Self Determination’s website notes that self determination is a way to have people not just survive, but *flourish* in an environment fraught with potential cutbacks. This two-day training event is designed for people who are committed to helping individuals who are aging or have a disability experience greater freedom as they craft a meaningful life.

ODMRDD Director John Martin, notes,

“We are committed to supporting the efforts of focused self determination initiatives such as this training, and we have seen first-hand the progress that can be made when individuals and families make self determination principles a part of their lives.”

The training location is the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43229 (I-71 and Morse Road). Registration is \$149 through March 16, and is \$169 after that. To register, please use the registration form on the Center for Self Determination’s website: <http://www.centerforself-determination.com/101reg.html> .



4. Successful Residential Options Geared to Individual Needs

As noted in the most recent Pipeline, [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 4](#), the City of Gahanna Department of Development presented Creative Housing Inc.'s *Apartments at Stoneridge* its award for "Best New Housing" for 2008. Last week, *Pipeline* visited the Stoneridge location and one other in nearby Columbus, operated by Franklin County Residential Services Inc. (FCRS). The FCRS location provides residential options in a setting defined as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR: a Medicaid-funded residential facility that teaches living skills to help people live in less restrictive environments.) Residents at the Stoneridge location are served through waivers.



ODMRDD staff on the tour agreed that the best part of the visit was meeting the residents, and seeing how they enjoyed and individualized their living areas. It also was clear that staff at both locations were attentive and in tune with the needs of the individuals who lived there. In addition, it’s apparent that the ‘good neighbor policy’ is in effect, as people tend to look after each other’s well-being, including the welfare of any pets, when needed.

Stoneridge

This Creative Housing facility is operated using Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds, and individuals living in apartments there select their own service providers. Funding for the ten-unit, fully accessible apartment building was provided by HUD, the Franklin County Board of MRDD, and the Ohio Finance Fund.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent, Franklin County Board of MRDD, “The Gahanna community has been very welcoming, and Creative Housing has been a pleasure to partner with on this project, as well as on many others throughout the past several years. He adds,

“We couldn’t be more pleased with Creative Housing’s work in accessing HUD dollars, and building accessible homes here in Franklin County.”

Peggy Martin, ODMRDD Family Advocate, comments, “One of the great things about the Stoneridge residential setting is that many of the residents are back living in their community with people they went to high school with – and they are really enjoying the opportunity to socialize together.”

At the Stoneridge location we met:



Danny: He especially appreciates the accommodations that allow him greater mobility, including smooth flooring throughout the building, and in his apartment. Danny also has a 'keyless entry' sensor so that he can open his door with the touch of a button. Danny's interest in the OSU Buckeyes is also readily apparent.



Jennifer: Her cat, Seacrest, is no slacker. When he sees Jennifer's ready to leave for an appointment, he lets her know his bowl needs to be filled first! Jennifer has decorated her apartment with an OSU Buckeye motif like her friend, Danny, down the hallway.



Amanda: Amanda discusses with Peggy Martin, ODMRDD Family Advocate, the usefulness of the ceiling track above, that allows her to connect a transferring device to unseat from her chair. The ceiling track is in her apartment's living room, bedroom, and bathroom, and the device that clips onto it allows for greater portability than anything she has had before in a residential setting. For safety, staff assist in the transfer.

Franklin County Residential

According to Peggy Martin, one of the best things about this residential location is that, “It’s clean, clean, clean! Plus, it’s comforting to know there is 24/7 supervision, which makes parents sleep better.”

Susie Burke, our tour guide, noted that the Morse Road facility was built in 1988 and receives excellent regular maintenance, and nursing staff is available on site at least 16 hours per day.

This particular Franklin County Residential home supports four men and four women – who are very busy doing many things they like to do. Susie notes that they also are very busy doing what they *have to do* – “They have to pitch in with the housework just like you and I do. Dishes, bed-making, the whole nine yards. After all, it’s a regular home...it’s their home.”

At this location we met:



Mary: Mary is into the birthday mode, ready to share what's left of her festive cake with ODMRDD visitors.



Joyce: Joyce is the picture of color coordination, and the yarn on her lap is going to be made into something lovely, that's certain. Hot pink is a favorite color of Joyce's, and she's not shy about telling you how good she is with crafts! Joyce enjoys her hobbies in the living room at the Franklin County Residential property.



Gary: Gary is conducting along with the classical music on his CD player. If you cannot see the conductor's baton on his hand, look closely – and believe it – he definitely knows this music! Gary's music appreciation was equalled only by his hospitality as we visited his apartment at Franklin County Residential.

For more information about residential options for people with disabilities, visit <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/residential/>



5. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling of Four

In the interest of brevity, and in the interest of glimpsing different offerings planned for MRDD Awareness Month across the state, following are four activities *Pipeline* readers have shared so far this month. More in the March 18, 2009 *Pipeline*.

One

What: Showcase of Talents

Where: Washington County (Marietta)

Briefly: Washington County's Nancy Harris says, "The *Showcase of Talents* is the most popular way in which we celebrate MRDD Month in Washington County. It will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Marietta High School auditorium. Tickets are \$3 (Now that's an affordable event!) Below is a picture from last year's show.

For More Info: Nancy Harris [mailto:nharris@wcbdd.org]



Two

What: Understanding U-niversity

Where: Knox County, (Mt Vernon)

Briefly: Ms. Wheelchair Ohio, Shari Lynn Cooper, and Ms. Wheelchair USA, Beryl Holzback, are scheduled to speak to more than 700 area 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at the Understanding U-niversity event at the Kenyon Athletic Center, March 10 -12, 2009. Both ladies hope to help students participating in the Understanding U-niversity event learn that people with disabilities are not much different than they are – in fact, they're *Just Like You*. The event is hosted by the Knox County Board of MRDD in partnership with Knox Community Hospital, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Creative Foundations, New Hope Industries and SIMCOR.

For More Info: Visit www.knox.rdd.com



Beryl Holzback; Shari Lynn Cooper

Three

What: Balloon Launches

Where: Lawrence County (Coal Grove)

Briefly: To reach out-of-towners with their message of MRDD Awareness, every student at Lawrence County's Open Door School and the Early Childhood Center will release a helium balloon on March 5, 2009, containing their first name and their school's address. Wherever that balloon may happen to land, the hope is that the receiver will send a note back to the student. In previous years, balloons have traveled more than 350 miles to Halifax, Va.

For More Info: Call (800) 231-MRDD or (740) 532-7401. Ask for Ashleigh Williams.



Open Door School student Jonathan Simpson waits with anticipation before MRDD's annual balloon launch last year. *photo courtesy Jessica St. James*

Four

What: All Kids Expo

Where: Clermont County (Batavia)

Briefly: On March 7, 2009, the fifth Annual Summer Adventures for All Kids Expo takes place at Tri-County Mall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by MRDD programs in Clermont, Hamilton, Butler, and Warren Counties, the emphasis is to find great summer programs for all kids, regardless of ability or disability. Families will enjoy entertainment, pick up flyers on summer programs around the city, and enter contests for door prizes. The event is free.

For More Info: Visit our Web site at www.ccmrdd.org for more information about these and other events.



Pipeline Feedback

Family Advisory Council member, Wynema Mebane, notes that a clarification should be noted regarding the Feb. 4, 2009, *Pipeline* story, "Dayton Area Families Tell It Like It Is", [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 3](#). The article stated that funding for the "The Advocates Video Diary" was provided by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC). While the ODDC did provide funding for distribution of the DVD, the funding for the development of the video came from the Brighter Tomorrow Foundation of Dayton. Wynema thanks *Pipeline* readers for their interest in the video. She may be reached at TADV110@sbcglobal.net.

Reminders for Your Calendar

MRDD Awareness Month Statewide Kickoff Event, March 5

The Ohio Statehouse Atrium will host the annual *MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 5, 2009, 10 a.m. - noon. The ODMRDD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), in collaboration with other statewide organizations, develop the event spotlighting Ohioans with disabilities who are exploring and creating opportunities for success in their communities. This year, the MRDD Awareness Month theme is, “*Just Like You.*” Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials supporting this theme, as well as for general information about MRDD Awareness Month. Additional information is also available at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/topics/awareness-month/month.htm> .

People First of Ohio, Annual Meeting, March 7

People First of Ohio’s Annual Meeting will be March 7, 2009, at Robert’s Convention Center, 123 Gano Rd., Wilmington, OH 45177, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The meeting theme is, “*Your Voice, Your Choice, Your Life.*” Guest Speaker, Ollie Cantos, is Special Council to the Assistant Attorney General in Washington D.C., Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. He will address issues involving advocacy in today’s environment. The meeting also will include the election of new Board Members. Event cost is \$15.00 per person, and includes a pizza buffet, salad, dessert, and beverage. A dance will follow the annual meeting, training, and elections. For more information, contact Rhonda at (740) 397-6100.



Toll-Free Hotline

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

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline** (‘opt off’) write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 6

- 1. Governor Strickland Announces Support for Legislation to Remove the ‘MR’ in MRDD
- 2. Senator Jimmy Stewart Introduces Senate Bill 79
- 3. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling, Part II
- 4. Ohler Tapped for President’s Regional Health Forum

Reminders:

- Center for Self Determination to Host Training March, 24-25.
- Legislative Advocacy Event March 31, April 1.

- Celebrating MRDD Awareness Month - Efforts Across the State Show Positive Strides Made by People with Developmental Disabilities, Connecting with Local Community Support.

Look for more news and information at www.mrdd.ohio.gov throughout March.

“ I understand that self advocates have come to Columbus – more than once – to ask that there be a change in the words agencies that serve people with disabilities use in their names. Respectful words are important. That is why I am announcing today that I support having the Ohio Department of MRDD’s name changed to remove the words ‘mental retardation’. ” – Governor Ted Strickland



Governor Ted Strickland (right) with ODMRDD Director John Martin, preparing to address the more than 300 participants at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event on March 5, 2009, at the Ohio Statehouse.



We're not exaggerating when we say, "... The more than 300 participants at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event on March 5, 2009, at the Ohio Statehouse." In fact, there were close to 350 people in the Atrium area at one point during the event.

1. Governor Strickland Announces Support for ODMRDD Name Change to Remove Words 'Mental Retardation'

Below are highlights of Governor Strickland's comments at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event at the Ohio Statehouse, March 5, 2009. The ODMRDD, Ohio Public Images, and the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, as sponsors of the event, greatly appreciate the Governor's time and his enthusiasm in meeting the many individuals participating that day. (See accompanying photos)

"Good morning! It is a great pleasure to see you all here today from across the State of Ohio, to kick off the celebration and recognition of March as MRDD Awareness Month. The Statehouse Atrium has been home to this event each year that I have been in office, and I was honored in 2007, as I am today, to join with you in celebration.

At that event in 2007, I remember a young lady named Angela Bachmann, who worked on my election campaign, and presented me with part of the very long paper chain that she and the other campaign volunteers had made, symbolizing the connectedness we all shared in the election process. Angela, who receives MRDD services here in Franklin County, is one of more than 80,000 Ohioans with disabilities for whom opportunities to live, work, and learn in the community need to be maintained and strengthened.

I am committed to working with the Ohio Department of MRDD and all of its stakeholders to make the most of limited resources, and *focus on what we can do* to help *every* Ohioan lead a successful life in the community.

I see on the program today that several presenters will address the Rights of People with Disabilities, and demonstrate how self-advocacy is bringing to the forefront a clear message that the collective *abilities* of 80,000 Ohioans across the state is stronger than any disability they may have. Just like all Ohioans, I understand that you want jobs ... that you want a place to call home ... and that -- *just like me* -- you want to feel welcomed as a part of your community.

That is why for the next biennium I have proposed funding for ODMRDD to continue the progress being made to strengthen opportunities for employment, sustain successful community living, and encourage community participation. Increased federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama will allow us to move forward with these initiatives.

In addition, I understand that self advocates have come to Columbus – more than once – to ask that there be a change in the words agencies that serve people with disabilities use in their names. Respectful words are important. That is why I am announcing today that I support having the Ohio Department of MRDD’s name changed to remove the words ‘mental retardation’.

Self-advocates, you have asked that this be done, and I have heard you! *Just Like You*, I think this is important. Your collective strength and conviction have made change happen.

And so, today I am asking ODMRDD Director John Martin to work with Senator Jimmy Stewart and other legislators, and with the County Boards Association and others, to see if this can be accomplished this year, while minimizing any expense associated with the change. Ohio will no longer be on the list of those states ‘undecided’ on the subject of words to describe its citizens who have developmental disabilities.

In preparing to attend today’s event, I reviewed a press release that quoted Lon Mitchell, president of Ohio Public Images, as saying, “The Kickoff Event always reinforces the fact that once we focus on abilities, we all can be more productive and comfortable with each other.”

I think that says it very well ... and I thank each and every one of you who work on behalf of people with disabilities in the Great State of Ohio, for what you do. I also thank each and every one of you who are out there doing your best to meet the challenges of living productive lives in your communities, and making the most of opportunities to do so.

On behalf of my Administration, I encourage you to continue the progress you have made through the avenues you have chosen to develop and pursue, as Ohioans with a great deal to offer your communities, both individually and collectively. Thank you.”

The Governor’s remarks were met with a great deal of enthusiasm, with hearty applause breaking in often during the speech. And the energy continued after he left the podium, as the Governor took time to meet several participants, and visit with them. We share a look at these and other interactions, below:



Megan Foster's on the move ... Megan has met Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, and now Governor Ted Strickland. Her mom, Tara, has shared that next on Megan's list is President Obama. We think it's a distinct possibility when you see Megan's communications skills in action!



Four-year-old Kristin Kuebler, a constituent from Madison County, is all smiles as she meets Governor Strickland. Kristen was one of more than a dozen children and adults served by the Madison County Board of MRDD who were on hand at the Ohio Statehouse celebration on March 5.

Photo Courtesy, Jeff Gates/Madison County Board of MRDD



People First's John Hannah says, "Governor, you can never have enough t-shirts!" Governor Strickland plainly enjoys the "Just Like You" theme, along with the camaraderie of the People First crew.



Do you know your rights? ODMRDD Director John Martin is enthusiastically interviewed by the zealous Freedom Readers from Belmont County, who quizzed him about his rights. It turned out that the Director did know his rights, and – let there be no doubt – so did the Freedom Readers!



“What do you mean you want me to speak up there?” Members of Aktion Clubs of Kiwanis International spoke at the March 5 event, carrying the message that belonging to Kiwanis is great because you’re serving other people in your community, and because you meet a lot of other new friends. Aktion Clubs are the fastest growing membership group within Kiwanis International.



2. Senator Jimmy Stewart Introduces Senate Bill 79

On March 11, 2009, following the March 5th MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event and the announcement of the Governor’s support for taking the words ‘mental retardation’ out of the State Department’s name as well as the names of other related entities, Senator Jimmy Stewart introduced Senate Bill 79. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Tom Roberts, Bob Gibbs, Karen Gillmor, Nina Turner, and Mark Wagoner.

This bill would change the name of the *Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, and the name of *County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* and make similar name changes for the *Joint Council on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*, the *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Developmental Center Closure Commission* and certain state and county funds.

NOTE: This is only the re-introduction phase. Discussions already have taken place regarding amending the bill to more closely align with the resolution previously passed.

And outside Ohio, in Washington State, Lawmakers Seek Similar Change ...

Washington State lawmakers are considering a measure that would replace the terminology, ‘mental retardation,’ from state laws with ‘intellectual disability.’ [House Bill 1835](#) would also require People First terminology and avoid all references to words including, “disabled, developmentally disabled, mentally disabled, mentally ill, mentally retarded, handicapped, cripple, and crippled, in any new statute, memorial, or resolution.”

Pipeline will report periodically on the progress of SB 79 and related subjects.



3. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling, Part II

As presented in the March 4 issue of *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 5](#), we share another sampling of the many activities and events celebrating MRDD Awareness Month across Ohio. The final sampling (Part III) will be in the April 1, 2009 *Pipeline*, wrapping up March.

A. Good Old Fashioned Billboard Promotions

What: As one Southern Ohio MRDD staffer stated in an email along with her local billboard photo, “It’s great to drive through different counties around the state, and see so many wonderful and different takes on the *Just Like You* theme. It really makes me feel proud to be a part of the awareness effort!” Billboards were designed by local County Boards in collaboration with outdoor advertising agencies, and sometimes in partnership with businesses and organization that offered financial support for the advertising.



Here are a few of the many excellent billboards you will see this month:

Where: Fairfield County

Briefly: Shown is one of several treatments of the theme, using local talent:



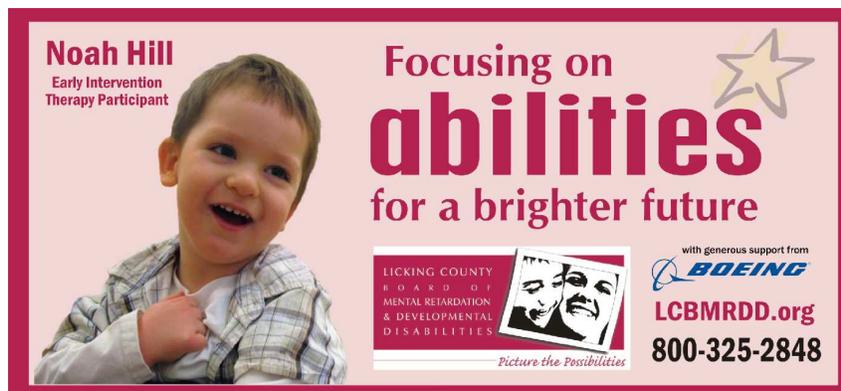
“It’s really inspiring when you have a long trip ahead, to drive from county to county and see these billboards all along the way!” (from YAHOO chat)

For more information: Contact Fairfield County MRDD at (740) 687-7244



Where: Licking County

Briefly: Shown is one of several treatments of the theme Licking County chose to use this year:



For more information: Contact Licking County MRDD at (740) 349-6588. Heather Odendahl at h_odendahl@lcbmrdd.org



Where: Knox County

Briefly: Shown is one of many treatments of the *Just Like You* theme, using local talent and pets:

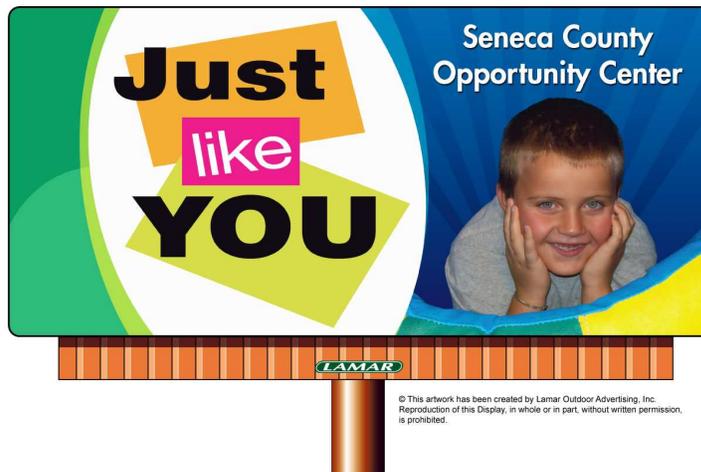


For more information: Contact Knox County MRDD at (740) 397-4656. Andrea Perry-McKay at aperry@knoxmrdd.com



Where: Seneca County

Briefly: Shown is one of several treatments of the theme, using local Seneca County talent:



For more information: Contact Seneca County MRDD at (419) 447-7251.



B. Ohio Public Images (OPI) Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon

What: Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive awareness and understanding of people with developmental disabilities. Each year OPI honors individuals and groups, statewide, who have -- through various events and media efforts -- shared positive images of the lives of individuals and families with developmental disabilities. This year's Awareness Awards Luncheon was on March 9, and was

held in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD conference in Dublin, Ohio.

For the complete listing of awards and their recipients, please see the printed program at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/topics/awareness-month/OPILunchProgs09.pdf> .



Shannon VanHuss, Runner-Up, Self Advocate of the Year – Shannon was very excited about earning the award and was a little shy once the cameras came out. It was clear to all that he was appreciative of the recognition, as presented by Jenny Dexter, OPI president. Awards for Self Advocates are metal PassionFlowers, created by Athens County's PassionWorks Studio.



James Tuck was named Self Advocate of the Year, and held his award carefully as he presented his acceptance comments.



C. Understanding U-niversity (Pipeline followed up on this one in person)

What: Understanding U-niversity

Where: Knox County (Mount Vernon)

Briefly: Understanding U-niversity at Kenyon Athletic Center, March 10 -12, was hosted by the Knox County Board of MRDD in partnership with Knox Community Hospital, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Creative Foundations, New Hope Industries, and SIMCOR.

More than 300 children from grade schools throughout the Knox County area participated in simulated disability/disability awareness learning venues, and discussed their reactions to the activities in group settings. An informational video, and even a live band drove home the message of understanding and awareness that people with developmental disabilities are ... *just like you, and you, and you, and you.*

For More Info: Contact Andrea Perry McKay, aperry@knoxmrdd.com



Student orientation included a quick run-down on activities and expectations – Event planners noted, “You’re never too young to appreciate the diversity of those around you.” Understanding U-niversity is an entertaining and interactive way for 4th and 5th grade students to gain an understanding and acceptance of people who are different than themselves (that’s everyone, isn’t it?) From the ‘adaptive sports arena’ to discussions with representatives of Miss Wheelchair Ohio, it was an eye-opener for all.



So the world goes around anyway – The String and Ball activity allowed students to share information and ‘pass it on to the next guy’. In the end, a web had been woven, on which the ‘world’ still revolved.

D. The Gliding Stars of Findlay

What: The Gliding Stars of Findlay

Where: Hancock County (Findlay)

Briefly: The Gliding Stars of Findlay provides individuals who are physically, mentally or emotionally challenged the opportunity to develop ice skating skills and perform in an annual ice show. This year's skaters range from 3 years of age to over 40. The eighth annual ice show is slated for March 22 at 2:30 pm at The Cube, 3430 N. Main St., in Findlay. Tickets for the show are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door.

For More Info:

http://www.sent-trib.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12441&Itemid=87
or, on the internet at www.glidingstars.org



4. Ohler Tapped for President's Regional Health Forum

Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACBMRDD), Dan Ohler, participated in the first in a series of regional White House forums on health/health care reform earlier this month. Building on a previous gathering at the White House, and in keeping with the Obama administration's commitment to an open, inclusive, transparent process, the forum brought together a diverse group of people to voice their concerns and share ideas on reforming the U.S. health care system.



Dan Ohler, earlier this month, at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event at the Ohio Statehouse.

One of about 200 people who participated in the forum, Dan Ohler also is the chairman-elect of the *National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors*, and was one of a few carefully-selected people invited by the White House to attend. Ernest Boyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Pharmaceutical Association, was invited by his Michigan counterpart to be a part of the forum, and was the only other participant from Ohio.

Ohler stated that his participation at the forum was, in part, due to the Obama administration's understanding that county agencies provide a great majority of health care services, rather than states, and their voices need to be heard. He noted, "That's unusual. Most administrations only want to work with the states and not the counties." He added, "I also am pleased to note that I

did have the opportunity to explain how important health care parity is for people with developmental disabilities.”

Addressing the subject of health care parity, ODMRDD Director John Martin noted, “People with disabilities in Ohio and across the country are working on achieving health care parity -- essential to the well-being of individuals served in the MRDD system. It is important that the same opportunities are afforded to everyone, and that all people are valued in terms of receiving quality health care options.”

Regional White House Forums on Health Reform also will be held in California, Iowa, North Carolina and Vermont throughout March and early April. People also may visit www.HealthReform.gov to submit questions and ideas.



Reminders

Columbus Hosts Center for Self Determination Training

On March 24 and 25, 2009, the nationally-recognized *Center for Self Determination* will host a training in Columbus at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Rd., titled, “*Inventing the Future: Implementing Self Determination Across Disability and Aging.*” Columbus is one of only five locations selected for the training, nationwide. Registration is \$169, and you may use the registration form on the Center for Self Determination’s website: <http://www.centerforself-determination.com/101reg.html> .

Legislative Advocacy Event March 31, April 1

‘*The Voice of One, The Power of Many*’ -- a Legislative Advocacy Day, sponsored by The Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Autism Society, and other disability organizations, will be held March 31 - April 1, 2009, at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. The event includes trainings March 31 from 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., and legislative visits April 1, from 9 a.m. - noon at the Ohio Statehouse, and will allow parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, MRDD professionals, self advocates, and others to attend specific training, and meet with legislators on policy issues. Registration materials are available on the Arc of Ohio website at www.thearcofohio.org. Contact Carmen Shelton, Advocacy Coordinator, (740)505-8337 or email c_shelton@ameritech.net



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD’s toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI’s is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about Pipeline at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, April 1, 2009
Volume 3, Issue 7

Breaking News: Senate Bill 79 Moves Through Testimony March 31, 2009

- 1. April is National Autism Awareness Month – Spotlights Need for Information, Understanding
- 2. Wrapping Up MRDD Awareness Month -- Activities Across Ohio – A Final Sampling
- 3. Community Services Annual Report for 2008, Now Online

Reminder: Solidarity 2009 Celebrates 10th Anniversary, April 14 -16

Senate Bill 79 moves through testimony March 31, 2009

Excerpt from SB 79 Sponsor Testimony– MRDD Name Change

Senator Jimmy Stewart,

Senate State and Local Government Committee

Yesterday's testimony on this bill included the following comments from Senator Stewart:

“SB 79 is simple; it would change the name of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) and the County Boards of MRDD, to simply, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the “__” County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Several months ago, I attended a meeting at the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities where I was asked to sponsor legislation that would remove the term ‘retardation’ from the Ohio Department of MRDD. After listening to numerous constituents explain why the term was offensive to them, I agreed. ‘Retardation’ is an antique term, and Ohio is one of only six states that continue to use it in the official title of a state department. I hope we can all agree that we must do our part to remove this degrading term from an agency funded by the people of the State of Ohio.”



MRDD Awareness Month Ends, Autism Awareness Month Begins

Look for more news and information at www.mrdd.ohio.gov throughout April.

April is Autism Awareness Month

1. Autism Activists Spotlight Need for Information, Understanding



Autism Ribbon

As MRDD Awareness Month ends, the nation turns its attention to one developmental disability that has seen a rapid increase in diagnosis - Autism Spectrum Disorder. April is National Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day.

Background

In 2000, the Center for Disease Control's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network indicated 6.7 per 1,000 children who were 8 years old had been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In 2007, the prevalence of children diagnosed increased dramatically -- to 1 in 150 -- according to monitoring network data.

As the numbers of children being diagnosed increases, educators and service providers are challenged to find the best way to meet the unique needs of individuals with ASD, which can vary greatly. While children with autism typically display issues with social interaction, communication, and repetitive behaviors, their skills and abilities differ widely from individual to individual.



“The Voice of One, the Power of Many”

‘Helping Hands’ also have Singing Voices!

Opening The Arc of Ohio's *Disability Public Policy Legislative Event and Rally* on March 31, 2009, in Columbus, these children demonstrated talent and courage in the face of about 200 very appreciative attendees. Way to go, Helping Hands!



Promising Approaches

Many promising activities are currently underway in Ohio to respond to the growth in the incidence of autism. Through a pilot project funded by the Ohio Department of Health and conducted by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, physicians in five targeted counties across the state are receiving training to recognize the early signs of autism.

The sooner autism is identified, the sooner an intervention program can start.

This training is being conducted in Belmont, Warren, Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Wood counties, and is paving the way for the state to move toward standards that can help guide physicians to conduct routine developmental screenings at 9, 18, and 24 months old. The screenings are focused on detecting autism at the earliest age possible. This project also is exploring ways to link the medical community with child-serving agencies, so that families can be referred to services and supports as quickly as possible.

Nearly 500 Ohio physicians and pediatricians, representing 26 practices, already have been trained via this project, and are reporting success in early detection efforts.

To learn more about early identification of autism, a website has been launched at www.concernedaboutdevelopment.org and is hosted by the American Assn. of Pediatrics.

Ohio families with children who have ASD look forward to the progress of this pilot project, and are hopeful that it will reveal important findings about how Ohio might best identify children affected by ASD early in their development, to ensure the best outcome for every child.

Public Schools and County Boards in the Mix

Also looking for the best outcome for every child, school districts throughout Ohio are well aware of the need to stay in tune with the needs of students with ASD, and yet, according to one educator, Phil Satterfield, Ross-Pike Educational Service Center superintendent, “There are so many different models (of intervention) that no one really knows what is best.”

According to Satterfield, “Currently, most area children diagnosed with autism are mainstreamed in the typical classroom, unless they have additional disabilities and their parents choose to send them to our Pioneer School (operated by Pike County Board of MRDD).” In response to a growing need, next year Pike County MRDD will pilot the first autism unit in the area.

And, in Licking County, the local Board of MRDD has opted to bring to their community the creative “P.L.A.Y.” Project (Play and Language for Autistic Youth), which has helped to address the needs of very young children on the autism spectrum. The P.L.A.Y. Project, created by Dr. Richard Solomon, Medical Director at Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, is based on a specific model of child development, known as the Greenspan model.

This model of intervention is play- and relationship-based, and is giving parents the tools to connect positively with their child and learn strategies to facilitate their child’s development. Once the P.L.A.Y. intervention methods are seen in action, it is clear that both family members *and* the child involved benefit from closer connections to each other, and unique interactions that may not otherwise have the opportunity to occur.

For more information on the P.L.A. Y. Project visit <http://www.playproject.org/>

Whatever the approach, schools and specialized programs throughout Ohio are working hard to meet the needs of children with autism. *Ohio is fortunate to have the resources of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to assist.* This center, created in response to the 2003 Ohio Autism Task Force recommendations, is a resource offering parents, educators, and service providers a wealth of information and training opportunities.

For example, by visiting the OCALI website at www.OCALI.org and clicking on 'Resources', one can find an extensive Parent Manual offering an overview of ASD.

Developed by Ohio parents of individuals with ASD, this manual is filled with practical information to guide families in search of interventions, resources, and services. Looking for training resources? OCALI's Autism Internet Module (AIM) series soon will include online training modules in such areas as characteristics; diagnosis; interventions and supports; transition; and, employment. These user-friendly online training modules are available at no cost.

OCALI Transition to Adulthood Guidelines also are available on this website. The guidelines provide information, resources, and tools to assist educators, individuals with ASD, parents, and adult service providers who may be planning for or already navigating post-school life.

No 'one size fits all'

Although there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach, Ohio schools are working to meet the needs of children with autism. For example, Chillicothe City Schools has sent its school psychologists to a three-day training by the Autism Society to learn more about managing behaviors in the classroom, according to Debbie Swinehart, Chillicothe's director of special services. After the training, the psychologists provided information to intervention specialists and aides for children in the district identified with autism.*

Chillicothe City Schools personnel, including building administrators, classroom teachers, and intervention specialists – as well as a child's family -- work together to develop an Individual Education Plan, which also may include a behavior plan. Sometimes, individuals with autism can exhibit behaviors that might interfere with learning, or might become harmful to themselves or others. It is important to have a cohesive and consistent effort in place to improve opportunities for success for students with ASD.

Positive Culture Initiative

In the same vein, and to assure that all individuals requiring behavior interventions are treated with the utmost respect and care, the ODMRDD has implemented a Positive Culture Initiative [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 3](#). In doing so, this initiative is providing guidance and training to promote aversive-free approaches to behavior supports. Individuals with ASD who need behavioral interventions are among the population for whom this approach may be especially helpful.

For more information on the Positive (intervention) Culture Initiative (PCI), visit <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/publications/Infonotices/08-09-02.pdf>

What's Ahead? IWGA and More.

The spotlight on autism as a result of increased incidence provides an environment for Ohio to continue its leadership role in considering how to serve families facing the need for a lifetime of supports for their children with ASD. Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) is working diligently to serve the needs of these families. State agency partners are opening broader lines of communication to better coordinate efforts. Agencies have collaborated and identified concrete objectives in a work plan, and individuals and family members across Ohio have offered feedback on IWGA activities, shaping the direction of system improvements.

According to Jody Fisher, ODMRDD's lead person for the Work Group,

"The thoughtful feedback of family members, individuals on the autism spectrum, and those who provide services, has been extremely valuable. This input keeps the IWGA grounded and focused."

The group's work plan can be viewed at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/topics/iagautism.htm> . Updates will be posted at this site during April, Autism Awareness Month, and in the future.

One More Thing on the Subject ... National Stimulus Dollars to Fund Autism Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of the world's foremost medical research centers, and operated by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, is accepting applications for \$60 million in research funds to study autism. Authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the funding will be spent on research focused on identifying *causes of and treatments for* autism.

According to recent research, the cost of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to affected people, families, and society is enormous. A majority of adults with ASD struggle with ongoing and mostly unmet needs for employment, housing, services, and supports. In addition, families who have a child with autism typically lose income, possibly as a result of one parent leaving the workforce in order to care for and meet the special health and educational needs of the child. Although research on ASD has expanded over the past decade, there remains an urgent need for continuing research support.

Grants will be allotted to projects that meet the goals stated in the national Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's (IACC) Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research, which was released in January 2009, and is available at <http://iacc.hhs.gov/reports/2009/iacc-strategic-plan-for-autism-spectrum-disorder-research-jan26.shtml>.

* Pipeline acknowledges the article titled, "*As diagnosed autism increases, schools struggle to meet students' needs,*" Chillicothe Gazette © 03/29/2009



Pipeline Feedback

If you have feedback on the subject of autism, please address it to feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us and put 'Autism Awareness Month' in the subject line. Thank you.



Wrapping Up MRDD Awareness Month, March

2. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Final Sampling

As in the past two issues of *Pipeline* ([Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 5](#), and [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 6](#),) we share a sampling of the many activities and events celebrating MRDD Awareness Month across Ohio. Wrapping up March, it is especially important to note the many unique and exciting awareness opportunities lead by and participated in by self-advocates, and we wholeheartedly applaud their efforts.

A. Media Support – Newspapers, and More About Billboards

What: *Jefferson County Herald Star*, March 24, 2009

Where: Jefferson County

Briefly: Article supporting MRDD Awareness Month: “Jefferson County has always been good to the county's mental retardation and developmental disabilities program, whether it be through levy renewals or the volunteers who help with programs, such as the annual Special Olympics. But the best support is to be a friend to a person with mental retardation. Stop and say "Hi" to the person with a developmental disability working at the local store.
Remember, they are just like you.

For more information: Contact Jefferson County Board of MRDD at (740) 264-7176.

What: The *Clermont County Community Press*, February 24, 2009, previewing MRDD Awareness Month.

Where: Clermont County

Briefly: Article supporting MRDD Awareness Month: “*Just like you and me*, people who have developmental disabilities enjoy working in the community, spending time with friends at social gatherings, earning a paycheck, and going to church. *Just like you and me*, people who have developmental disabilities enjoy independence and the love of family. *Just like you and me*, people with disabilities are appreciative of the knowledge that we live in a great country, and that freedom is a precious gift. *Just like you and me*, people with disabilities are important spokes in the wheel that keep our county moving in a positive direction.”

For more information: Contact Lisa Davis, Director of Community Relations, Clermont County Board of MRDD (513) 732-7000. Visit their website at www.cmrdd.org .



What: Billboards

Where: Belmont County

Briefly: Throughout March we've spotlighted various billboards across the state, utilizing the 2009 MRDD Awareness Month theme, *Just Like You*. They are designed by local County Boards in collaboration with outdoor advertising agencies, and sometimes in partnership with businesses and organizations that offered financial support for the advertising. Here is one more:



For more information: Contact Belmont County DD, (740) 695-0233. Ask for Pamela McCort.



B. Videos Illustrating the 2009 Awareness Month Theme

What: *Just Like You* Video

Where: Medina County

Briefly: Several counties have produced videos on the subject of employing people with disabilities, and related subjects. An excellent example is Medina County Board of MRDD's "*Just Like You*" video, inspired by their participants. When asked what message they wanted to send the community during MRDD Awareness Month, they said they wanted local business to know what their abilities were, and that they wanted to work. I think their point comes across well in this video that was produced with their help. It's short, it's to the point, and the music is great! Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXWjrAIYnKo>

For more information: Contact Lynee Bixler at 330-725-7751, ext. 289.

When asked what message they wanted to send the community during MRDD Awareness Month, they said they wanted local business to know what their abilities were, and that they wanted to work.



C. Special Events

What: Celebrity Omelet and Pancake Dinner

Where: Knox County

Briefly: New Hope Early Education Center Gym was the site of this event on March 19th, and involved dozens of local celebrity cooks, including State Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl, and County Commissioner Allen Stockberger. From 5 – 7 p.m. the community was invited to stop in and have an omelet and more, made to order. The proceeds (donations) benefited Special Olympics and other local programs. Many Knox County community leaders turned out to participate and local sponsors were actively recruited and involved.

For More Info: Contact Andrea Perry McKay, aperry@knoxmrdd.com



What: “*Just Like You*” Recognition Ceremony

Where: Franklin County

Briefly: During MRDD Awareness Month, UCP of Central Ohio focused on highlighting participants’ skills, abilities, and favorite things. A “*Just Like You*” recognition ceremony took place March 24, beginning with Adult Day Manager Dywan Bright reading a poem he wrote to honor people with disabilities. Titled, “*Just Like You,*” an excerpt from the poem reads,

“I’m looked at as being different by so many people. But the way I view it, really it’s like we’re all equal. I put my thoughts and personal feelings into all that I do. Because I’m *Just Like You.*”

At the recognition ceremony each participant was honored individually in a slide show and received a UCP backpack along with a certificate. Guests at the ceremony included members of the Board of Directors, as well as UCP’s participants and staff.

For More Info: Visit www.ucpofcentralohio.org or contact Gina Ginn at 614-279-0109.



[Now Online ...](#)

3. Community Services Annual Report for 2008

The ODMRDD Division of Community Services has completed its Annual Report for 2008, which includes information on the Division’s functional groups:

- Developmental Centers
- Facilities Development
- Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR)
- Office of Quality Management, Planning and Analysis (QMPA)
- Systems Innovation and Technical Assistance (SITA)

Michael Rench, Deputy Director for Community Services, notes that the report is a comprehensive document, reflecting a great deal of data-driven information.

“We have gathered and organized this information into functional areas, and hope that it will be used often as a planning and reference tool.”

He continues, “I am indebted to the hard work of the Community Services staff in putting this document together each year, and especially thank Connie Wodicka on our Special Investigations team, for her diligence in pulling all these elements together again this year.”

The Community Services Annual Report for 2008 will be posted at www.mrdd.ohio.gov this week, and will be accessible from the center section of the homepage by clicking on “Community Services Annual Report for 2008”.

In a related note, Kevin Aldridge, Assistant Deputy Director for SITA, adds that more information on the reorganization of SITA staff/ functions will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Pipeline*.

Aldridge comments, "SITA has completed the process of changing from a Regional Consultant service model for technical assistance, and is employing other strategies for assisting the field, and in particular, County Boards of MRDD. Due to a variety of factors, including budget constraints, we needed to find ways to encourage our stakeholders to work with us in different ways to get the job done. We are committed to developing new strategies for providing needed technical assistance."



Coming Soon!

Pipeline Quarterly, Winter

Publishes in April, reporting on winter 2008-'09



Reminders

Solidarity 2009 to Celebrate 10th Anniversary, April 14-16

Solidarity 2009, billed as, 'Ohio's leading conference by and for people with disabilities' returns to the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, April 14 -16, 2009. The tenth anniversary celebration will continue *Solidarity's* tradition of bringing information to people with disabilities so that they, their friends and families, may be more aware of -- and better advocates for -- issues important to the disability community. *Solidarity 2009* also will include legislative training, and more than 30 practical workshops.

Solidarity '09 sponsors include the ODMRDD, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Invacare, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and others. Registration materials are available at www.dnos.org or, call 1-866-966-2028, the toll-free number for the conference.



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to

update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. **To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline** ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD

***Pipeline* . . . direct from the state . . .**

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 8

- 1. April Rally Focuses on Key Legislative Actions
- 2. Roller Coaster Ride to Acceptance of a Family Member's Autism
- 3. Alcohol Awareness Month Spotlights Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- 4. System Innovation and Technical Assistance (SITA), Update
- 5. Accessible Emergency Shelter a New Resource in Franklin County
- 6. Solidarity's 10th Anniversary Draws a Crowd of Nearly 500
- 7. Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Accepting Advocacy Award Nominations

1. April Rally Focuses on Key Legislative Actions

Senate Bill 79

(MRDD Name Change, sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart),

House Bill 118

(MRDD Name Change, sponsored by Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips),

AND

House Bill 8

(Insurance Parity/Autism, sponsored by Representatives Ted Celeste and Nancy Garland),

Move Through Legislative Process

On April 1, 2009, the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 200 individuals with autism and other disabilities, activists, families, and state legislators, rallying to support Senate Bill 79, House Bill 118, and House Bill 8. HB 79 and HB 118 would strike the words 'mental retardation' from the name of the state and county entities overseeing services to people with developmental disabilities. For example, the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities would be re-named the 'Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities,' as the bill currently is written.

House Bill 8, introduced on the same day as the rally, mandates that health insurance policies providing basic health care coverage must include coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

The rally, co-sponsored by The ARC of Ohio, the Autism Society of America - Central Ohio Chapter; Autism Speaks; and, the Autism Society of Ohio, and People First of Ohio, among

others, provided a cross-section of support for raising awareness of specific issues faced by families who have members with developmental disabilities, including ASD. The federal Centers for Disease Control report that the incidence of autism in the United States is 1 in 150 children, and there are more than 10,000 families in Ohio affected every day.



Rally attendees enjoy a sunny but chilly and windy day on the West Lawn of the Statehouse.



ODMRDD Director John Martin (left) addresses the group from the perspective of being a parent of a young adult with disabilities, as well as a member of Governor Strickland's cabinet.



Self Advocate, Michael Groleau, reinforces the call to action, encouraging rally attendees to talk with their legislators about issues that are important to them.

For more information about legislation noted in this article go to www.ohio.gov



April is Autism Awareness Month and Alcohol Awareness Month

2. Roller Coaster Ride to Acceptance of a Family Member's Autism – One Family's Lessons Learned Speak to Many



The Autism Ribbon visually depicts the broad range of individuals affected, as well as the puzzling nature of yet-to-be identified causes or contributors to Autism Spectrum Disorder.

While clinical studies and speculation abound, what's important is individual people and how they learn about and cope with life issues. We focus on that perspective here.

Type the words 'autism' or 'Autism Spectrum Disorder' (ASD) into any internet search engine such as *Google*, and you see that there is no shortage of information on the subject. The lives involved can be easily lost in the shuffle from one technical resource to another, and yet sharing the human element is how the most important lessons can be learned. An article appearing in *The New York Times*, and reprinted in *The Washington Post* titled, "Roller Coaster to Acceptance of a Son's Autism" is a perfect example.

In the article, the mother indicates that her son, Jonah, who is now 25, was diagnosed at around age three, at which time he did not appear all that different from his peers. She tells of years of focusing constantly, every single day, on making the most of every learning opportunity for Jonah, including work on reading, speaking, and social interactions. They tried everything they could think of to 'bring his development along.' She states,

"We introduced communication boards and arranged sensory integration therapy. We had him wear headphones to 'normalize' his hearing, and tried other 'snake oil treatments' that no thinking person should consider! But each hope was followed with disappointment."

She relates it became clear after many years, that although they had been trying desperately to teach him, they had to concede that Jonah was 'no student.'

"What we wanted him to do had little to do with what he did. If he didn't want to do something, he would drop to the ground and refuse to budge. So we decided to back off and began taking cues from him."

The family did the same activities with Jonah as in the past, but without a checklist of goals. Until then, for example, his mother observed that he had never been able to really enjoy the

sensory pleasures of his beloved food magazines, “...without our subjecting him to a monologue about what he was looking at.” He finally was free to enjoy things for their own sake.

The article notes several tries and failures along the way, and the roller coaster of family emotions is clear. What makes the story especially worth sharing is this memorable moment the mom describes:

“Not long ago, I came across an old copy of ‘Cinderella.’ It reminded me of a time when he was five years old, when I tried to read it to him. Well, not read, exactly -- Jonah has always had a low tolerance for traditional reading, and stories must be sung or recited rhythmically.

So, as I sang ‘Cinderella,’ he rolled on the floor, seemingly oblivious to the story. Still, I clung to the idea that I might be able to engage him, so I left a sentence for him to complete.

**“The clock struck 12,” I sang off key, “and Cinderella ran down the palace steps, leaving behind a glass ...” He continued rolling while I waited to hear him say ‘slipper.’
At last he finished the sentence for me. ‘Of milk,’ he said.”**



She finishes, “I smiled, and I’m smiling still. Jonah had made a student of his teacher. I would never again be able to read or think of ‘Cinderella’ without seeing a glass of milk on the palace steps. Jonah turned 25 last fall, and when I look at him I can’t help wondering if the past years weren’t some heaven-directed scheme meant to humble us and teach us the value of acceptance. Understanding that we couldn’t change him had changed us. He remains a man of few words. But though it took us years, we have finally learned there was something to hear in his silence.”

Pipeline acknowledges, “Roller Coaster to Acceptance of a Son’s Autism” by Annie Lubliner Lehmann, the author of “The Accidental Teacher: Life Lessons From My Silent Son.”

Support and resources for Ohio families after they receive a diagnosis of autism are available at www.autismohio.org. Click on "local chapters." Also an excellent resource guide may be found at www.ocali.org

From a national perspective, resources and information can also be found at sites including www.autism-society.org, www.autismspeaks.org, and www.nichcy.org.



Pipeline Feedback

Thanks to those who contacted feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us regarding the calculation used in measuring the incidence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) reported in the April 1 issue of *Pipeline*. The incidence is reported at 1 in 150, as measured by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). A description of how to arrive at the calculation was incorrect.

3. Alcohol Awareness Month Spotlights Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the broad range of effects that can occur in an individual who has been exposed to alcohol in the womb. According to the FASD Center for Excellence, each year approximately 40,000 U.S. babies are born with FASD, costing the nation about \$4 billion. In Ohio, Department of Health officials estimate that FASD affects one in 100 births at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300 million annually -- for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and mental health services, foster care, and unemployment.

Prenatal exposure to alcohol remains the leading preventable cause of birth defects, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits and behavior disorders.

The FASD Center for Excellence aims to raise awareness that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected. It is important to note that while many pregnancies are unplanned, and the possibility of a mother-to-be drinking any amount of alcohol during the early stages of pregnancy is likely, *as soon as the pregnancy is known, alcohol consumption by the mother should cease for the remaining duration of the pregnancy.*

Emphasizing the importance of education and information on the subject, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) Director, Angela Cornelius Dawson, states, "Healthy children are Ohio's most important resource. When we bring attention to FASD, we increase compassion for those individuals and families already affected, and hope to minimize further effects, thereby ensuring healthier communities across the state."

In the MRDD community, families and caregivers of women who have developmental disabilities and are of child-bearing age/are sexually active, should help to ensure the good health of all involved, and make this message clear:

No amount of alcohol should be consumed during pregnancy.

If you know someone who is pregnant and continues to consume alcohol, it is critical to refer the individual to medical and informational resources as quickly as possible.

Visit <http://www.fascenter.samhsa.gov/> for a great deal of helpful information on the subject.

A Pro-Active Approach in Wood County

For more than 50 years, board members of the Arc of Wood County have advocated for the human rights, personal dignity, and community participation of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. They have accomplished this through legislative and social action, information and education, and support to individuals and their families.

One current initiative is their Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Task Force (FASD), a collaborative group comprised of nine local social service agencies with the goal of educating the community about the risks and dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. A key tool in this effort is the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Teaching Research Awareness Campaign (FASTRAC) originated in Riverside, California -- a peer training program where eight to ten Junior High

School students are provided information and trained, and then in turn, speak to their peers on the subject.



Wearing bright red NineZERO T-shirts, local high school students visit Rossford Junior High School to educate peers. The slogan NineZERO stands for 'nine months, zero alcohol.'

According to Margie Harris, executive director of the Arc of Wood County,

“Wood County has ten school districts, and some picked up on it and some didn’t. We’ve been doing this for a few years, and Rossford School, in particular, has been very successful with the program. We’ve also done things like have beverage coasters made with the slogan, *NineZERO*, that means for *nine months, zero alcohol*. We had several restaurants and bars use these, and that was one way the kids thought we could get the word out.” She added,

“The main thing in the junior high schools is to get the appropriate message out to students early in their lives.”

Thanks to Rob Spence and Margie Harris, Wood County MRDD and The Arc of Wood County.



4. Systems Innovation and Technical Assistance (SITA), Update

During the past several months, the Office of Systems Innovation and Technical Assistance (SITA) has completed the process of changing from a Regional Consultant service model for technical assistance, and implemented other strategies for assisting the field, most specifically, County Boards of MRDD.

According to Kevin Aldridge, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Services, “Due to the reduced budget, we needed to find different ways to get the job done. We have been committed to creating as few disruptions as possible in this process, and to developing new strategies for providing technical assistance, while encouraging our stakeholders to work with us to help us meet their needs as effectively as possible.”

In the MRDD services environment, the need for technical assistance never goes away, and SITA has been the long-time centralized point of technical assistance, through the work of regional consultants. So, in order to maintain and ultimately improve the flow of information and assistance, ODMRDD has worked to integrate technical assistance into the review and accreditation processes, and then analyze specific remaining technical assistance needs.

Briefly, here are some of the results:

- We have worked with the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) to create increased technical assistance capacity for Medicaid-related issues *at the source*. Two formerly Regional Consultant positions are now MDA Field Consultants. Having technical assistance on Medicaid issues within MDA creates system efficiencies and helps minimize confusion.
- SITA will concentrate on specific operational aspects of implementing Departmental policy initiatives in the areas of *employment; children and families; early intervention; individual service planning; and, special populations* including dual diagnosis, autism, housing, and interagency collaboration.
- The Certification Unit within SITA has unified the staff certification and provider certification functions under a single reviewer. This helps us to stay on top of the certification process and minimize any negative effects caused by decreased capacity due to budget constraints. We also are looking at unifying all certification processes, including the certifications of Instructors, Trainers, and Certified Medication Administration Personnel.

In line with our over-riding ODMRDD Five Goals*, we are working to streamline operations and simplify processes that provide technical assistance needed by individuals, families, and providers of services to the MRDD community, statewide. According to Kevin Aldridge,

“It is our responsibility to create positive change, and lay a firm foundation for more prosperous times.”

** The Five Goals are on page 2 of the ODMRDD Primer at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/about/docs/ODMRDD-Primer09.pdf>*



5. Accessible Shelter a New Reality in Franklin County

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (FCBMRDD), in collaboration with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus, has developed a Red Cross Shelter designed and staffed to accommodate persons with developmental disabilities in the Central Ohio area.

It is thought to be the first Red Cross Shelter in the nation that will be equipped and staffed to accommodate the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families in the event of a disaster that requires temporary shelter and assistance.



Access is Everything in an Emergency

Through a grant from The Columbus Foundation, FCBMRDD has purchased and installed a heavy-duty electric generator at their West Central School location, allowing that location to be used as a shelter in the event of mass power outages. While working on the project, three facilities operated by FCBMRDD were identified and equipped to serve as potential shelter locations, and the West Central School site will be one of a very few shelter locations of any kind in Columbus equipped with electric generator capability.

The combination of the accessibility features at West Central School, along with the electric generator capacity, make this a unique community resource.

In addition to these facility-oriented accommodations, the Red Cross *'Ready When the Time Comes'* project has trained 70 staff members from FCBMRDD to serve as volunteers at the shelters. According to Jack Brownley at FCBMRDD, "These volunteers share a common commitment to respond to emergency needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, and bring with them the experience and special skills to support this population." He adds,

"A disaster simulation exercise will be conducted at the West Central School location, 1481 W. Town St. Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday April 25, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Individuals and their families have volunteered to participate in the activities and scenarios designed to simulate a disaster that affects their shelter and access to community supports. The shelter will be staffed by Red Cross leadership and FCBMRDD volunteers."

According to Brownley, because this is a unique partnership and because it responds to a major community health and safety issue, the FCBMRDD in encouraging other County Boards of MRDD to attend this disaster simulation event, to observe and ask questions. He notes, I'm pretty excited about the shelter and about the April 25 event – especially because I believe it's replicable in other communities. We can share information about how the grant funds allowed us to purchase the electric generator we needed, and how our collaboration with the Red Cross has worked out so well. It's been a great experience, altogether."

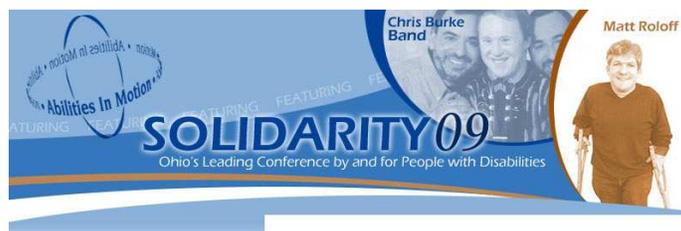
For more information about the disaster simulation event on April 25, or about the partnership between FCBMRDD and Red Cross of Greater Columbus, interested persons may contact Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs at 614-342-5960 or jack.brownley@fcbmrdd.org



6. Solidarity's 10th Anniversary Draws a Crowd of Nearly 500

Despite a persistent and dreary drizzle, the crowd gathered around the registration desk was highly energized, as one of Ohio's leading conferences by and for people with disabilities' returned to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus yesterday -- opening to a crowd of nearly 500 people from across the state. The three-day event (April 14-16) celebrates *Solidarity's* 10th Anniversary and continues a tradition of bringing relevant information to people with disabilities, their friends and families, on issues important to the disability community.

Solidarity 2009 focuses on current information regarding legislation, advocacy efforts, and a long list of practical and topical workshops to improve daily life for people with all types of disabilities. On hand to lead these workshops are self advocates and organizations taking fresh approaches to helping people be successful, including the use of technology and improved networking opportunities.



Governor Strickland Addresses Relevant Issues

Governor Ted Strickland began the opening day luncheon with enthusiastic comments on Ohio's initiatives and targeted efforts to improve the employment scene for people with disabilities. He noted that the Medicaid Buy-In program, initiated last year, helps to create an environment where competitive employment opportunities are available, stating,

"This is critical to the dignity of individuals with disabilities, and to the economy of our state and our nation. Medicaid Buy-In is an important opportunity for Ohioans with disabilities, and it's the right thing to do. People with disabilities have the right to find and keep jobs without the risk of losing their medical benefits!"

The Governor's presence was greatly appreciated and duly noted by the luncheon's Keynote Speaker, internationally known disability advocate, Joyce Bender -- host of the international radio talk show "Disability Matters." Her focus on employment for the nearly 60% of the disability population who are unemployed is no watered-down approach to getting the job done. She took the microphone enthusiastically, stating,

"Your Governor came here, in person, to speak to you! This doesn't happen in many other states where I speak. Sometimes a governor is supposed to be there and they send someone else. But

this is Ohio! This state has the ability and the interest in helping you – now you need to help them to help you. Tell your legislators what you need and what you want.”

Solidarity attendees began making legislative visits during the conference four years ago, in an effort to affect and influence public policy, and will again visit the Ohio Statehouse during this year’s conference to speak with elected officials. *Solidarity* began in 1991, and was organized as *Solidarity Ohio*. In 1993, the group became the Disability Network of Ohio-Solidarity, Inc. (DNOS), and continues to host the conference every two years.

One thing for sure, attendees of *Solidarity 2009* will leave the conference with a lot more information and resources than they arrived with, and probably more than a few new friends!



People First of Ohio member, John Gillespie, knows his desserts – and proclaims this torte to be ‘positively delicious’. John attended the Solidarity luncheon on opening day, along with about 499 acquaintances and friends.

Solidarity 2009 sponsors include the ODMRDD, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Buckeye Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Invacare, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and others.

For more information visit <http://www.dnos.org>



6. Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities Accepting Advocacy Award Nominations

The Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities is seeking nominations for the ‘Advocacy Award.’ This award recognizes a person or group who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to people with disabilities, and recipients are honored for a *new initiative* or a *significant improvement to an existing program* that materially improves the quality of life for one or more individuals with disabilities. One or more of the following components also would need to be demonstrated:

- Positively impacting laws and/or regulations for the individual or population(s) with disabilities;
- Flexibility in design, addressing future needs or newly identified populations of individuals with disabilities;
- Having the potential to be taught or replicated across the State;
- Raising public awareness regarding issues related to disability.

News, government and disability-focused organizations from the following areas also are encouraged to apply:

- Newspaper, TV, radio and other commercial communication venues;
- Business Publications (examples: Business First, Columbus CEO, etc.);
- Ohio's local and state Chambers of Commerce and local governmental units;
- Members of the Ohio House and Senate, and Ohio members of the U.S. House and Senate;
- The Governor's Office;
- The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; Statewide Independent Living Council; Ohio Legal Rights Service Commission; Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; other agencies serving the state; and,
- Members and former members of The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities.

The Advocacy Award will be presented at the annual Governor's Council on People with Disabilities meeting *August 20, 2009*. Nominations must be postmarked by *May 15, 2009*.

For nomination forms, contact the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities at 1-800-282-4536, Ext. 1392, or visit the website at: <http://gcpd.ohio.gov/AdvocacyAward.asp>

Contact Person: Scott A. Hinton, Executive Director, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Office 614 438-1393, Fax 614-985-8967



Now Online!

<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm>

Pipeline Quarterly, Winter

Reports on winter 2008-'09



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline* ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 9

- 1. MRDD Futures Progress Report, April 2009
- 2. Allen and Portage County Reps Tell It Like It Is
- 3. April 21 Testimony Supports Passage of Senate Bill 79
- 4. Jefferson, Harrison Counties Team Up, Provide Unique Program
- 5. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Spotlighted in School Settings
- 6. Twelve Graduate from Southeast Ohio PATHS Program
- 7. Downtown Athens Welcomes Passion Works Studio
- 8. The May 5 Ballot – MRDD Levy Issues, Statewide
- 9. Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference, May 14, 2009

1. The Futures Progress Report is attached to this email.

It reports progress to-date on the 31 MRDD Futures Committee recommendations.

2. Allen and Portage County Reps Tell It Like It Is

“I just wanted to have my job, and I thought it was going to go away, but they kept it for me, and I am so glad ... just so glad. I love it.” - Dennis Hejduk

“I have a service coordinator who is helping me to find a job, but so far I have not had much luck. I know some people get the jobs that are out there who don’t have a disability, but I’m in that stack of applications, too, and I want to work. I keep trying and hoping.” - Chelsea Martin



No Stage Fright here.

(L. to R.) ODMRDD Director Martin, Angela Herzog, Chelsea Martin, Dennis Hejduk, and Philip Miller.

He'd be the first to agree he'd been upstaged. ODMRDD Director John Martin wholeheartedly agreed that the visitors from Allen and Portage Counties were the stars of the quarterly All-Staff meeting on April 16, 2009, in downtown Columbus. "They definitely made the meeting," he acknowledged, following a discussion of the state budget.

The four visitors were there to talk about the impact of the economy on the MRDD community in their areas. They definitely told it like it was. Following Director Martin's overview of general budget considerations and new and emerging initiatives, he introduced Angela Herzog, Adult Services Director, Allen County Board of MRDD, with services participant Chelsea Martin; and Philip Miller, Adult Services Director, Portage County Board of MRDD, with services participant Dennis Hejduk. The budget discussion came to life. (Sorry Director Martin!)



Chelsea and Dennis ... on a roll.

(left) Once she got a hold of the microphone, Chelsea took charge and spoke to the issues of job hunting in Allen County. And, (right) Dennis needed no prompting from Phil Miller when it came to genuine enthusiasm for his job, backed by a great deal of stage presence.

Keeping It Real

While it is important to know what the funding charts mean, and how the national scene affects state and local programs assisting Ohioans with disabilities, you just can't beat hearing from real people, out living it every day.

"I'm nervous, but I'm glad to be here," said Dennis. He then described his work at Kent State University as a maintenance worker whose responsibilities include cleaning a large gymnasium (four basketball courts).

"It gets dirty every day and I clean it every day – I love being there. It's my second home. I almost lost the job (due to budget cuts), but everyone worked together there to make it so that I could keep my job ... so my 'going away pizza party' turned into a happy party instead."

Chelsea had a different perspective. She currently is not working, but wants to -- and is keeping her Allen County Board of MRDD service coordinator very busy with her efforts. She explains,

"I do have a disability and I know lots of people without disabilities are out of work now too, so we're all out there looking. It's just harder for me to be the one they pick for the job."

Both Angela (Angie) Herzog and Philip (Phil) Miller took a few moments to share creative ideas from around the state that are making a difference on the employment scene for people with developmental disabilities. As members of the Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS), they presented ideas from counties across the state, ranging from the creation of small businesses, to the re-marketing of services to different customers. “Some counties are doing better than others,” said Angie – “It’s very hard work, though, in any case, with less funding.”

ODMRDD All-Staff meetings are a time for Central Office and Developmental Center staff to learn about what’s coming up, acknowledge where we are, and discuss where we are going. As Director Martin stated, “Listening to Chelsea and Dennis, Phil and Angie, it’s clear that we have many good reasons to continue to work hard to help people with developmental disabilities have success in their communities, including opportunities for employment. He adds,

“ While it’s more difficult to plan and manage in these challenging economic times, it’s worth the effort every time – every time Dennis goes to work in the morning, and every time Chelsea reminds herself that she’s a contender for a job ... just like everyone else. ”



3. April 21 Testimony Supports Passage of SB79

Senate Bill 79
(MRDD Name Change, sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart),



On hand at the Statehouse, self-advocates, members of People First, and others provided support and testimony on April 21, 2009, to remove the words ‘mental retardation’ from Ohio’s state and county board agencies. (Left to right): Jason Licht (seated); Sadie Hunter, executive director People First; Marty Zinn, co-coordinator, Developmental Disabilities Council Center on Public Policy; Glenda Murray, self-advocate (Athens); John Hannah, self-advocate (Champaign); Andy Leinbaugh, self-advocate (Athens); William Peacock, self-advocate (The Plains); Dan Ohler, executive director, OACBMRDD; Steve Koch (Athens), Deana Peacock, self-advocate, The Plains; Steven Koch, advisor

PersonnelPlus (Athens); Mike Groleau, self-advocate, (Pickaway); Jim Gillespie, self-advocate (Athens); Senator Jimmy Stewart. *-photo courtesy, Steve Koch*

On April 21, 2009, members of the Ohio Senate heard testimony from several supporters of SB 79, and those in attendance heard the *vote passing the measure* at 10:30 a.m. Details regarding the resulting new name of the Ohio Department of MRDD, the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, and other related entities are under discussion, and will include input from self-advocates and stakeholders. The change will be phased in according to a yet-to-be determined timeframe, allowing entities to educate and inform their constituencies, and minimize any costs associated with the process.

Note: In the House of Representatives, House Bill 118 also addresses the MRDD name change, and is sponsored by Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips. See [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 8](#).

"Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families are ready for the next steps in the evolution of how they are perceived, and how they are served. They are ready for a change."
-ODMRDD Director, John Martin

*For the text of Senate Bill 79 go to
http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText128/128_SB_79_RS_N.html*



April is Autism Awareness Month and Alcohol Awareness Month

Autism Awareness Month

4. Jefferson, Harrison Counties Team Up, Provide Unique Program

Of the 88 Ohio County Boards of MRDD, approximately 30 still operate a school. Of those counties, two have collaborated to become the first among school districts to operate a program specifically for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The Jefferson County Board of MRDD (JCBMRDD) in Steubenville and school districts in Jefferson and Harrison counties have teamed up to provide a unique educational program for students who have autism. Opening the *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center* at the outset of the 2009-2010 school year will allow school districts and parents to send students with ASD to a centralized location for unique educational opportunities.

Local school districts currently have been struggling to meet the unique educational needs of students who are diagnosed with moderate to severe Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and as a result, some parents are sending children outside the county for needed services – cost and transportation time are negative factors in each case.

Michael Mehalik, JCBMRDD superintendent, explains,

“ The *Regional Spectrum Center* is a collaborative effort between five school districts in Jefferson County, Harrison Hills City School District, and the Jefferson County Educational Services Center. Participating school districts have reported that there are a total of about 50 children with autism who have a variety of functioning levels. There was a need to put something together locally that could serve those needs.”

Because autism is a complex developmental disability that is defined by a certain set of behaviors, and affects individuals differently and to varying degrees, it is known as a ‘spectrum disorder.’ Thus, the name, *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center* is descriptive as well as practical. The Center will be located at the JCBMRDD School of Bright Promise, but will operate as a separate entity with its own entrance.



According to Superintendent Mehalik, “The Center students will have access to the School of Bright Promise facilities, including the gym and outdoor play area. They also will have access to occupational, speech, behavioral, and physical therapy, and to nutritionists and transportation (Jefferson County residents).” He adds,

“The regional approach makes it unique and makes it possible. The Center needs a certain amount of students enrolled in order to pull together the funding to make it financially feasible. By partnering with the neighboring school districts we can offer specific and needed services, locally.”

The *Regional Spectrum Center* will have three units, each serving up to eight children with autism. The preschool unit will serve children with autism along with typically developing children, similar to the pre-school at the School of Bright Promise. The other two units will serve children ages 6-10 and 11-15. Mehalik explained, “There will be one teacher and two aides per eight students – so the potential is to serve 24 students, total, in the three units.”

Putting It Together

According to the Jefferson County Educational Services Center (ESC), most of the children in the county who have autism are in a ‘multi-handicap’ classroom in local schools, or are currently served at a for-profit facility outside the county. Local school superintendents had expressed to the ESC a need to serve students with autism, some of whom do not meet with much success in a traditional classroom. The ESC then contacted JCBMRDD regarding the development of a centralized program.

Funding will be provided partly by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), with the school districts picking up the remaining costs. More specifically, the funding is special education funding, and varies depending on the financial situation of the referring school district. For school districts involved in the *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center* state funding for students with autism is between \$15,500 and \$22,800 per student, and the school districts have agreed to pay JCBMRDD the difference between the state funding amount and the actual costs.

According to Superintendent Mehalik, “The amount of funding from the local districts will vary from \$8,000-\$15,000 per student. We are anticipating total costs of around \$31,000 per student. The school districts also have agreed to pay for consultation services (Watson Institute) and some minor buildings and grounds modifications.

The Watson Institute of Sewickley, Pa., a nationally-recognized school that focuses on children with special needs including autism spectrum disorders, has been contracted to offer training for teachers. A Watson specialist will provide 20 days of training throughout the school year, observing teachers in class and making recommendations. The Center also will employ a certified occupational therapist with a background in autism/sensory-related issues. The School of Bright Promise currently has two speech therapists and one physical therapist on staff, plus skilled nursing and a dietician. There already are about a dozen students at the School of Bright Promise who have severe autism.

Commenting on the development of the *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center*, Superintendent Mehalik remarks,

“The parents have been very supportive. Recently, 55 parents attended an informational meeting about it at Jefferson Community College. We are trying to build a support network for parents, and may offer a monthly meeting so parents can share experiences as a way to help each other.

*For more information contact Mike Mehalik at 740-264-7176 ext. 1107 or email [mikem@jcmrdd.com]
Website: <http://www.jcmrdd.com/>*

Acknowledgements to the Herald Star newspaper and online news, and to Mark Law, staff writer. April 19, 2009 article titled, Autism Program Designed to Serve Schools in Jefferson County.



Alcohol Awareness Month

5. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Spotlighted in School Settings

A national school-based initiative called Reach Out Now (RON) strives to prevent and reduce underage alcohol use, by raising awareness in young students about the dangers and potential consequences of alcohol use or abuse *before they begin to drink*. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*, through its *Center for Substance Abuse Prevention* promotes the RON initiative in schools and online at <http://www.toosmarttostart.samhsa.gov/> .

Students in Junior High School and even younger are known to experiment with alcohol consumption, and the information they may receive from older siblings or friends can be misleading. It is important that young students *with and without developmental disabilities* get correct information early in their lives, in order to prevent health and social issues that may arise.

During Alcohol Awareness Month, families, caregivers, and school staff across Ohio may wish to reinforce that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Center is the only form of mental retardation that is completely preventable by simply not drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Young students who have older female family members who are sexually active can help to educate them, as well.

Approximately 40,000 babies are born in the U.S. with FASD every year. Children born with FASD suffer effects that may be physical, mental, behavioral and/or have learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications. Possible effects include:

- Brain damage;
- Facial anomalies;
- Growth deficiencies;
- Defects of the heart, kidneys and liver;
- Vision and hearing problems;
- Skeletal defects;
- Dental abnormalities.

Prenatal exposure to alcohol remains the leading preventable cause of birth defects, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits and behavior disorders.

No amount of alcohol should be consumed during pregnancy.

If you know someone who is pregnant and continues to consume alcohol, it is critical to refer the individual to medical and informational resources as quickly as possible.

Visit <http://www.fascenter.samhsa.gov/> for a great deal of helpful information on the subject.



6. Twelve Graduate from Southeast Ohio PATHS Program



PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

The April 18 graduation of twelve Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) who completed the Certificate of Initial Proficiency in the PATHS credentialing program was enthusiastically attended by family, friends, employers, instructors, and, of course -- all the graduates.

Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) Southeast Ohio region (SOCOG) became the sixth PATHS region in 2008.

Candidates for the PATHS credential must complete 60 hours of classroom instruction, work closely with a skill mentor and create a portfolio that includes a professional development statement, work samples that demonstrate competencies in real life work situations, and submit a recommendation from a person with a disability or family members.



Julie Davis, Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) graduate, Dr. Larry Jageman, PATHS Instructor (left) and ODMRDD Director John Martin.

These graduates join the 376 DSPs who have achieved the Ohio PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency and 130 DSPs with a Certificate of Advanced Proficiency. PATHS graduates receive critical training in a set of skills that helps them understand the importance of their work in helping people lead lives of their own choosing.

Professional Development Statements by some of the Southeast Ohio graduates exemplify this: Erin Pearson, who works at Havar writes,

“Constructing this portfolio has given me the ability to know my strengths, weaknesses and abilities. It has given me the tools I need to be more professional by *making me think before I act*. I am much more aware of the fact that the people I work with have choices and abilities than I was before I started my portfolio, and PATHS.”

In addition to Julie Davis (pictured) and Erin Pearson (quoted), the following complete the list of twelve graduates: Margaret Wharton; Tom Ayers; Rebecca Wemer; Kathie Wright; Brenda Cunningham; Barbara Mugrage; Donna Dicken; Dorothy Pilos; Beverly Dishong; Gina Dyer.

PATHS was awarded the highest level of recognition by the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, and is the only statewide program to receive this honor. PATHS is offered in eight regions in Ohio and in eleven licensed entities. Agency and independent providers all participate in PATHS.

Partners in support of PATHS include the ODMRDD, ODDC, OPRA, ODJFS, OACBMRDD, People First of Ohio, and agencies and independent providers throughout the state.

For more information about PATHS and OADSP please visit the web site, www.ohiopaths.org and contact Amy Gerowitz at agerowitz@ohiopaths.org or 513-484-2772.



Out of the Workshop and Just Off-Campus

7. Downtown Athens Welcomes Passion Works Studio



**Dave Barba, Plant/Production Manager, welcomes all to Passion Works Studio, now in Downtown Athens.
Sidewalk chalk art says, 'Passion Works Grand Opening.'**

Welcome to the heart of the community! The Passion Works Studio and store have moved from the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) office location, to downtown Athens. The newly-opened Studio's Grand Opening was April 23, with a ribbon cutting complete with giant scissors and made-to-order sunshine for the occasion. Passion Works Studio's new address is 20 East State Street, and according to long-time ACBDD staffer, Dave Barba, "We are really excited about more fully integrating our artists into their community. We will have much higher visibility and will be able to grow the program and our business!"

Tags on the signature Passion Flowers and other creations in the store tell the Studio's story this way: "The spirit of partnership and shared vision at PassionWorks represents the very best in collaborative community arts. Passion Works brings together artists with and without developmental disabilities to express their creativity and satisfy the human impulse to make art."



Look for more about Passion Works' move out of the workshop setting in the next issue of ODMRDD's *Pipeline Quarterly*, feature publication, publishing in June 2009.



Using probably the most colorful scissors ever to cut a Grand Opening Ribbon, the Passion Works artists and staff smile in the sunshine.



Inside, before the crowds ...

The new studio is about 25 steps off Court Street, the heart of downtown Athens and Ohio University campus life. While it looks rather spacious here, it is quickly filling with artistic creations in all shapes and sizes.



8. Five Counties Have Levies on May 5 Ballot

Five counties have issues on the May 5th ballot. They are listed below, and results will be reported in a Pipeline Extra on Wednesday May 6th.

Hancock County Board of MRDD:	2.5 mills, renewal
Highland County Board of MRDD:	3.35 mills replacement
Mercer County Board of MRDD:	1.36 mills renewal
Morrow County Board of MRDD:	0.9 mills additional
Stark County Board of MRDD:	1.4 mills, additional

Good Luck to all, and remember to vote in your communities on May 5th.



9. Disability Housing Network Spring Conference, May 14

Registration for the Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring 2009 Conference is now open. [Click here](#) to register online. The one-day conference, Thursday, May 14, will be at the [Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin](#). The registration fee is \$75 for members, and \$125 for non-members. A limited number of rooms – (\$115 per night) - will be reserved for those traveling. [Click here](#) to reserve your room at the Embassy Suites.

According to Steve Farrell, DHN executive director,

“We are particularly excited about the Best Practices Forum with Service Providers and Housing Corporations. This is a new conversation for us, and we are looking forward to hearing what is discussed there, including some best practices in working relationships between providers and housing corporations.”



In addition to the ‘Best Practices’ session, other conference topics include:

- *How Housing Corporation staff can work with the Ohio Housing and Community Partnerships* – An overview of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the federal stimulus package from a staff member of the Ohio Department of Development's office of Housing Community Partnerships.
- *Maintenance Departments and Housing Corporations* - How housing corporations of different sizes structure their maintenance departments, with a focus on using GPS technology.
- *Ohio's 2009 Disability Housing Report* - A brief overview of the recently-completed 2009 Housing Census.

For more information about the DHN Spring Conference, contact Steve Farrell, executive director, Disability Housing Network, 614.586.5855, www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org



Reminder

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Accepting Award Nominations

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is seeking nominations for the 'Advocacy Award.' This award recognizes a person or group who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to people with disabilities, and recipients are honored for a *new initiative* or a *significant improvement to an existing program* that materially improves the quality of life for one or more individuals with disabilities.

The Advocacy Award will be presented at the annual Governor's Council on People with Disabilities meeting *August 20, 2009*. Nominations must be postmarked by *May 15, 2009*.

For nomination forms and criteria, contact the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities at 1-800-282-4536, Ext. 1392, or visit the website at: <http://gcpd.ohio.gov/AdvocacyAward.asp>

Contact Person: Scott A. Hinton, Executive Director, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Office 614 438-1393, Fax 614-985-8967

The Following Sections are Newly-Updated at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

We invite you to click on the icons below and check them out!



Futures & More

<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Pipeline . . .

Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline* ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

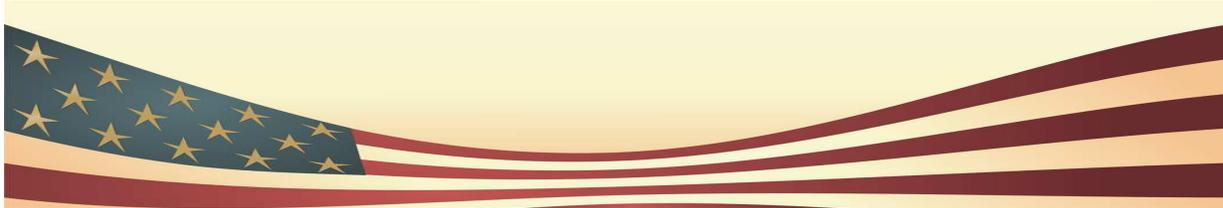
Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

May 6, 2009

Results of the May 5, 2009 Election MRDD Levies, Statewide



The results are unofficial and will be certified by the respective county Board of Elections on or about May 15, 2009.

<i>Hancock County Board of MRDD:</i>	2.5 mills, renewal PASSED (7176 FOR, 3212 Against)
<i>Highland County Board of MRDD:</i>	3.35 mills, replacement PASSED (1110 FOR, 827 Against)
<i>Mercer County Board of MRDD:</i>	1.36 mills, renewal PASSED (2680 FOR, 550 Against)
<i>Morrow County Board of MRDD:</i>	0.9 mills, additional FAILED (2372 FOR, 3465 Against)
<i>Stark County Board of MRDD:</i>	1.4 mills, additional PASSED (10,234 FOR, 4732 Against)

**Congratulations to all who passed a levy ...
... And to those whose did not, we appreciate how much work was involved in your efforts.**

*Thanks to OACBMRDD for updated information.
More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>*



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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline Extra* is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in

the MRDD arena. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor's Notes: ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the ODMRDD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the ODMRDD website, at <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/privacy/odmrdd.htm>. To subscribe to Pipeline newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You may also read issues of this newsletter on the web at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>*

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.

Ohio.gov | MRDD

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 10

- 1. National Core Indicators, Request for Proposals (RFP)
- 2. Community Employment: Williams County is Site for New *Pizza Now!* Restaurant
- 3. Disability Employment Survey Now Online
- 4. Transition Weekend, "My Life, My Future"
- 5. Ticket to Work Program Offers Employment Options

Reminders:

- 7. Northeast Ohio Conference, *People First*, June 12-13, 2009
- 8. Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference is Tomorrow
- 9. Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Accepting Award Nominations

Update: Ban on Use of Prone Restraint

Governor Ted Strickland will be reviewing the proposed ban on prone restraint recommended by the ODMRDD and six other state agencies that oversee residential and and/or treatment centers for people with developmental disabilities or who have other issues resulting in health and safety concerns. Prone restraint techniques are illustrated in this pdf: [Click here to download PDF.](#)

The Associated Press reported progress on the proposed ban last week, and noted that Michael Rench, ODMRDD community services deputy director and lead on the task force that recommended the ban, felt that progress on the ban had been the result of a positive, collaborative inter-agency effort.

1. National Core Indicators, Year Two, RFP

The ODMRDD is pleased to announce the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the *Administration of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Consumer Surveys in Ohio – Year 2*. Eligibility is open to all entities/organizations. The RFP is posted on the ODMRDD website at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futuresmore/nci.htm> .

Deadline for proposal submission is June 5, 2009. Implementation of the work will occur July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 (actual start date to be determined).

The National Core Indicators is a collaboration among participating state agency members of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS), and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). *NCI has developed a systematic approach to performance and outcome measurement.* Through the collaboration, participating states pool

their resources and knowledge to create performance monitoring systems, identify common performance indicators, work out comparable data collection strategies, and share results.

The goal of the initiative is to develop nationally-recognized performance and outcome indicators that will enable developmental disabilities policy makers to benchmark the performance of their state against the performance of other states.



National Core Indicators also enables each participating state developmental disabilities agency to track system performance and outcomes from year to year on a consistent basis.

What Are Core Indicators?

Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within a system say they wish to attain, and the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. Employing a variety of survey sources, an ongoing method of assessing performance at the system level will provide useful results for operational improvement efforts.

In addition, the Core Indicators will provide individuals with disabilities and their families useful information relevant to their concerns, with an assurance that the collection of this data will lead to system improvement.

*For more information: www.mrdd.ohio.gov or contact Leslie Minnich, leslie.minnich@dmr.state.oh.us
For additional information on National Core Indicators, go to <http://www.hsri.org/nci/>*



Community Employment

2. Williams County Site for New 'Pizza Now!' Restaurant

A pizza shop owned and operated by Quadco Rehabilitation Center has opened in Stryker, Ohio. The Williams County site will serve hot pizzas ready at a moment's notice, and provides training to the individuals with disabilities served by the Center, preparing for jobs in the community.

Mama DeLuca's® Pizza Now! is a co-brand with Subway® Restaurants, and the Stryker store is attached to the Subway Restaurant Quadco has been operating for the past three years.

Quadco executive director, Bruce Abell, is excited about the new business, and comments, "I think it's going to be great for Quadco, the people we serve, and the community. Building on the success of our Subway, we now can expand our employment and training opportunities."

Quadco staff expect the restaurant will provide specific training that will make participants more marketable as employees needed at pizza shops and restaurants throughout a four-county area.

For example, the dough at Pizza Now! is made fresh every day, so employees will learn that skill, as well as preparing the orders for each customer.



Opening Day, April 24 - Benjamin (left) and Sara Short of Stryker get their lunch from Mama DeLuca's Pizza Now! worker Jordan Koepp (right) while teacher, Megan Lytle, places her order with store manager Sharon von Seggern on the first day of operation of Quadco's new pizza shop in Stryker.

The Quadco/ Pizza Now! restaurant is only the fifteenth such store to open in the nation. According to Bill Priest, Director of Marketing at Quadco,

“Stryker is a small town, and believe me, everyone knew this place was opening! Our opening day was very successful. The smell of pizzas baking – along with the smell of the Subway bread baking – makes for a pretty strong sales team!”

He adds, “Response is good from area families who can choose from the two restaurants right beside each other and then get what they want to eat. And, response from our employees has been great, as they interact with customers and learn new skills.”

Quadco Rehabilitation Center serves Williams, Defiance, Henry, and Fulton County Boards of MRDD, as well as other area agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities.

For more information: Bill Priest, 800-569-3907, ext. 134 or 419-682-1011, ext. 134



3. Disability Employment Survey Now Online

A disability employment survey intended to be completed by individuals with disabilities to help assess employment services and supports for Ohioans with disabilities, is now online at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB2295NVXQR77>. The survey is a product of Governor Strickland's *Disability Process Improvement Workgroup*, and according to Kristina Redgrave, staff member in the Governor's Office,

“ Through this survey we hope to gain a better understanding of any gaps in existing employment supports and services for people with disabilities, and enhance systems to better serve customers.”



Please take the employment survey.

The survey’s 25 questions are stated briefly, and most require selecting a response from multiple choices, or require a very brief fill-in answer. Examples of the questions asked include, “What is the greatest barrier to you in finding employment,” and, “Did anybody give you information on any of these federal, state, or local programs that could help you with your transition to work?” (multiple programs listed, with response choices.)

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to complete the survey, and, family members and agency staff who assist people with disabilities are encouraged to help, if needed.

The more survey input that is received, the more useful resulting efforts can be to improve services. Survey input will be collected until June 1, 2009, and results will be published the following month.

It is important to note that while taking the survey, an individual may decline to answer any question and/or withdraw from participation (stop filling it out and just submit it) at any time.

Thanks and acknowledgments to: Kristina Redgrave, Office of Governor Ted Strickland, 614-728-7342, kristina.redgrave@governor.ohio.gov



Seeking Applicants

4. Transition Weekend – ‘My Life, My Future’

The ODMRDD, along with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) and the Nisonger Center of The Ohio State University are seeking applicants for the 2009 Transition Weekend, ‘My Life, My Future,’ for families, students and their transition team members.

‘My Life, My Future’
June 26-27, 2009
Embassy Suites Columbus- Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, Ohio, 4301
Phone: 1 (614) 790-9000

What is Transition Weekend?

‘My Life, My Future’ is an opportunity for students, their families, and a student’s interdisciplinary transition team to learn about the ‘life after high school’ transition process, attend job training sessions, and brainstorm the next steps in each student’s life. The weekend includes information, guidance, and entertainment. Students and families must attend both days of Transition Weekend. Supporting transition team members are encouraged to attend both days.

Funding for the Transition Weekend is through The ORSC and the ODMRDD Interagency Cooperative Program.

Application Deadline is May 20, 2009.

Application packets are available to download at: <http://Nisonger.osu.edu> and at <http://oaas.org>

*For more information contact: Tom Fish, Ph.D., The Ohio State University, Nisonger Center
Phone: 614-292-7550; Fax: 614-292-3727*



More on Employment

5. 'Ticket to Work' Program Offers Employment Options

Careers Unlimited, a program of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Ohio, has joined the Social Security Administration as an Employment Network, and will offer the 'Ticket to Work' program to increase the employment and financial independence of people with disabilities.

Kevin Krotzer, Director of Programs at UCP, explains that Careers Unlimited is eager to work with Social Security to help people who apply for assistance. "Ticket to Work is about choices," Krotzer said. "UCP has a long history of giving people with disabilities choices for services and job opportunities." Only a handful of Central Ohio agencies currently are registered as Employment Networks.

A part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, the program allows Social Security to provide disability beneficiaries a ticket they may use to obtain the services of Employment Networks. The network and the ticket holder design a plan to assist the beneficiary in reaching his or her goals. Ohio's efforts began in 2003.

The program is designed to provide people with disabilities with more choices and expanded opportunities, and reduce their dependence on Social Security.

For more information about Ticket to Work, contact Careers Unlimited at 614-279-0109. Careers Unlimited is a community provider of the Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, and a member of the Columbus Workforce Alliance.

For more information: Gina Ginn at (614) 279-0109 . Visit UCP at www.ucpofcentralohio.org



Reminder

6. Northeast Ohio Regional Conference, People First, June 12-13

The Arc of Greater Cleveland, Cuyahoga County's chapter of *People First*, will host the Northeast Ohio Regional *People First* Conference June 12 -13, 2009, at the Sheraton Hotel in Independence, Ohio. The conference will feature presentations from self advocates and leaders

on the political scene and in the community, along with time to make and meet new friends. Topics include several subjects of interest that affect adults with developmental disabilities.

Deadline for registration is Friday, May 15.

Registration is \$190/ person, including hotel accommodations, conference materials, and meals.

Contact: Maria Woollard at (216) 622-0755 ext. 13, or, email mwoollard@cmr-cleveland.org or visit www.cmr-cleveland.org.



Reminder

7. Disability Housing Network Conference Begins Tomorrow

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring 2009 Conference is tomorrow, May 14, at the [Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin](#). *On-site registration is possible if you have not pre-registered.* According to Steve Farrell, DHN executive director, in addition to a new 'Best Practices' session, conference topics include:

- How Housing Corporation staff can work with the Ohio Housing and Community Partnerships;
- Maintenance Departments and Housing Corporations; and,
- Ohio's 2009 Disability Housing Report

Contact: Steve Farrell, executive director, Disability Housing Network, 614.586.5855, www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org



Reminder

8. Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Accepts Award Nominations

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is seeking nominations for the 'Advocacy Award.' This award recognizes a person or group who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to people with disabilities, and recipients are honored for a *new initiative* or a *significant improvement to an existing program* that materially improves the quality of life for one or more individuals with disabilities.

The Advocacy Award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, *August 20, 2009*.

Nominations must be postmarked by May 15, 2009.

For nomination forms and criteria, contact the *Governor's Council on People with Disabilities*, 1-800-282-4536, Ext. 1392, or visit the website at: <http://gcpd.ohio.gov/AdvocacyAward.asp>

Contact: Scott A. Hinton, Executive Director, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
614 438-1393, Fax 614-985-8967



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 11

- 1. Family Advisory Council Learns, Shares, Asks Questions
- 2. OACB Earns Non-Profit *Standards of Excellence* Award
- 3. Fairfield MRDD Opens New Pickerington Offices
- 4. *Just A Buck* More Than Just A Store
- 5. Lake County Agencies Collaborate Effectively to Help People Who Have a Dual Diagnosis
- 6. Housing Census Provides First-Ever Overview of Special Needs Housing in Ohio
- 7. Update: Efficiency and Continuous Improvement Initiative

Reminder:

- 8. Disability Employment Survey Online

1. Family Advisory Council Learns, Shares, Asks Questions

A jam-packed room greeted ODMRDD Family Advisory Council (FAC) members, as they gathered on May 19 at the Columbus Developmental Center to learn, share, and ask questions. Director John Martin continued his unblemished record of attending every FAC meeting and opening the floor to questions and comments – this time following a brief ‘view from the top’ discussing the current budget situation.

“Everything is on the table, in terms of the budget currently being reviewed at the Statehouse,” said Director Martin. He added,

“We will do the best we can with the budget we are given, and in light of a growing state budget deficit, we are expecting a lean one.”

In addition to the ‘dollars and cents’ discussion regarding the budget, Director Martin noted that advocacy efforts at the local level, driving decisions about local levy dollars, are an increasingly important element in Ohio’s management of funds for services supporting people with developmental disabilities.

Echoing the importance of local advocacy efforts was Carolyn Knight, acting Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (‘DD Council’), as she shared with the group her support of an organized and structured approach toward making the most of local dollars. “We will be looking at many ways to maximize these local resources, and partnering with the Department to help make the most of local advocacy efforts.”

Fast on the heels of Director Martin's comments was Chris Clayton, self advocate, who wowed the crowd with a short PowerPoint presentation titled, "How you can find happiness just by being yourself." Chris spoke from the heart with a "Champion's Creed," that included:

"Continue to stay positive – things in life in general are hard whether or not you have a disability. I never give up!"



Top: "How you can find happiness just by being yourself!" Self advocate Chris Clayton (left), and Tim Gregory, community integration coordinator and friend at UCP of Ohio, team up to share a short life story presentation that's long on wisdom.

Above, left: Who's everyone listening to? ... Mike Overman, Mercer County Board of MRDD Superintendent (right, gesturing.) He must know something! – their recent levy passed with an 84% 'Yes' Vote. Turns out they regularly survey the participants in their programs asking what they like and don't like, and what they need and don't need – and then they try to deliver it. Sounds as if it works.

Chris also credited his family for helping him make it through some trying times, stating, "I've always found inspiration in the love of my mother -- my family and my friends. They have always believed in me."

As a self advocate who has mentored many others, Chris often is seen at Family Advisory Council meetings and elsewhere, helping people make the most of learning opportunities, and

offering simply-stated support -- provided with a great sense of humor. He offered this advice as something for everyone to think about, regardless of whether or not one has a disability:

“Think of what you have right now as a blessing.”

FAC members also were interested in the presentation by ODMRDD’s Tracy Cloud-Thomas, Assistant Deputy Director for Medicaid Development, who spotlighted new waiver services, the Cost Projection Tool currently under development, and progress on an on-line Individual Service Plan (ISP).

Summing up this FAC meeting, one needed only to listen to the chatter following the breaks -- including a comment from one parent who had never attended before – “I wish I had known about this group a long time ago!”

*For more information about the FAC: Peggy Martin, ODMRDD Family Advocate, 614-466-8706, peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us and, at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/families/familyadvocate.htm>
An email listserv for family members is also available at join-family.advisory@odmrdd.state.oh.us.*



2. OACB Earns Non-Profit Standards of Excellence Award

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (*hereinafter* ‘OACB’) was one of only two non-profit organizations from across the state to be honored at the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations’ (OANO) *Excellence Award* Luncheon on May 12, 2009, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium.



“We Earned It!” – The OACB is among only about two dozen non-profit organizations that have earned the stringent “Standards of Excellence” designation from the . Pictured are Stan Thomas, Frank Hickman, Dan Ohler, and Dave Dohnal. Frank Hickman was an original OACB board member, and Stan Thomas and Dave Dohnal were vice president and president, respectively, when the certification process began. Dan Ohler is the OACB Executive Director. *(photo courtesy, OACB)*

The other Ohio organization to receive the award was the Victoria Theatre Association, of Dayton. In addition, Koinonia Homes Inc. of Cuyahoga County received a “Standards of Excellence” recertification. Every five years, non-profit organizations must re-apply in order to maintain their “Standards of Excellence” designation.

Dan Ohler, OACB executive director, stated,

“ Our Board of Trustees and I were in total agreement that, as an organization, the priority was to provide quality customer service by doing things the 'right way.' The Standards of Excellence program is targeted specifically to non-profit organizations and focuses on every aspect of the operation - finance, policy, program, strategic plan. It was a rigorous process, but one that has made our team stronger and defined our focus even more clearly. It was truly an honor to accept the award on behalf of our Board, staff, and our members.”

The process of becoming certified included several meetings to organize information, and assure that effective policies were in place and procedures were being followed throughout the organization. Once documentation was completed, the OANO organized a peer review committee specifically to evaluate the OACB. According to Ohler, the entire process took more than two years to complete.

Attaining the Standards of Excellence designation enables an organization to display the OANO ‘Seal of Excellence’ on all materials. Each organization also agrees voluntarily to participate in an anonymous peer review process to confirm adherence to a comprehensive code of conduct that promotes accountability through self-regulation.

Jennifer Williams, OANO’s Executive Director, notes,

“The Standards of Excellence certification reflects a conscientious and lengthy review of a nonprofit organization’s program operations, governance, human resources, and financial management practices. We are proud to honor the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD.”

The OANO Standards of Excellence program was created in 1995 with grants from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to advance the efficacy of nonprofit organizations. The OANO provides leadership, education, and advocacy to enhance the ability of Ohio’s nonprofit organizations to serve their communities. Statewide membership numbers nearly 550.

*For more information: Linda Oda, Director of Communication, 513-218-4851, loda@oacbmRDD.org
Ohio Assoc. of County Boards of MRDD, 73 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, Ohio 43085.
Visit their website at www.ocbmRDD.org*



3. Fairfield MRDD Opens New Pickerington Offices

“The only certain means of success is to render more and better service than is expected of you, no matter what your task may be.”
-Og Mandino, motivational visionary

On May 11, 2009, the Fairfield County Board of MRDD celebrated the opening of an office on Refugee Road in Pickerington, an additional location to its 'home-base' in Lancaster. On that same date and at the same new location, Person Centered Services, an independent provider, opened their Northwest Center. The Pickerington office will bring several Fairfield MRDD staff members closer to the individuals and families that they serve.

A team leader and four Individual Service Coordinators will staff the new Fairfield MRDD Pickerington office, and there will be space allocated for Early Intervention Specialists, as well. The Northwest Center will serve as an alternative day habilitation and vocational center for up to 40 adults who live in the northwest area of the county. Person Centered Services operates a similar facility in Defiance, Ohio, and now has partnered similarly with Fairfield MRDD.

Fairfield MRDD Superintendent John Pekar, notes,

"We've identified nearly 80 adults in the area who would have this facility as a convenient option. Some will choose to remain at either Fairfield Industries (Lancaster) or other day programs, but this is a great opportunity for us to offer another choice. "

The facility will offer a number of day activities and field trips, and will help with vocational training and other employment opportunities at businesses throughout the Pickerington and northwest Fairfield County area.



It's Official!

Ken Albert (center, left), President, Person Centered Services, and John Pekar (center), Superintendent, Fairfield MRDD, snip the ribbon to open the Northwest Center and Pickerington Office of Fairfield MRDD.

*For more information: Fairfield Community Outreach Coordinator John Bosser, 740-687-7244.
Acknowledgments to the Columbus Times for additional information contained in this article.*



Community Employment

4. Just A Buck More Than Just A Store

Parma shoppers have flocked to the new *Just a Buck* store in the busy shopping center at Snow and Broadview Streets in Cuyahoga County since it opened in late April, and their sacks full of fabulous bargains also are helping to employ people with disabilities in their community, fifteen of whom currently work there.



Mystery Shopper? OK, so he's no mystery to these folks – Cuyahoga County MRDD Superintendent Terry Ryan purchases two bags of bargains at the Just A Buck store's Grand Opening on May 11. He says, "I just spent \$25, and I saw about 25 more things I'll get next time!"

For the details on this first-in-Ohio franchised retail operation through Solutions at Work ('SAW') -- Cuyahoga County MRDD's non-profit employment entity – look for the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in June. For now, we'll share one more photo of the May 11th Grand Opening event, attended by more than 100 people, including several local leaders:



Member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Timothy DeGeeter, also is a neighborhood shopper. At the Grand Opening, Representative DeGeeter announced, "I live just a few blocks from here, and I can tell you I'll be over here shopping, that's for sure!"

*For more information: Lula Holt Robertson at ROBERTSON@ccbmrdd.org
and, be sure to read the next issue of*

PipelineQuarterly

(Spring, publishing in June 2009)



5. Lake County Agencies Collaborate Effectively to Help People Who Have a Dual Diagnosis

The Lake County Board of MRDD and the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMH) agencies have teamed up to help individuals who have a combined diagnosis indicating both mental retardation and mental health issues.

According to Lake County MRDD Superintendent, Elfie Roman, it has been estimated that roughly one-third of all individuals who have mental retardation also struggle with mental health issues. She explains that in most communities, people with the combined diagnosis are able to access services 'a la carte' -- through agencies positioned to help with their specific issues. But there is a percentage of people who struggle with a mix of conditions and symptoms, and face frustration in getting the help they need.

Lake County MRDD staffer, Debbie Britton, also has been heavily involved in the formation of what has become the Lake County Joint Clinical MR-MH Committee, and notes that they did a lot of 'homework' up front to begin to understand how the two systems can work together most effectively to serve the needs of people in their community who have a dual diagnosis. She explains,

"Just that term right there is an issue, because a 'dual diagnosis' in the MH world can mean a person with an MH diagnosis who also is addicted to drugs – while in the MR world it means the person has both MR and MH issues. So, coming to the table together to build an effective team, and understand each other's terminology and systems, was the first priority – before we even began to identify people in the community most in need of help."

Also acknowledging the need to participate in the team-building work up front was Dr. Stephan Schwartz of Ohio's Coordinating Center of Excellence in Dual Diagnosis (CCOE – visit site at www.ohiomidd.com). Dr. Schwartz had invited representatives to the table from both systems, to explore collaboration. He explains,

"From the very first time that I contacted Lake County, I felt that this approach was going to work for them. What's unique here is that there was a strong commitment from the beginning – from both agencies – to work together. It took about a year to lay that necessary groundwork, and then move on to a point now, in the second year, where they are reviewing cases together. I'm very pleased with how this has worked out in Lake County. "

The CCOE is operated by Wright State University Department of Psychiatry in Dayton, the Nisonger Center in Columbus, and Ascentia, in coordination with the Case Western Reserve Department of Psychiatry in Cleveland.* Its goal is to identify best practices, train professionals in mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities and related service systems, and provide systemic and clinical consultation across Ohio.

Superintendent Roman explains further how the collaborative efforts in Lake County developed from the outset, noting,

"I think what helped was that we were able to get the right people from both systems involved from the beginning, so there was good continuity as we transitioned from learning ... to brainstorming ... to planning ... to executing."



Lake County ADAMH Services board executive director Kim Fraser adds, “ There was a huge, but very valuable learning curve relative to things like crisis intervention; eligibility issues; the intake processes; decision-making; funding; and, service delivery.”

No small challenges in any community, it took time to get away from the ‘your people vs. our people’ way of thinking, according to both Elfie Roman and Kim Fraser.

Now in its second year, the Lake County Joint Clinical MR-MH Committee is identifying and reviewing cases, and has served the needs of four individuals, all of whom experience a fairly complex combination of symptoms, history, and circumstances. As Debbie Britton explains it,

“Our goal all along has been to provide practical support. And as the committee has worked together to analyze cases, this collaboration has seeped into other areas, and we’re all working together better. It’s really exciting, and we have been much more creative in finding ways to help Lake County citizens with a dual diagnosis.”

According to Superintendent Roman, Lake County’s formalized Joint Clinical MR-MH Committee is one of just a few such long-term organized efforts across the state, and others are beginning the initial stages of formation.

* The CCOE is funded and endorsed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

*For more information: Elfie Roman, elfie.roman@lakemrdd.org
Acknowledgments to the News-Herald/ News-Herald.com, article appearing May 12, 2009,
‘Two Lake County Agencies Working Together’.*



6. Housing Census Provides First-Ever Overview of Special Needs Housing in Ohio

The 2009 Housing Report, a review of the special needs housing network in Ohio that includes a first-ever census of the housing corporations in Ohio, was presented at the Disability Housing Network's (DHN) 2009 Spring Conference this month. The Report was conducted by DHN, and finds that there are 3913 Ohio residents in 1317 homes owned and operated by local housing corporations.

The data produced many insights into the special needs housing field, which will be useful to the ODMRDD and others in making policy decisions that affect housing corporations, as well as to Ohio's overall housing network.

Steve McPeake, President/ CEO of North Coast Community Homes in Cleveland, and DHN's Board President, noted,

“The census had a 75% response rate, with 58 of the 77 housing corporations in Ohio responding. This is a strong step toward helping the Ohio Department of MRDD accomplish one of their 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, that policy decisions be data driven.”

Highlights of the census include:

- 44% of all housing corporations own fewer than 10 homes;
- An additional 33% of all housing corporations own fewer than 21 homes; and,
- Conversely, nearly 70% of the homes are owned by just 22% of the housing corporations.

Reflecting on these facts, Patrick Rafter, President/ CEO of Creative Housing in Columbus, stated, “The large number of organizations with fewer than 21 homes suggests the need to look at consolidation with other housing agencies, both within and outside of the developmental disabilities system, to reduce overhead.”

Other data collected also showed:

- Ten housing corporations in the state own and maintain homes in multiple counties;
- Ten counties have multiple housing corporations functioning within their borders; and,
- Four housing corporations are also the housing authority for their metropolitan areas.

Attendees at DHN's 2009 Spring Conference expressed interest in using the new information to support more varied opportunities within the housing network itself. Explained one conference participant, Greg Bair, CEO of Wood Lane Residential in Wood County, “I am hopeful this will be the catalyst for further in-depth sharing and collaborating.”

*For more information about the 2009 DHN Housing Report, go to www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org
Contact Steve Farrell, Executive Director, Disability Housing Network, 614.586.5855*



7. Update: Efficiency and Continuous Improvement Initiative

Since its inception in early 2008, Governor Strickland's Efficiency and Continuous Improvement Initiative has yielded hundreds of suggestions for participating agencies, statewide. Visitors to the website at www.ohio.gov/efficiency easily can review the status of suggestions ... submit one <http://efficiency.ohio.gov/Default.aspx> ... or simply learn more about the initiative:

Governor Strickland's Efficiency and Continuous Improvement Initiative is a comprehensive effort to ensure that state government is working as efficiently and as cost-effectively as possible.

This feedback program is designed to identify operational efficiencies that may otherwise go uncaptured, and to improve state government's responsiveness, as well as eliminate redundant or unnecessary services, improve customer service, and streamline processes at both the agency and enterprise-wide levels.



photo courtesy: Paul Jarvis, DD Council

The ODMRDD has received nearly 40 suggestions to-date, and the agency's Efficiency Team has met each quarter either in-person or via teleconference/webinar, to evaluate and track progress on each of them, as well as to review any new suggestions for consideration and action.

Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director, Medicaid Development and Administration, and lead person for the ODMRDD Efficiency Team, explains,

"Our Efficiency Team has made some solid progress in the past few months on specific suggestions dealing with reduction in paper usage and recycling efforts, as well as consolidation of processes within work areas. Examples include development and usage of various electronic fill-in forms* replacing former single-sheet paper or 3-part forms, and purchasing of supplies as grouped orders."

*** Example: Leave Requests at <http://das.ohio.gov/hrd/pdf/LeaveRequest.pdf>**

Patrick adds, "With the team we have assembled (see list below) the participation has been great, and I really feel that we have a good mix of staff from throughout the organization who can evaluate ideas and suggestions from various perspectives."

In addition, many suggestions are being worked on as parts of the ODMRDD Futures recommendations <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futures/documents/FuturesProgressReport.pdf>, and

others are being considered as part of larger efforts or initiatives that, ultimately, will save money and/or time.

ODMRDD representatives (and the areas they represent) on the Efficiency Team are:

- Gregory Meyer, Operations Director, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center
- Monty Blanton, Electrician (OCSEA), Gallipolis Developmental Center
- Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director MDA, Central Office
- Stacy Sower, Qual. Mental Retardation Professional, Youngstown Developmental Center
- Sherry Steinman, Public Information Officer, Central Office
- William Ferkan, Police Officer (FOP), Warrensville Developmental Center
- Lottie Blazer, (SEIU/1199), Central Office
- Jenny Jones, Project Manager, Fiscal/Central Office

Angel Morgan, MDA/Central Office serves as ODMRDD administrative support to the group.

Suggestions submitted should demonstrate added value through efficiency and/or continuous improvement (saving money or time, improving processes, eliminating duplication, improving customer service, etc.) and are reviewed initially to determine whether they are operational or structural in nature. Structural suggestions are outside the scope of this program, and are defined as those suggestions that would require changes to any of the following: a table of organization, laws, a union contract or departmental governing policy.

The goal of the program is to gather constructive ideas offering reasonable and creative solutions from state employees.

More information at www.efficiency.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, or call (614)644-0262.



Reminder

8. Disability Employment Survey Online

A disability employment survey to assess employment services and supports for Ohioans with disabilities, is online *through June 1, 2009*, at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB2295NVXQR77>. The survey is to be completed by individuals with developmental disabilities, and is a product of Governor Strickland's *Disability Process Improvement Workgroup*. When taking the survey, an individual may decline to answer any question and/or withdraw from participation (stop filling it out and submit it) at any time.

Contact: Kristina Redgrave, Office of Governor Ted Strickland, 614-728-7342, kristina.redgrave@governor.ohio.gov



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline* ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 12

- 1. ODMRDD Director Martin Addresses Current Budget Environment
- 2. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Teleconference Pilot Program, Proposed Rule
- 3. Cost Projection Tool Will Simplify Medicaid Reporting
- 4. Hamilton County Board of MRDD Named Outstanding Employer by National Guard & Reserves
- 5. Ken Ritchey Named President of NASDDDS Board of Directors
- 6. WASCO's Heart to Art Galleria Opens in Marietta

ALSO: Please See 'Editor's Note' at the end of this issue of Pipeline.

News Update: Status of Senate Bill 79

SB 79 - MRDD Name Change

Sponsor: Senator Jimmy Stewart,

Senate State and Local Government Committee

The House of representatives has passed SB 79 with a vote of 98 - 0.

It now returns to the Senate for final action.

SB 79 would change the name of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) and the County Boards of MRDD, to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the “__” County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

1. Director Martin Addresses Current Budget Environment



We are sharpening our pencils to make the most of scarce financial resources.

Ohio's current budget environment is the most difficult in recent memory. It also has been characterized as the most challenging in decades, due to anticipated state revenue reductions reflecting 2005 tax reforms and unanticipated results from a sharp and long-term national economic downturn. In a recent statement, Governor Ted Strickland noted, "Because of the worsening economy, more tough budget choices are ahead." As Director of the ODMRDD I

would like to share with you a few things that our organization is doing to meet some of these challenges, as we await further definition of the 2010-2011 biennial budget.

In light of the state's financial difficulties, ODMRDD employees represented by the state's largest labor union, OCSEA, have agreed to observe ten unpaid cost savings days per year for the next two fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2009. It is anticipated that unpaid cost savings days will be extended to exempt Department employees, as well, through language in Sub. H. B. 1, the state's budget bill, and to employees represented by other unions that are currently in negotiations. The ten unpaid days represent, for each affected employee, a decrease of about 3.85% in earnings, in each of the next two years.

In addition to cost savings days, general overall wage increases and 'step' advancements are frozen during the same two-year period. A decrease in earnings -- along with the loss of workdays on the job -- is an unsettling outcome for everyone affected, and I know that it is being repeated many times over at Ohio's 88 County Boards and at many other public agencies and private businesses throughout the state. For example, Ohio's home and community based waiver service providers have had their reimbursement rates frozen since 2005.

While we remain positive about the resilience of the ODMRDD and of the MRDD community in general, we know that these difficult times affect us all. For example, if you call our Central Office and need to speak to someone about a particular issue, there will be fewer people available to help you on a given workday. I am confident that our staff will continue to do their best in meeting your needs; however, the level of staffing may not represent the same level of experience or expertise every day that we otherwise would hope to provide.

In addition, we continue to review and evaluate our available resources in order to assure the most appropriate, effective, and functional usage – including everything from tangible resources such as computers, to intangible resources such as the collective energy of our staff.

These steps will help preserve as many resources as possible for individuals and families, and the communities that serve them.

Currently, the House and the Senate are making final preparations for the Conference Committee, which will work to present a final version of the next biennium's budget for the Governor's consideration. While the specifics of the outcome are uncertain at the time, we know the final budget will impact our system. We will all work together to do the best we can with what we have.

We also greatly appreciate the continued support from and collaboration with our many partners in service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, all of whom are similarly challenged by the current economic environment. Thank you. – *Respectfully, John Martin*



2. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Teleconference Pilot Program, Proposed Rule

ODMRDD recently filed a new administrative rule to establish the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Teleconference Pilot Program. The rule is proposed (is not yet ‘in effect’) in accordance with House Bill 129 of Ohio’s 127th General Assembly, which authorizes a two-year pilot program for members of the Developmental Disabilities Council (‘DD Council’), as well as several other councils and boards, to be present at meetings by way of teleconferencing. The rule establishes requirements for conducting meetings via teleconference, and a policy regarding distribution and circulation of meeting-related documents.

The purpose of the pilot program is to determine if teleconferencing increases member participation, and whether or not teleconferencing is practical and cost-effective. Council members who need a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or who reside more than 45 miles from the designated meeting location (i.e., Columbus), would be eligible to participate via teleconference.

It is anticipated that the cost of establishing teleconferencing capability for a meeting will be less than the cost of reimbursing members for mileage, meals, and lodging, and will result in an overall savings. The DD Council will be required to submit a report to the General Assembly by October 2010 that describes the costs and savings associated with teleconferencing.

Carolyn Knight, Acting Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, anticipates that the proposed rule will be very helpful. She states,

“ I am delighted to see that the General Assembly is recognizing the need for this kind of opportunity for people with disabilities. To be able to participate in meetings via teleconference is an option that can help empower individuals and improve overall membership participation. ”

A copy of the proposed rule (5123:1-8-01) is available at the ODMRDD *Rules Under Development* website (<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm>). A copy of House Bill 129 is available at (<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm>).



3. Cost Projection Tool Will Simplify Medicaid Reporting

The Division of Medicaid Development and Administration provides this update on a major project, welcomes feedback on the subject anytime. Please direct comments or questions to Tracy Cloud-Thomas at Tracy.Cloud-Thomas@dmr.state.oh.us

ODMRDD currently is developing a Cost Projection Tool (CPT) to project costs for all Medicaid waiver services. It will be a single, common system to be used by all County Boards of MRDD and other providers, and will replace other cost projection tools currently in use, such as the 20/20.

Integration with other MRDD Applications

As part of the Department's efforts to increase efficiency in service delivery, the CPT is being built to integrate information across systems to improve accuracy and reduce the need to keep information updated in multiple places. The CPT will use data stored in other systems to project costs.

For example, according to Tracy Cloud-Thomas, Assistant Deputy Director with ODMRDD's Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, the CPT will obtain some individual demographic information from the upcoming (later in 2009) Individual Data System (IDS) and use the waiver span dates that are stored in the Waiver Management System (WMS).

In addition, the CPT will obtain the correct 'AAI group' from the Acuity Assessment Instrument (AAI) and the 'ODDP range' from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP), already in place. Lastly, it will integrate with the Provider Certification System to obtain a current listing of active providers. *(Sorry about all the acronyms, but it was almost impossible not to use them in this case!)*

One of the most significant changes coming with the Cost Projection Tool is the transfer of cost projection data to Daily Rate Application (DRA). Once in place, it no longer will be necessary for County Boards to enter information into the DRA, since the required information will already be available in the CPT. Providers will continue to enter their 'actuals' into the DRA as they do today.

Development Timeline

Throughout the development of the CPT, the Department is offering monthly project reviews to show the current status of parts of the system and get feedback on how the system is developing. ODMRDD expects to start user-testing this summer, with a full-fledged pilot beginning in the fall. We are planning a graduated roll-out of the CPT to county boards beginning in early 2010.

Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholder feedback throughout the CPT development process is critical to its success. At the monthly project reviews the development team hears input from providers, county board staff, ODMRDD staff and others, which has impacted how the CPT is being designed. We encourage stakeholders to attend our monthly project meetings, which review the functionality developed during the preceding month. In addition to the monthly reviews, the Department has worked to get stakeholder input on specific issues.

Tracy Cloud-Thomas reports that ODMRDD staff are grateful for the support they have received to-date from system partners. She states,

"We were very pleased with the attendance and participation at the County Board CPT review held on May 18th. Thank you to all who traveled to Columbus to review the development and provide feedback."



4. Hamilton County MRDD Named Outstanding Employer by National Guard and Reserves

The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (HCBMRDD) was recognized this month at a ceremony in Columbus for exemplary support of employees on military duty with the National Guard and Reserves. Adam Hardin, a Behavior Support Specialist before deployment, nominated the agency. He spent 14 months in Kuwait in 2006 and 2007 with his Navy Reserve Unit while employed by HCBMRDD.

The Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve annually recognizes civilian employers, statewide, for exemplary cooperation and understanding pertaining to employees called to military duty in the National Guard and Reserves. HCBMRDD received the 'Above and Beyond' award for employers who go beyond legal requirements.

Adam stated,

"I was overwhelmed by the support that came from so many departments and co-workers when I was deployed."

He added that he received regular emails, letters, and packages while in Kuwait, from students and staff at two schools operated by the agency -- Margaret B. Rost School and Bobbie B. Fairfax School, as well as from the agency's Robert Franks Adult Services Center.

The Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was established in 1972 to assist in resolution of conflicts between civilian employers and military personnel in the National Guard and Reserves. Each state has a committee, as well as District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Europe. The Committee's 'Above and Beyond' award is a top honor, and, according to HCBMRDD Superintendent Cheryl Phipps, "We were totally surprised and delighted to have been both nominated and selected."



Left: Adam Hardin at HCBMRDD.

Right: HCBMRDD's Adult Services Director, Peggy Kurz, with military personnel who are part of the Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserves.



5. Ritchey Named President of NASDDDS Board of Directors

Kenneth W. Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities, and former Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), has been named President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). He has served the Board in various capacities for more than five years.

Underscoring this achievement, ODMRDD Director John Martin commented,

"Ken's devoted service to the field and experience in multiple states provides him with a unique perspective for this new role. I am sure he will approach this opportunity with the same welcome enthusiasm and energy he has always demonstrated."



Ken Ritchey

Ken joined New Jersey's Department of Human Services in March 2007, following eight years at the helm of the ODMRDD. In making the announcement, NASDDDS noted, "Ken continues to work to expand the available options in services that meet the needs of consumers and families, while expanding our ability to utilize federal funding opportunities."

The ODMRDD invites Ohio's developmental disabilities system partners to join in congratulating Ken Ritchey on this newest achievement.

Acknowledgments to NASDDDS' State News Briefs (formerly Beyond the Beltway), a bi-weekly electronic bulletin series which covers state policy and program initiatives of special interest to member state agencies.



6. WASCO's Heart to Art Galleria Opens in Marietta

The Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities' non-profit organization, WASCO Inc., announces a new venture -- the 'Heart to Art Galleria' -- has opened on Front Street in Marietta. The non-profit organization provides vocational opportunities and habilitation for

people who have developmental disabilities, and the new galleria showcases products made by adults with various developmental challenges from across the state -- as well as specialty glass jewelry crafted by local Washington County residents.

"We were very happy to find an open store-front right here in the heart of the shopping district," said Jan Powell, Director of Adult Services for WASCO.

Paintings, roasted coffee, decorative pillows, patio furniture – a seemingly endless variety of items -- come from County Board programs and other art-producing entities around Ohio, including those in Athens, Delaware, Licking, Scioto, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties. WASCO's Jan Powell explains,

"We want people to support the talents of people with disabilities throughout the state, and sometimes they don't have a storefront."



ODMRDD Director John Martin, attended the Grand Opening event last month, and stated,

"We really appreciate the efforts of all of you down here, and what you're doing to enhance the lives of people with disabilities."

In addition to this new endeavor, WASCO operates the Marietta Harbor and Courthouse Café, and will manage Armory Square, a new project at the former National Guard Armory on Front Street, currently in development. (*Look for more on this in a future issue of Pipeline.*)

Congratulations to all involved in the opening of WASCO's Heart to Art Galleria – whose art and artists are featured on ODMRDD's website homepage at www.mrdd.ohio.gov this month.

Acknowledgements to the 'Heart to Art' article in the Marietta Times, May 23, 2009, by Evan Bevins.



Editor's Note

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

County Boards and others in the MRDD community may reproduce the above statement in their materials, if desired.

Coming Soon ... The Spring 2009 Issue of
Pipeline Quarterly

... with stories and photos from across the state, including,
Building Accessible Homes in Union County



'See you in Pipeline Quarterly!'



Toll-Free Hotline

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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us , or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline* ('opt off') write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 13

- 1. Tracking Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill’
- 2. Ohio’s Biennial Budget, A Work In-Progress
- 3. Medicaid Information Streamlined on ODMRDD Website
- 4. Institute Releases Guide to SSA Benefits for Young People Entering the Workforce
- 5. Video Conference – County Board Collaboration with Police and Courts
- 6. Ohio Department of Education Summer Food Service Information

ALSO: Please See ‘Editor’s Note’ at the end of this issue of Pipeline.

1. Tracking Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill’

Sponsor: Senator Jimmy Stewart, Senate State and Local Government Committee

SB79 was approved by the Ohio Senate conference committee on June 17, thereby approving the amendments that were added by the Ohio House of Representatives. Following the Senate vote, the bill now moves to Governor Strickland for signature.

Because of the leadership of self advocates from the Southeast Ohio/Athens area, along with their respective state legislators, the Ohio General Assembly was moved to act on this issue. Early advocates’ efforts motivated other advocates across the state, and bi-partisan support for this legislation gained steam quickly.

The Bill’s History

SB 79 was introduced by Senator Jimmy Stewart, and was the first bill introduced into the 128th General Assembly that would remove the words ‘mental retardation’ from the Ohio Department of MRDD, County Boards of MRDD and other related state agencies. That bill was followed by the filing of House Bill (HB) 118, identical in intent, yet a stand-alone piece of legislation, introduced by Representatives Debbie Phillips and Deborah Newcomb. Ultimately, state lawmakers decided to proceed with the bill that had traveled the furthest through the legislative process on its way to becoming a law.

The progress of S.B. 79 and H.B. 118 proves that self advocates can, indeed, impact state government, and that legislators have listened to their call to action.



2. Ohio's Biennial Budget – A Work In-Progress

The ongoing budget discussion has resulted in the release of a 'framework budget proposal' for the Legislative Conference Committee to consider in addressing the budget shortfall. This proposal is an unusual and positive approach taken by Governor Strickland, and was developed while collaborative conversations with the Ohio General Assembly leadership continue. In essence, the framework is a proposal designed to help move the budget discussions forward toward a balanced budget. It is important to remember that as a new development in the ongoing budget conversations, Governor Strickland's budget framework and the final budget will likely have differences.

The bottom line is that Conference Committee members must consider all factors as they work to present the Governor with a balanced budget.

Specifically for the ODMRDD, the proposal currently includes a continuation of the proposed census reduction of approximately 200 residents throughout our Developmental Center system, but would not necessitate the closing of any ODMRDD-operated Developmental Centers. Also, reductions in various County Board subsidy line items would be consolidated, which would allow counties more flexibility as to how they manage the reduction in their communities.

In addition, the proposal would require additional cuts to ODMRDD Central Office administration, and we are looking at a variety of ways to manage this. It is our intent to be as prepared as possible to manage whatever scenario the legislature adopts and the Governor signs, in order to balance the budget in these difficult economic times. It is also our intent to continue to provide as many opportunities as possible for individuals and families to access and maintain needed services. Balancing all of this will be the focus of the next few weeks.



We are sharpening our pencils to make the most of scarce financial resources.



www.mrdd.ohio.gov

3. Medicaid Information Streamlined on ODMRDD Website

The Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) has made several user-friendly changes to the Medicaid section of the website at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/>. According to MDA Deputy Director Patrick Stephan, the intent is to ensure that all information available on the site is current and dynamic. He states,

“It is important to us that the resources available are useful. We listened to the questions and comments from the field and have tried to incorporate more of what was lacking.”

Some of the new areas to look for include:

- A new *Hearings* section;
- An *Adult Day Array & Non-Medical Transportation* section;
- An area with *Additional Resources*, which maintains an archive of memos and communications that have been distributed by MDA, as well as contact information;
- An overhaul to the *Waiting List* page; and,
- The *MDA Quarterly Report* (<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/resources.htm>) is now available online.

Staff in the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration welcome feedback and are hopeful that the new content will be an asset to the field.

Please send any comments to feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us



4. Institute Releases Guide to SSA Benefits for Young People Entering the Workforce

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) has released a booklet titled *Going to Work: A Guide to Social Security Benefits and Employment for Young People with Disabilities*. The purpose of the booklet is to provide young people with developmental disabilities -- along with their families and professionals who work with them -- some practical information about work incentives. The booklet includes chapters on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), with information about how the two programs are impacted by earned income, as well as information about the Ticket to Work program, and other guidance for young people managing Social Security benefits.



The booklet is available at http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=211.

Acknowledgements to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) newsletter, Federal News Briefs, June 19, 2009.



Video Conference Offered

5. Collaboration Between County Boards, Police, and Courts

A video conference on the subject of *County Board Collaboration with Police and Courts* will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon on July 8, 2009, and pre-registration is available at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/training/>. The video conference sites are at local Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) locations throughout the state and are listed online.

Participants will gain information about how they can assist the courts in helping people with developmental disabilities through the court process. The agenda includes a presentation by Mike Kontura, a Forensic Liaison from Cuyahoga County, who will address ways to be a helpful resource to the court, as well as how to educate courts regarding individuals served in the developmental disabilities system. In addition, Monique Shaffer, representing the Columbus Police Department, will speak on the subject of how to effectively work with law enforcement, and how to establish and maintain good relationships with the law enforcement community.

Vicki Jenkins, Associate General Counsel for the ODMRDD, will be on hand to discuss what happens when an individual who has mental retardation may not be competent to stand trial, and how to work with forensic monitors. In addition, Gregory Meyers, Chief Trial Counsel with the Ohio Public Defender Commission, will discuss how to work with criminal defense attorneys.

Early pre-registration is suggested, and seating at the DJFS sites is limited. Complete instructions are at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/training/>.



6. ODE Summer Food Service Program Available

The Ohio Department of Education provides the following information on a Summer Food Service Program and an easy way to get local information on its availability.

All Ohio children ages 1 through 18 are eligible to receive free meals during the summer months through a *Summer Food Service Program* at participating program sites. In addition, individuals ages 19 through 21 who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs also are eligible for free summer meals.



Ohio residents can use a map at <https://oh.cnpcares.com/summer/SfspFoodServByCnty.asp> to find participating Summer Food Service Programs in their area.

Just click on the appropriate county, or enter a zip code, and a list of names, addresses, and contact information for current Summer Food Service Programs in the selected area will be generated.

Thanks to Katrina Bush, in ODMRDD's office of System Innovation and Technical Assistance, for sharing this information.



Editor's Note

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

County Boards and others in the MRDD community may reproduce the above statement in their materials, if desired.



Toll-Free Hotline



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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the

subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 14

- 1. Governor Strickland Signs Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill’
- 2. Talk About A Freedom Celebration!
- 3. Update on Ohio’s Biennial Budget
- 4. Governor Strickland Appoints Michael Rench to Head Ohio Rehabilitative Services Commission
- 5. Employment for Ohioans with Disabilities via American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds
- 6. Goodwill’s Onsite Residence Brings Physicians In-House
- 7. Developmental Disabilities Guide Available

1. Governor Strickland Signs SB 79, ‘The Name Change Bill’

Yesterday, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79, a bill sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart, that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities, as well as the names of local Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) boards to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The bill also removes the term “mental retardation” from the titles of other state and county entities, councils, commissions, and various funds that use the term.

Governor Strickland stated,

“I applaud the legislature for working quickly to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation,” Strickland said. “This change aligns Ohio with most other states in the way we identify and discuss citizens with developmental disabilities and special needs.”

About The Bill

SB 79 MRDD (Stewart) To change the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the name of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and to make similar name changes for the Joint Council on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Developmental Center Closure Commission and certain state and county funds.

[Full Text](#)

ODMRDD* Director John Martin, notes,

“The passage of this bill is a testament to the many self advocates throughout the state who have spoken out and lead the efforts during the past year to effect this change. I salute their work. We

will move forward with the name change process over the next several months, as will our County Board partners in the developmental disabilities community.”

*Because the name change is effective 90 days after the signing of the bill, (October 7, 2009) the ODMRDD will begin to phase-in the name change during the course of that time, and will refer to itself as legally named until that time.



Self Determination – the very spirit of freedom

2. Talk About A Freedom Celebration!

Hopewell Industries, the adult services affiliate of the Coshocton County Board of MRDD prepared well for their first ever ‘Freedom Celebration’ on July 1, but they could not have been completely prepared for the major positive impact people like John Gillespie made on those attending. It was, indeed, a special event.

While rock 'n roll played in the background and people joined in games and pie-eating contests, John Gillespie, president of *People First* of Knox County, gave an emotional speech in his red, white and blue stove-pipe hat. Calling himself ‘*Mr. Bill O’Rights*’, John talked about a recent visit to the Ohio Statehouse when he addressed legislators about taking the "R" out of the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities name. He said,

"I said to them ... 20 years ago, a man with autism wouldn't have been able to stand before you and speak to you about a word that makes my heart burn."



People First of Ohio president, John Gillespie, a.k.a. ‘Mr. Bill O’Rights’ without his red, white, and blue stove-pipe hat. John says he ‘earned his independence’ about three years ago, and now lives successfully on his own. Both he and People First’s Sadie Hunter presented information at the Freedom Celebration on the rights of people with developmental disabilities. Information on this subject also can be found at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/rights/>

John reminded the more than 100 people who attended the event hosted by the Hopewell Industries Employee Council that they need to stand up for themselves and let others know who

they are. He stated, "I want to quote Martin Luther King, who said 'Our lives begin to end the day we are silent about what matters.'"

Several area residents took the stage to speak at the Freedom Celebration, including Jessie Gilchrist, who until a few months ago was living in a nursing home, and Susan Warne, who recently moved out of a group residence and is delighted to have more independence. She shares this view on freedom:

"I can now walk to work and home on my own, and walk to other places, too. I am very happy."

Then there's Ron Rice, who has been living independently for about 11 or 12 years, but just recently marked another milestone. He participates in the Residential Homes for the Developmentally Disabled (RHDD) 'Alternatives' arts program and has sold some of his art, thus earning the money to spend on things he wants or needs. He shares,

"Thanks to RHDD the biggest thing for me is I'm going to a baseball game with a ticket that I paid for by myself."



"Freedom knows no colors or disabilities."

Todd Gatewood spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

"We're fighting for the same things as Dr. King, – freedom – what this country was founded on. Freedom knows no colors or disabilities," he said. Todd and local resident, Dee Tobias, serve on the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities. (photo courtesy, Chris Crook/Coshocton Tribune)

While several local dignitaries were on hand to speak and share their thoughts, it was the comments from people like Mr. Bill O'Rights, Todd Gatewood, Jessie, Susan, and Ron that made the first Freedom Celebration in Coshocton County a huge success and an event to be repeated next year.

Hopewell Employee Council President Vida Myers remarked,

"The event turned out well. The employees worked hard, and it focused on freedom. I liked that freedom of speech was exercised by the speakers. I like that they focused on our rights as citizens with disabilities. Thanks to our community for coming out and supporting this event!"



Welcoming All – Hopewell Industries' Adult Services Director Bob Nicholson assists, as Jessie Gilchrist welcomes attendees to Hopewell's Freedom Day celebration. The event was held to celebrate independence and choice for people with disabilities. (photo courtesy, Chris Crook/Coshocton Tribune)

Acknowledgements to the Coshocton Tribune, July 2, 2009 article, 'Celebrating Freedom.'



3. Update on Ohio's Biennial Budget

Governor Ted Strickland has signed House Bill 245, a second seven-day temporary budget. The interim budget will be in effect from July 8 to July 14 and will continue to maintain critical state services at reduced funding levels.

Governor Strickland stated, "I have serious reservations about continuing to operate state government under interim budgets, rather than a comprehensive two-year budget."

Current budget appropriations for ODMRDD are at 70% levels and set to expire July 14. At this point, waiver payments have not yet been affected. County subsidy payments will continue to be delayed. Some contractual arrangements are on hold. The Department is focused on managing operational challenges resulting from the budget situation, and doing what it can to assist its partners as they address the ramifications throughout the system.

ODMRDD Director John Martin is working closely with leaders from county boards, providers, and advocacy groups to keep the developmental disability services community apprised of this situation. He stated,

"We all will need to rely on our community's greatest asset – the wisdom, patience, and understanding of our many stakeholders and service partners – while we await the details of a final biennial budget, which I am hopeful will emerge soon."

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) continues to work closely with the ODMRDD and all state agencies regarding the careful management of limited funds



4. Michael Rench Appointed Director of Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC)

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland announced on June 30 the appointment of Michael Rench as the administrator of the Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). Michael began his service at RSC effective July 1.



Michael Rench

Governor Strickland stated,

“I am confident that Michael will be a great leader, allowing the agency to aggressively pursue its goals and mission. Michael’s readiness to serve Ohioans with disabilities, coupled with his experience, will serve the agency well as he assumes his new responsibilities. We appreciate those who served on the search committee as their work helped us to hone in on the qualities of the type of administrator RSC needs during these challenging times.”

The RSC is a state agency that serves Ohioans with disabilities, and focuses on helping people with disabilities get or keep a job, as well as providing disability benefits. Since 1990, the agency has assisted nearly 100,000 Ohioans with disabilities in obtaining jobs. It also handles claims for Social Security benefits, thereby providing some financial security and independence for people with disabilities.

Commenting on the appointment, Michael noted,

“Throughout my career I have been committed to helping people with disabilities. I am thankful for the opportunity to take on this new role at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.”

Immediately preceding this appointment, Michael Rench served as ODMRDD Deputy Director of Community Services, and has been the chief executive officer for three private residential services provider agencies for adults with disabilities. He has a total of 29 years in the disabilities field, including executive positions at three Ohio County Boards providing developmental disabilities services.

In making the announcement to staff, ODMRDD Director John Martin noted,

“Michael has been a very valuable part of our team, and has provided outstanding leadership in many areas. His hard work, straightforward demeanor, and friendship will be missed by all. We are excited that Michael will be applying his leadership skills to an area in which he has so much passion – that of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This is an exciting opportunity for him and for us, as we will look forward to working closely with Michael in his new role.”

Director Martin added, “We will continue to carry out the many important initiatives that Michael was involved with here, including the Positive Intervention Culture, and others in the Department will pick up various parts of his overall responsibilities.”

Note: Governor Strickland recently was granted authority to appoint the administrator of RSC under a provision in House Bill 2 (the biennial transportation budget for fiscal years 2010-2011).



5. Proposals Sought: Stimulus Funds Create Jobs, Increase Independence for Ohioans with Disabilities

Employment for Ohioans with disabilities is the top spending priority for \$21.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars invested in the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). The stimulus dollars were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Education. According to the RSC, the first 50% of the funding is available now and the remaining 50% is expected in October 2009.



RSC chairperson Joyce Young recently stated,

"With an unemployment rate among Ohioans with disabilities at about 70 percent, these stimulus funds are critical to Ohio's talented workers with disabilities. Last year RSC helped nearly 9400

Ohioans with severe disabilities succeed at finding steady employment. We anticipate more long-term success with the additional support provided through the Recovery Act."

Proposals for investing the first \$2.5 million of a total of \$5 million are now being accepted for the provision of vocational rehabilitation/ community services and programs in targeted areas of the state. Specifically, RSC is looking for vocational rehabilitation proposals targeted at:

- Reducing or eliminating waiting lists for vocational rehabilitation services;
- Supporting eligible Ohioans with disabilities to obtain employment more rapidly and/or obtain higher-quality job placements;
- Providing work experience or on-the-job training to assist eligible Ohioans with disabilities in building job skills and increasing competitiveness in their job search;
- Providing improved access to services and/or more rapid engagement in vocational rehabilitation services for special populations. *Special populations include, but are not limited to: veterans with disabilities; ex-offenders with disabilities re-entering the workforce; people with mental illness; people with developmental disabilities; transition-age youth; people who are deaf or hearing impaired, and people who are blind or visually impaired;*
- Providing rehabilitation technology and training to eligible Ohioans with disabilities.

To be eligible, applicants must submit an expression of interest for funding at recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state by Friday, July 10, 2009 and submit a written proposal to RSC by Friday, July 17, 2009. A copy of the request for proposals is available at www.rsc.ohio.gov

The RSC is the state agency charged with partnering with Ohioans with disabilities to obtain or retain jobs and achieve independence and 'disability determination' outcomes, and accomplishes its mission through partnerships with community rehabilitation programs and vocational rehabilitation professionals, statewide.

For more information: Visit www.rsc.ohio.gov; Contact: Eileen Courson, eileen.courson@rsc.state.oh.us



Doctors in the House

6. Goodwill's Onsite Residence Brings Physicians In-House

It's always comforting to be at home and have a trusted friend at your side when you must see a doctor. That's the idea behind a new medical model designed to benefit the residents of Onsite Residence at Goodwill Columbus.

Onsite Residence Director Tiffany Martin and Nursing Administrator Freda Scott quickly saw the benefits of having a dentist, an ophthalmologist, and a podiatrist bring their equipment and services to the third floor of Goodwill Columbus's Edgehill Road location, where 23 adults with developmental disabilities live. (*Clarification: Onsite Residence is literally on-site at the Goodwill location, and is served, in part, by a medical services provider named OnSight!*)



All Smiles – Jason, center, a resident of Onsite Residence, was all smiles as he received a dental checkup in the comfort of his home at Goodwill Columbus. Helping to make his dental visit a pleasant one were Linda Vassar, left, and Edward Amos, DDS, both of OnSight Health Care in Westerville. Goodwill’s Jean Gani, in background, schedules all medical appointments for the Onsite residents.

Better care, less traumatic

Goodwill Columbus currently accommodates five to seven doctors’ appointments for Onsite residents every weekday. In addition to general primary care physicians, residents collectively frequent audiologists, allergists, bone specialists, cardiologists, gynecologists, dentists, and many other specialists.

“When our primary care physician moved from being five minutes away, to being 45 minutes away from Goodwill, we started to think about bringing doctors in-house,” said Onsite’s Tiffany Martin. She credited Freda Scott with pursuing the idea after she learned that another adult day services center in Columbus already had started this process. Scott stated,

“I thought to myself – we could do this, too! It would be wonderful for our clients and our staff, and this arrangement will be less traumatic to our Onsite residents.”

As Goodwill Columbus explored the possibility of bringing some medical services in-house, all of the residents’ guardians were contacted and given a choice about care. All of them chose to go with the new in-house program.

Martin and Scott agree, “With our staff members at their sides in a known environment, our residents feel more at home. This will decrease negative behaviors and increase the number of medical appointments kept -- moving us toward better compliance in this area.”

In the past, appointments were sometimes missed or rescheduled because a resident feared going, or negative behavior surfaced when residents were required to wait a long time for medical services. In addition, some basic care was provided at teaching hospitals, resulting in a lack of continuity in the patient-doctor relationship. Doctors from OnSight Health Care in Westerville are working with Onsite Residence to make a smooth transition to the new healthcare model.

More Services On the Way

Goodwill Columbus expects to bring audiology and X-ray services in-house in the near future. Along with benefiting the residents, the change also will save on associated travel costs, and will improve scheduling efficiencies. It is anticipated that at least 370 doctor's visits will be moved in-house during the next year. According to Goodwill staff,

“We got our vision testing for our residents done in four hours . . . something that is usually stretched out over a whole year!”

Acknowledgements to Debbie May, Goodwill Columbus, debbie.may@gwcols.com



7. Developmental Disabilities Guide Available

A Developmental Disabilities Resource Guide for parents and guardians of Ohioans with developmental disabilities is now available at <http://www.DevelopmentalDisabilitiesGuide.com/> and may be downloaded online, directly from the site. The guide features 36 pages of helpful hints and information, and also has been posted at www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/public.htm



Contact: Heather Darling, ViaQuest, Inc., (614) 339-0835, heather.darling@viaquestinc.com



Editor's Note

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

County Boards and others in the MRDD community may reproduce the above statement in their materials, if desired.



Toll-Free Hotline



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

ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 15

- 1. Governor Strickland Signs HB1, The Biennial Budget Bill
- 2. Gearing Up for the ODMRDD Name Change
- 3. *People First of Ohio* Fires Up Family Advisory Council
- 4. Huron County: Christie Lane Industries Launches Pilot Program with Local Glass Company
- 5. Medicaid In Schools Program through the Department of Education
- 6. Mark Your Calendar for the 2009 Ohio SIBS Conference

***As of October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.
Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.**

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD. See article #2 below.)

1. Governor Strickland Signs Biennial Budget Bill

Ohio's 2010-2011 Biennial Budget Bill, HB1, was signed by Governor Ted Strickland on July 17, 2009. The \$50.5 billion, two-year state operating budget passed the Ohio House by a vote of 54-44. The Senate passed the budget by a 20-11 vote. The bill is [posted online in its completed form](#).

In his budget message of July 17, Governor Strickland stated, "In the face of unprecedented economic challenges, we were able to come together to pass a balanced budget that invests in education without raising taxes on Ohioans." He continued,

"Because Ohio families and businesses cannot afford a state tax increase at this time, this budget instead reduces state government spending by an unprecedented \$2.5 billion. This after my Administration already realized budget reductions of nearly \$2 billion and reduced the state workforce by more than 3,400 positions – resizing state government back to the level it was during the 1980s – to balance the budget in fiscal years 2008 and 2009."



Governor Strickland also explained that General Revenue Fund tax receipts declined by \$2.3 billion in fiscal year 2009, or 12% as compared to the previous fiscal year – the worst decline in state revenue in at least 50 years. General revenue taxes available to the State of Ohio will be lower in this biennium than they were seven years earlier, impacting our ability to maintain the services and operations of state government that Ohioans have come to expect.

Keeping this in mind, the budget does prioritize extremely limited resources toward critical health and safety services to provide for the greatest possible number of vulnerable Ohioans during this difficult time.

Specific budget information pertaining to the developmental disabilities community, and the ODMRDD in general, indicates that, while there are challenges in meeting the needs of more than 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with reduced funding, the Administration allowed needed funding for some key programs and services.

Budget items of note include:

- As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Medicaid programs are receiving enhanced federal reimbursement through December 2010. This decreased the reliance on General Revenue Funds (GRF) for those programs, which in turn caused the appearance of a decrease from fiscal year 2009 levels -- however the same number of services can be supplied at a lower state match. *Example: The state match for the waivers funded by the Martin Settlement was reduced by the offsetting amount of federal reimbursement, but will continue to pay for 1,500 waivers.*
- Subsidies paid to County Boards increased 12% from the fiscal year 2009 level after reductions, but is significantly lower than what was paid in fiscal year 2008.
- New language was included in the bill and a new GRF line item was created for state-operated Developmental Centers to begin paying the ICFMR franchise fee. The payment of this fee will allow the Department to begin receiving additional federal reimbursement in fiscal year 2012.
- The Central Office GRF line item was reduced by 15% from the fiscal year 2009 level after reductions. This represents a 52% reduction from 2008 GRF appropriation level. The Department is in the midst of restructuring certain areas in an effort to gain administrative efficiencies.
- The line item that supplies a portion of the payment to Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) for guardianship services was reduced by 15%.

According to Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD Director, Dan Ohler,

"Anytime there is a reduction in funding for services to individuals with developmental disabilities that is concerning. However, given the dire economic climate we are faced with, we are relatively pleased with the outcome of the budget process."

He adds, "It is clear that the efforts of Director Martin and other stakeholders to work together with members of the 128th General Assembly and the Administration were helpful in limiting the loss of funds for developmental disabilities services."

In reviewing the budget allocation, ODMRDD Director John Martin, noted,

“The strength of the collaborative effort within the statewide stakeholder group was an important element in working through the biennial budget process. While there are many challenges in terms of reduced available funding, we are now positioned to make the most of the available resources, as we work in partnership with service providers across the state.”



Gearing Up for the ODMRDD Name Change, effective 10-5-09

2. Rolling Out ‘Department Of Developmental Disabilities’

Times Change, Names Change: We think Ohioans are more flexible than Chicagoans

As noted in the July 16 edition of USA Today, Chicago’s iconic Sears Tower has been renamed the Willis Tower as part of a deal struck by Willis Group Holdings, an insurance brokerage, when it leased 150,000 sq. ft. in the famous skyscraper. The article noted, “Chicagoans take their architecture and their history seriously, and name changes are often met with resistance here – or just ignored. For example, many Chicagoans still call the Macy’s store on State Street, Marshall Field’s, even though that change took place in 2006. One Chicagoan was asked, ‘How long will it take for the new (Tower) name to take hold?’ His response, ‘Only the gods know.’ ”

On October 5, ninety days following Governor Ted Strickland’s July 7 signing of Senate Bill 79, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities legally will become the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

The many self advocates who worked so hard to effect the name change can be hopeful that they will hear the word ‘retardation’ -- and its variants -- a lot less often. We are energized by their work and applaud them for their tenacity. Plus, as changes go, we’re pretty sure that Ohioans are more flexible than those crusty Chicagoans and their ‘Sears Tower’. (The *Pipeline* editor is a native Chicagoan, and attests to this as fact.)

The Department is hopeful that with a gradual, common sense approach to the rollout, the name change will be fairly seamless at the state level, and will provide an opportunity to educate the enterprise-wide community regarding developmental disabilities in general.

Also on the positive side, ‘Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ has only five words instead of the current eight, so it will be more likely that people will choose to use the words more often, rather than the acronym. And, just as the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) routinely does not use the ‘O’ in ‘Ohio’ as part of their acronym, we have streamlined ours, as well.

Department of Developmental Disabilities – DODD. Using the letters spoken individually, the acronym is simple. Better yet, using the words becomes much easier to do more often.

The fiscal impact of the name change at the state level will be minimized by using existing printed materials to depletion throughout the agency. In addition, there is little signage at Central Office to be modified. As regards our cyberspace identifiers, we are researching an available replacement 'domain name' (address in cyberspace) for www.mrdd.ohio.gov that does not contain 'MR'. Replacement email addresses and other electronic identifiers also will be researched.

Fortunately, at nine of the ten Department-operated Developmental Centers there are few references to 'ODMRDD' (or the words the acronym represents) as most signage carries only the name of the Developmental Center. Columbus Developmental Center, however, is home to an ODMRDD Administration Building, and staff will be making needed changes to building signage in anticipation of the October 5 date. According to Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director for Developmental Centers,

"All of the Developmental Centers embrace this important name change. However, we are sensitive to the difficult budget challenges all Ohioans are currently facing. The financial impact of the name change will be very minimal to our Developmental Centers."

The signing of SB 79 also drops the words 'mental retardation and' from the names of all 88 County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Several county boards had already officially changed their organization's name prior to the signing of the bill. Representatives from those counties note that the 'name change process' is one to be approached with overall continuity in mind, while being mindful of the dollars available to accomplish the changes.

One communications director noted, "We're not throwing out a bunch of envelopes and business cards – we're just using up what we have and then blending in the new as we go along."

The law included an amendment that allows County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to use to depletion all of their existing brochures, letterhead, envelopes and other printed supplies to eliminate any waste of materials that already have been purchased. If the electronic networking groups frequented by members of the developmental disabilities community are any indication, local County Boards and related agencies are gearing up, statewide, to make the needed changes. County boards with larger fleets of buses and several buildings will have more signage requirements and related fiscal concerns than their smaller agency counterparts.

It is also important to note that, in counties where November levies are on the ballot, the issue's ballot language will need to be both descriptive and legally correct.

Free 'Name Change' Tools and Ideas

Guidance on managing a name change and related subjects can be found through *Ohio Public Images (OPI)*, a statewide volunteer information and advocacy organization promoting positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities. This month, their website at <http://publicimagesnetwork.org/> has begun carrying informational materials with the theme "Disable the Label" that can be used by County Boards and other organizations that have a similar mission. The campaign, available *free* for download, includes artwork, suggested low cost public awareness activities, sample news releases, and public service announcements.

Several other *People First of Ohio* members spoke up, adding their stories to the mix, and Sadie Hunter, president of the organization, focused on community inclusion. She noted,

“We try to really get to know the people who join *People First*, and sometimes that’s all it takes for them to loosen up and start advocating for themselves.”

Deanna Hasty also addressed the group, portraying the character ‘Dorothy’ in *The Wizard of Oz*, and had a true life story to match. Not only has Deanna weathered a few real storms in her personal life and is writing a book about them, but she encourages everyone to ‘follow the yellow brick road’ to their local Department of Job and Family Services and sign up for needed services. “Some stories turn out better than others,” she noted.



Peggy Martin (center, right) and Deanna Hasty respond to comments following the *People First* presenters.



Bill Adams adds his thoughts to the Family Advisory Council discussion on advocacy.

In addition to the *People First* presentation, Family Advisory Council hosted Kim Donica, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) who addressed the subject of, “What Services are covered by your Ohio Medicaid medical card?” And, Becky Phillips, ODMRDD Rules

Administrator, discussed the proposed rules for Ohio's Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) program.

For more information about Family Advisory Council visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov.oh.us/families/familyadvocate.htm> or contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us



In Huron County

4. Christie Lane Industries Launches Pilot Program with Cleveland Glass Company

Pilot projects with short timeframes may be the way to go in certain situations before jumping into a new endeavor. Here's one going on right now.

Huron County's Norwalk-area businesses, including restaurants and bars, will benefit from a recycling pilot program as Christie Lane Industries, a not-for-profit company that provides training and work for about 120 individuals with developmental disabilities, will be picking up their glass refuse -- free. The pilot program runs throughout the month of July.



Looks like this bin's full!
Don gets into his work at Christie Lane with a no-nonsense attitude.

John Schwartz, director of Adult Programs and Facilities at the Huron County Board of MRDD, explained,

“Christie Lane currently recycles some glass, used internally to create decorative tiles. Christie Lane Industries sells the product under the CiTILE brand. Under the pilot program, the current recycling

efforts would expand to supply glass, for which there is currently a high demand, and would provide three full-time positions at Christie Lane Industries.”



**While it might look like Deb’s drinking on-the-job ...
She’s actually removing labels and readying glass for cliTILE.**

A portion of the glass will be used as material for the Christie Lane CliTILE operation, and the rest will be separated by color, crushed, and sold to Strategic Materials in Cleveland, a company that provides recycled glass to Owens Corning (Toledo) for use in building insulation products.

Owens Corning is one of the largest users of recycled glass in the world, and works regionally to locate sources of glass, saving landfill space. Schwartz explains,

“Right now, there is a shortage of recycled glass on the market. We’re going to try this for a month to see if it could be profitable. If so, we will include glass in our existing recycling program and charge a nominal fee to businesses for pickup.”

Currently, Christie Lane Industries’ overall recycling efforts collect cardboard, newspaper, office paper, steel and aluminum cans, and plastic bottles at a cost of \$10 per pick-up.

According to John Schwartz, “Essentially, we will see how much recycled glass we can collect and send to Cleveland. If the numbers work, and we can make it at least a break-even proposition, we’ll get after it.”

Schwartz adds that the environment-friendly ‘green connection’ in Huron and surrounding counties has yielded several additional possibilities and outlets for recycled materials including glass, and the only drawback may be that a large collection of glass bottles formerly containing beer ‘does not really smell that good.’ That issue aside, he continues,

“We sort through everything to separate the three colors of glass and to remove contaminants like ceramic. We use only certain brands of bottles for our tile products because the different properties of various brands yield different results. It is the color separation and the removal of ceramic contaminants that make our service valuable to customers like Strategic Materials.”

Contact John Schwartz at Christie Lane Industries, (419) 668-8840. Acknowledgements to Robin Yokum for information contained herein.



5. Medicaid Schools Program Through ODE

While financial resources seem to be dwindling everywhere, there is one new funding option that, according to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), will allow local and community or charter schools to deliver Medicaid services (in the school) – an option that has not been available for some time. The program is called the Medicaid Schools Program, or MSP.

Through this program, schools also have the option, through contracts, to work with agencies such as County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Educational Service Centers (ESCs) to deliver these services. Those in the educational system may remember the Community Alternative Funding System, otherwise known as CAFS. This program, which ended in 2005, allowed for a number of therapy services to be delivered to people with developmental disabilities. The program ended for several reasons, including difficulty in determining service costs, unclear fiscal controls, and limitations as to who could receive services.

Learning from these past programmatic issues, ODE has worked with local, state, and federal partners to develop a way to deliver needed therapy and other medically-related services in the school setting under Medicaid once again.

Through collaborative efforts at the local, state, and federal level, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved funding for the Medicaid Schools Program.



Here's How MSP Works

The program gives schools the ability to cover these medically-necessary services to children, and receive Medicaid funding to cover them. While no additional services are available to students with the MSP, it does give the school district the opportunity to bill Medicaid for a portion of the costs of this service delivery at a time when their resources are shrinking.

School-based services that are covered include physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, mental health, some nursing services, medical equipment and supplies (used in the school setting), transportation related to these services, and other services currently available in the community.

Also important is that administrative activities related to these services are reimbursable – for example, students would not see reductions in therapy time to complete related paperwork -- both the therapy and the paperwork time are reimbursed.

For a student (age 3-21) to receive services funded under the MSP, there are no application forms to complete. If the school is an MSP provider (and more than 400 currently are), and the student is Medicaid eligible with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), the student should be able to have services reimbursed through this program if their services are indicated on an IEP.

MSP services do not directly impact other Medicaid services outside the school setting. Whether a student is using the Medicaid State Plan card, or is enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan, there will not be an impact on services received outside the school setting, nor is there any financial obligation such as a spend-down or patient liability created by accessing these services.

To find out more about the Medicaid Services Program, visit the ODE web page at www.ode.state.oh.us and type in the word “Medicaid” in the Search tool . For questions about MSP, email schoolmedicaid@ode.state.oh.us.



6. Ohio SIBS Conference Information Now Online

Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (the “SIBS” conference) organizers have announced that event information, including the conference brochure and agenda, are now available on their website at www.ohiosibs.com. It is the Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference, and will be November 6-7 2009, in Columbus. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.



OHIO SIBS

SPECIAL INITIATIVES BY BROTHERS & SISTERS



Editor's Note

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

[County Boards and others in the MRDD community may reproduce the above statement in their materials, if desired.](#)



Toll-Free Hotline



ODMRDD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)
ODMRDD's toll-free hotline number to report abuse/neglect and other MUI's is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.

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

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

***After October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 16

- 1. Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order Establishing Physical Restraint Policies
- 2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebrates 19 Years: UN Convention Signed
- 3. Provider Certification Rule Responds to Futures Recommendations
- 4. Nisonger Center Announces New Director, Marc J. Tassé
- 5. Name Change Rollout, Statewide – Education is Key to Success
- 6. Pilot Mentoring Program Developed in Hamilton County
- 7. Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) Announces Conference, ESDY Award Information
- 8. New Grants Available for Upgrading Buses
- 9. Developing Successful Employment Opportunities

NEW!: *Pipeline Postscripts* at the end of each issue will include news briefs and reminders.

1. Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order Establishing Physical Restraint Policies for State Agencies

On August 3, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed an executive order that bans prone restraint across all state systems and sets specific policies for other types of physical restraints.

According to the news release of the same day from the Governor's Office, he stated, "Some state employees' job duties require them to handle situations that may pose potential injury to themselves or others, and may require their intervention through use of a physical restraint. It is critical that we protect the safety, dignity and respect of both the state employee and those in the care of the state." He continued,

"This executive order establishes minimum acceptable standards to make sure restraint is used properly, by a trained individual, and only when absolutely necessary to ensure safety and prevent harm."

This policy is the result of a seven-agency work group that studied the use of physical restraint at the respective agencies when providing services. ODMRDD was the lead on the work group

efforts and had banned the ‘prone restraint’ position in November 2008, due to the belief that it posed an unacceptable risk to health and safety. Prone restraint involves the restraint of an individual in a face-down position for an extended period of time. The November 2008 ban applies to all providers of services to individuals with disabilities who receive funds directly or indirectly from the ODMRDD to provide a service or support to an individual eligible for County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities services. The Department’s *Information Notice* is at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/Infonotices/08-11-03.pdf> .

The Governor’s Executive Order bans the use of prone restraint across all state systems, sets specific requirements for the use of ‘transitional hold,’ and limits the use of other types of physical restraints.

In addition, the Executive Order creates the Ohio Policy Committee on Restraint and Seclusion to ensure Ohio continues to establish best practices. Read the full text of the order at:

<http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Executive%20Orders/E0%2009-13S.pdf>



2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebrates 19 Years -United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Signed-

The 19th anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was celebrated on July 26. Signed into law on that date in 1990, this landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

In a Proclamation issued on July 24, 2009, President Barack Obama stated,

“Our Nation is once again poised to make history for people with disabilities. I am proud to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on December 13, 2006. The Convention is the first new human rights convention of the 21st century adopted by the United Nations, and it represents a paradigm shift in protecting the human rights of 650 million people with disabilities, worldwide. We proudly join the international community in further advancing the rights of people with disabilities.”

According to ODMRDD Director John Martin, “The signing on to the UN Convention is long-awaited news. It is very exciting to see this step being taken, and to see the progress being made since 1990.”

The President’s proclamation also noted, “More than ever before, Americans with disabilities enjoy greater access to technology and economic self-sufficiency. More communities are accessible, more children with disabilities learn alongside their peers, and more employers recognize the capabilities of people with disabilities.”

It continued, “Despite these achievements, much work remains to be done. People with disabilities far too often lack the choice to live in communities of their choosing; their unemployment rate is much higher than those without disabilities; they are much likelier to live in poverty; health care is out of reach for too many; and too many children with disabilities are denied a world-class education.”



Citing several of the Administration’s programs and initiatives designed to improve opportunities for people with disabilities, the proclamation also pledged a continued focus on encouraging communities across the nation to cultivate an environment in which the 54 million Americans living with a disability are valued and respected.

Further on the subject, U. S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius had this to say regarding the July 30 signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

“Today, the United States joins 141 other nations who have signed the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The signing of the UN Convention sends an important message that this country is committed to equal rights for people with disabilities, in the United States and around the world.”

In addition, she reports, “The Department of Health and Human Services already has begun to carry out the Community Living initiative by establishing an HHS Coordinating Council, led by the Office on Disability. Joining the Coordinating Council are: The Administration on Aging; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; the Office for Civil Rights; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Health Resources and Services Administration; the Administration for Children and Families; and, the Office of Public Health and Science.”

Link to the document: [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

With the support of the President and the collective expertise gathered within the HHS Coordinating Council, there will be a sharper focus on improved opportunities to ensure that living independently with a disability is a real choice.

*For more information: ADA-OHIO, adaohio@aol.com, 614-844-5410, <http://www.ada-ohio.org/>
Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov*



3. Provider Certification Rule Responds to Futures Recommendations

The ODMRDD is making preparations for implementation of the new *Provider Certification* rule (5123:2-2-01). The rule will implement, for the first time, the Department's existing statutory authority to time-limit provider certification and collect application fees for providers of Supported Living and Home and Community-Based Services waiver services.

The rule is responsive to several MRDD Futures Committee recommendations and represents a shared commitment throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community to create a better service delivery system. A copy of the rule is available at the Department's website (<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm>).

The rule streamlines and simplifies rules by replacing three existing rules regarding provider certification (5123:2-9-09, 5123:2-12-02, and 5123:2-12-06) with one rule.

Details regarding implementation of the rule are forthcoming and will be broadly disseminated.

Contact: *Becky Phillips* at becky.phillips@dmr.state.oh.us



4. Nisonger Center Announces New Director, Marc J. Tassé

The appointment of Marc J. Tassé, PhD, as director of the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University is effective August 3, and pending OSU Board of Trustees approval. Dr. Tassé replaces Dr. L. Eugene Arnold, who has served as interim director at the Nisonger Center for the past two years.

According to OSU officials, Dr. Tassé joins Ohio State from the University of South Florida (USF), where he was associate professor of Child and Family Studies and associate director of USF's Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.

The USF Center is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities as designated by the United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities, a distinction shared with the Nisonger Center and only 65 other centers in the country.

Dr. Tassé's appointment as director of the Nisonger Center is also a bit of a homecoming, as he completed his postdoctoral fellowship at OSU in 1995 under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Reiss. He received his PhD in clinical psychology research from the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Dr. Tassé has provided clinical services for more than 20 years to individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other related developmental disabilities. He has lectured throughout the world, is widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and has co-authored several assessment instruments in the field of developmental disabilities, including the Supports Intensity Scale.

On the subject of the new appointment, ODMRDD Director John Martin, noted,

" The Nisonger Center is a tremendous asset to our community and the Department values and appreciates their leadership and technical support. I have had the opportunity to meet Dr. Tassé, and am excited about the vision and energy he will bring to Nisonger. We look forward to a positive working relationship with Dr. Tassé, just as we had with Dr. Arnold, who graciously gave of his and Nisonger's time during his term as interim director. "

For more information : <http://nisonger.osu.edu/>



Name Change Rollout, Statewide

5. Developmental Disabilities Community Begins to Embrace Statewide Change – Education is Key to Success

Following Governor Ted Strickland's July 7 signing of Senate Bill 79, state and county agencies supporting the developmental disabilities community are dropping the words 'mental retardation' from their names. Looking around the state, it is clear that the opportunity now presents itself to re-educate the public as to what developmental disabilities include, and to assure local voters that the agencies themselves have not changed their direction or their focus on individuals who need specific services.

Some County Boards already have completed the name-change process, some have just begun, and some are looking at various options to assist in a 're-branding' or identity for their organization. For example, in light of upcoming ballot issues in November, some counties will be phasing in the change along with local levy information, and reinforcing that the change is in name only, not in services or eligibility.

In southern Ohio, the Hamilton County Board of MRDD will officially change signage following the November 3 election, and is planning a celebration with advocates and families taking down the building's signs and replacing them with new ones on November 4. In their newsletter, 'Reflections,' it is noted that the name change will not occur until after the November election, "So as not to confuse voters about the name of the agency for which they will be voting."

Looking Around the State

In the Columbus area, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) has adopted a new logo to go along with its new name. The logo features a montage of faces depicting children and adults with developmental disabilities, representing people served by FCBDD. The illustration was drawn by artist Martha Perske, known worldwide for her drawings of people with disabilities and their friends, and replaces the identity used by the agency since 1997, which showed the letters "FCBMRDD" between two parallel horizontal lines. [Franklin County Board MRDD](#) 

According to Superintendent Jed Morison,

“Our basic approach has been to use the opportunity to reconnect with the community—whether one was for the name change or not – the fact is that the terminology has now changed in law, so let's use this as an opportunity to communicate positive messages about the services we provide and the people we serve. As you may have noticed, we are emphasizing 'Previously Franklin County MRDD—same agency—same eligibility—just a new name.'”

In Preble County, Superintendent Diane Knupp reports that the local community has been supportive of the change concept. She notes, “Spending time working this past weekend at our Preble County Fair booth, I spoke with several people who were supportive and understanding of the change. It also may help us by eliminating some of the confusion associated with the words ‘mental health’ and ‘mental retardation’ in differentiating our organization from the local Mental Health Recovery Board. In all, the reaction to the name change has been positive.”

Washington County was ahead of the curve in 1998 when it officially changed its name to the Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain is among those ‘early-adopters’ who can continue business as usual. She comments, “We have been very fortunate here, having the support of the community in our early efforts, and we look forward to the statewide adoption of the name change.”

And in Lucas County, the Board’s name change has been incorporated via the Ohio Public Images ‘Disable the Label’ concept: http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/Disable_the_Label.htm . Toledo-area broadcast and print media have generously covered the name change, and reinforce the free informational and educational tools available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org . Several other counties around the state have adopted the ‘Disable the Label’ message as well, according to OPI Executive Director, Lon Mitchell:

“It’s been one of the most effective messages we’ve seen, helping to encourage positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities. Ohio really is embracing this message.”

Overall Efforts

As noted in the July 22 issue of *Pipeline*, <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>, the ODMRDD is taking steps to complete the state agency name changeover by October 5, in accordance with the www.ohio.gov framework for continuity in communications among cabinet-level agencies. Thereafter we will be known as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, using the acronym DODD.

The Department is hopeful that with a gradual, common sense approach to the rollout, the name change will be fairly seamless at the state level, and will provide an opportunity to educate the enterprise-wide community regarding developmental disabilities in general.

Contact: Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us



6. Pilot Mentoring Program Developed in Hamilton County

The Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) has announced the development of a pilot mentoring program with the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Mentors will provide one-on-one mentoring for individuals referred to the CHRC Community Outreach Program by the Hamilton County Board.

A combination of best practice models for mentoring young adults ages 18-25 years old who are ex-offenders or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system will be used. Mentors will develop caring relationships with individuals to be mentored, building a foundation as positive role models and friends, as well as engaging the individuals in a combination of activities that enable them to practice healthy behaviors within a positive social relationship.

The goal of the mentoring program is to help individuals served to avoid mistakes and learn to make good decisions.

Mentors will coordinate activities with the Hamilton County Board's Service Facilitators to identify areas where individuals need to improve behaviors. The Pilot Mentoring Program began July 1, 2009.

According to Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent of the Hamilton County Board, "While we have great expertise in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, we don't have as much knowledge about how to work with individuals who have a combination of intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health issues, as well as involvement with law enforcement." She adds,

"We are excited about entering into this unique partnership with the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and its well-established mentoring program, to jointly and creatively serve individuals who have proven extraordinarily challenging to assist within our own service delivery system."



7. Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) Announces Conference, ESDY Award Information

As Nancy Richards, Executive Director of Clearwater COG in Northwest Ohio so avidly states, "Self determination is alive and well! And, the upcoming 'Life Without Limits' conference program is surely proof of that."

As the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) prepares for the 2009 OSDA Conference September 15-16 at University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, they are also preparing to honor those individuals, family members, and professionals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination across Ohio, via the ESDY awards.

According to Lew Hurst, also an OSDA supporter and Superintendent of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities, “ESDY Awards are presented to individuals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination. Nominees are evaluated based on creativity, how they have supported the principles of self determination and their contribution toward system change. We look forward to honoring these individuals each year and thanking them for their efforts.” *Deadline for submission is August 21.* Send to lhurst@senecacbmrdd.org

Life without Limits

OSDA 2009 State Conference



**Looking back at the 2008 Conference we see ...
Ruben Garcia, Steven R. Cooley Award winner, with Christine Brown.**

The 2008 ESDY award winners were: Ruben Garcia, Evelyn Bachman, Linda Kunick, Willie Jones, John Romer, Vic Leanza, James Henrie, Kathy Cotman, Ann Thomas, Jason Waugh, Angela Williams and Daniel Woell. <http://www.ohiosda.org/ESDY/2008ESDYAwardWinners.pdf>

As of this writing, among the sponsors of the 2009 OSDA Conference are: The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities; the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD, Champaign Residential Services Inc.; Peterman Transportation; Dynamic Pathways; and, the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

For additional information on the Ohio Self Determination Association, the conference, and the ESDY awards, visit <http://www.ohiosda.org>



8. New Grants Available for Upgrading Buses

County developmental disability programs now are eligible to apply for grants from the *Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund*, due to a change in the law that was passed as part of the new state biennial budget bill.

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for the purchase and installation of pollution control equipment onto school buses of Type C or D, model years 1994-2006, that travel more than 5,000 miles per year. Application deadlines are March 1 and September 1 each year. The application is posted at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oef/html/schoolbus.html>



The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strongly encourages local developmental disabilities programs and school districts to *apply this summer*, while some additional federal 'clean diesel stimulus dollars' are available.

Questions about eligible equipment from USEPA's or California's verified technology lists may be directed to John Paulian (john.paulian@epa.state.oh.us) or (614) 644-4832. For general information contact Carolyn Watkins (carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us), (614) 644-3768.



9. Developing Successful Employment Opportunities

People with disabilities, their families, friends, and people who serve them are encouraged to attend an open forum titled "Developing Successful Employment Opportunities," on August 18th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus.

The forum, hosted by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, is designed to provide a venue to share thoughts regarding:

- Experiences concerning issues or circumstances that may be preventing them from getting a job;
- Suggestions that address how to improve services;
- Opinions or ideas regarding what changes could be made to improve Ohio's employment statistics for people with disabilities.



According to forum organizers, all testimony will be recorded and a summary of all comments will be prepared, as will a list of recommendations to improve gainful employment for people with developmental disabilities. This information will be shared with people who can make a difference, including service providers, legislators, government officials, and employers.

The forum is free and open to the public. Attendees should be prepared to provide brief oral or written testimony, and/or to support those who are presenting at the hearing.

Plans for the forum's program also include a keynote speaker, and lunch will be provided.

For further details and registration information, please send your name and email address to axiscenter@aol.com, or phone (614) 263-8076.



Pipeline PostScripts

Redesigned U.S. Department of Labor Website Focuses on Disability-Related Issues, Programs, and Services

The U.S. Department of Labor has launched www.Disability.gov, a redesigned federal website that connects the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities to thousands of resources on disability-related issues, programs and services. Formerly known as www.DisabilityInfo.gov, the site has been completely redesigned and updated with new social media tools, such as a blog and a 'Twitter' option, to encourage feedback and interaction among visitors.

The redesigned site is not only for Americans with disabilities, but also for parents of children with disabilities, employers, workforce and human resource professionals, veterans, educators, caregivers and many others. To link to Disability.gov, visit the 'Link to Us' page at http://www.disability.gov/home/link_to_us

Disability.gov features comprehensive information from 22 federal agencies, as well as educational institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments. Topics on the site include: benefits; civil rights; community life; education; emergency preparedness; employment; health; housing; technology; and transportation.



Ohio District Aktion Club Convention

Ohio District Aktion Club is gearing up for the annual convention August 28 and 29, 2009. According to Ohio District Aktion Club Administrator, Sande Johnson, the convention theme is "The Hero Within," and there will be a poster and speech contest on the theme topic, "How has Aktion Club made you a hero in your community?"

2009
Ohio Aktion Club
Convention



She notes, “This year’s convention theme, “The Hero Within,” is very important, and not just because it makes a great theme to build a convention around! -- but because individuals with developmental disabilities need to realize how important they are, as well as understand the importance of the self advocacy work that they do.”

“It never ceases to amaze me that our Aktion Club members do NOT see themselves as heroes, when we so clearly can see the work that they do in the community and in the lives of others! We look forward to seeing officers, members, and advisors from our five new Aktion Clubs, as well as the current 20 clubs.”

Ohio District Aktion Clubs have been working on developing members’ leadership skills, so this year’s conference will incorporate several training and discussion elements along that subject. In the spirit of the conference, one Aktion Club member described a hero as,

“Someone who cares, then does something about it.”

For more information: <http://www.ohioaktion.org/>; Sande Johnson at sande@gofindlay.com



Get Ready for the Buddy Walk!

Mark your calendar to join the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio and their friends for Buddy Walk, *held rain or shine* at Columbus Crew Stadium on Sunday, September 13th. The one-mile walk celebrates the abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome.

For more information call 263-6020 or visit www.dsaco.net.



Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (the “SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information, including the conference brochure and agenda, are now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.



Editor's Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
ODMRDD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.



After October 5, 2009



Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

***After October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 17

- 1. Testimony Focuses on Developing Successful Employment Opportunities
- 2. Annual Report on Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Issued by ODJFS
- 3. Spotlight on Self Determination -- Life Without Limits
- 4. Notice of Funds Available Through Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
- 5. ODOT Invests in Specialized Transportation Grants to Assist People with Disabilities
- 6. U.S. Senate Adopts Resolution/ September 14 Named National Direct Support Professionals Week
- 7. Get Ready! September is National Preparedness Month
- 8. Interagency Work Group on Autism, Status Report Online

NEW! *Pipeline Postscripts* at the end of each issue include important news briefs and reminders.

1. Developing More Successful Employment Opportunities

"When my step-daughter entered the workforce 17 years ago at Walgreen's, she did a lot more than get a job – she entered the fuller life of the community."

– Michael Rench, Director, Rehabilitation Services Commission

An open forum titled, "*Developing Successful Employment Opportunities*," was enthusiastically attended by more than 200 people with disabilities, their families, friends, and people who serve them, on August 18th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus. The comment above from forum speaker, Michael Rench, Director of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, was one of many that highlighted the far-reaching benefits of employment -- and the equally far-reaching consequences of unemployment -- for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Hosted by the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, the forum was designed to provide a venue to share thoughts and experiences concerning issues or circumstances that may be preventing people from getting a job, as well as suggestions to improve services and otherwise positively impact Ohio's employment picture for people with disabilities.

Further on the subject of community employment, Amy McGee, Executive Assistant for Health and Human Services in Governor Ted Strickland's Office, addressed the group noting that nearly 1200 individuals responded to a recent employment survey targeting Ohioans with developmental disabilities, to gauge their level of satisfaction with available services, and pinpoint key issues. She stated,

“A report on the outcomes of that survey will be available in September, and we will couple that information with the input you provide here at this forum. Your testimony today, telling of your successes and challenges within Ohio's employment scene, will inform our efforts. Then we can move forward with all of this information to assure better outcomes for the future.”

Other speakers during the day-long forum included Beverly Johnson, Executive Director, Cerebral Palsy Assn. of Ohio; Carolyn Knight, Interim Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, along with Chuck Beatty, Vice-Chair; and, most importantly, several individuals with developmental disabilities and family members who had very important stories to tell. Here are some of the comments from testimony heard during the open forum:

“ As self advocates, we also need to remember to take responsibility for our job search and put forth the effort! It takes a lot of effort, but I'm proof that it can work out for you.” - Ann Christopher

“ Persevere! Network! Volunteer! I got better with each interview for a job. ” - Carmen Shelton

“Apply, Apply, Apply! Ask for actual referrals for actual jobs – not just preparation for a job. I found out after 300 applications and 20 interviews over 13 months, that some jobs are not real jobs, they're just jobs on paper.” – Dennis Frazier

“If you do volunteer to gain job experience, be sure to ask for work you can learn something from – that can improve your chances to get paid work.” - Mark Seifarth

“Sometimes services are available but they are so short-term that they cannot accurately assess a person's possibilities or abilities. It's disheartening, and it isn't fair to the individual.” - Sue Hetrick

According to forum organizers, a summary of all comments will be prepared, as well as a list of recommendations to improve gainful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. This information also will be shared with people who can make a difference, including service providers, legislators, government officials, and employers.

Reflecting on the forum, one might remember this follow-up remark made by Michael Rench as he wrapped up his keynote comments, suggesting how we can improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities ...

“ The employment picture here in Ohio is like a mosaic. Each of us is a tile, a colorful piece of glass, or a stone, and each piece offers something to the whole picture. I think that if we can break down some barriers, and create more consistency within the system, we can open doors to real employment opportunities. Everyone – everyone has something to offer. ”

For more information about the forum contact axiscenter@aol.com, or phone (614) 263-8076.



2. Medicaid Buy-In Annual Report Issued by ODJFS

At the end of 2008, more than 2300 Ohioans with disabilities were working, accepting job promotions, earning money and establishing savings accounts without risking the loss of their Medicaid health care coverage. Descriptive statistical program data such as this is noted in the recently-released Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) *Annual Report on the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities* (MBIWD).

Ohio law established the MBIWD Advisory Council and the MBIWD program to enable people with disabilities to work and not lose their health care coverage.



The Summer 2008 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* featured MBIWD program participant, Bob, on the job at Cintas in Fairfield County. Bob was the second person residing in Hocking County to be enrolled in the MBI program. (Fairfield County is the immediate northern neighbor to Hocking County.)

This first report on the program provides statewide data from April 1, 2008 when the program began, through December 2008. According to the report, at the end of 2008 there were 2341 people with disabilities enrolled in the MBIWD program. More than half of them (58%) are not required to pay a premium to maintain their Medicaid health care coverage. For those who are paying a premium, their average payment per month is about \$40. ODJFS notes that it collected almost \$80,000 in premium payments during the first eight months of the program.

Overall, Medicaid spending for people enrolled in the program was \$11.6 million according to ODJFS estimates. The report also shows that people throughout the state who are enrolled in the MBIWD program have greatly reduced their out-of-pocket spending on health care.

The annual report also includes county-specific data. The data show a fairly broad discrepancy in the number of enrollees in the program across counties of similar size. The MBIWD Advisory Council is reviewing this enrollment disparity among counties and is considering ways to make the MBIWD program more widely known to people with disabilities, advocates and staff at local agencies, such as County Departments of Job and Family Services, and County Boards within the developmental disabilities community.

For more information about the MBIWD program, eligibility guidelines, and an application, go to the [Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities \(MBIWD\)](#) section of the ODJFS website.

Current Status

According to a May 2009 MBIWD program update report from ODJFS, since the annual report was issued, the number of additional individuals enrolled has brought the total enrollment in the program to 3213, statewide.

*Acknowledgements to Ohio Legal Rights Service, Tom Hemmert, (614) 466-7264,
themmert@olrs.state.oh.us*



3. Spotlight on Self Determination, *Life Without Limits*

As Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) members prepare for the 2009 OSDA Conference, '*Life Without Limits*,' September 15-16 at University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, it's a great time to spotlight examples of self determination at work. In talking with County Boards and other service providers around the state it is clear that while this 'movement' has been a part of the developmental disability community for several years now, the enthusiasm for it has not diminished.

For example, at the Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Superintendent Lee Wedemeyer reports that self determination is not just alive and well, it's thriving. He explains,

"Fortunately, I need only to walk around the corner from my office to see self determination at work. Brian Landis receives services from the Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities and works here as a telephone operator. Not only has Brian started working for us in the last year, but he is finally living in his own home, a neat ranch on a tree-lined street in a quiet Marion neighborhood. After living his entire life with his parents and in group homes, Brian now decides what gets prepared for dinner, has the opportunity to lounge in his sunroom, and watch what he wants to watch on TV."

Lee adds, "Brian is just one of the individuals with disabilities who, with the assistance of agencies such as ours and an individual budget, has struck out on their own. Because of self determination, Brian and others are now able to make many decisions that impact their lives. Giving people the opportunity to live on their own is one of the biggest advances we have made in assisting individuals with disabilities."

Causing a STIR

Ohio has been ahead of the curve in understanding the importance of self determination, and the OSDA is continuing to increase awareness of its impact for people with developmental disabilities through *Project STIR*, which stands for *Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility*. STIR provides leadership and training for self advocates. It also assists individuals in advocating for themselves and others, and teaches specific skills such as communicating assertively, problem solving and negotiating, and becoming more involved in one's own community. Learn more about Project STIR at www.ohiosda.org.

ESDY Awards

At the September conference, OSDA members also will honor individuals, family members, and professionals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination across Ohio, via the ESDY awards. ESDY Awards are presented to individuals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination. Nominees are evaluated based on creativity, how they have supported the principles of self determination and their contribution toward system change.

Deadline for submission for ESDY Awards is August 21. Send to lhurst@senecacbmrrdd.org.

For additional information on the Ohio Self Determination Association, the conference, and the ESDY awards, visit <http://www.ohiosda.org>



4. Notice of Funds Available Through Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') has announced the availability of \$608,000 in grant funds for 2010. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a variety of projects listed at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Grant/10COM.htm>, along with detailed grant information.

Carolyn Knight, Acting Director of the DD Council, explains that the FY 2010 Notice of Funds Available begins the organization's annual grant process, and all grant awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Applicants must provide cash or in-kind 'matching' funds of 33.33% in non-poverty areas and 11.11% in poverty areas. She adds,

"The Council also will be hosting a bidder's conference on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' General Services Building, 4200 Surface Road, in Columbus. Directions A bidder's conference provides grant details and answers questions that potential grant applicants may have."



Application Instructions and Procedures

Grant applications will be processed using a new online submission process, which will be made available on September 3, 2009, following the Bidder's Conference. Training on the new submission process will be offered. Deadline for submissions will be Friday, October 2, 2009.

For more information: Carla.Sykes@dmr.state.oh.us



5. Ohio Department of Transportation Invests \$3.2 Million in Transit for People with Disabilities, Senior Citizens

Ohio's senior citizens and individuals with developmental disabilities soon will find it easier to travel to jobs, school, and healthcare appointments due to an investment of \$3.2 million in new transit vehicles and equipment from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Specialized Transportation Program grants are being distributed to 64 non-profit agencies in 37 counties where existing transportation services are either unavailable or insufficient to meet the needs of these populations.

[View 2009 Specialized Transportation Program proposed grants by county. PDF*](#)

[*On some computers you must use the 'control' key to activate this feature/open pdf files.](#)

The goal of the Specialized Transportation Program is to improve mobility options for senior citizens and people with disabilities, by providing greater access to employment, medical appointments, grocery shopping, banking, and other needed services. The program builds upon ODOT's mission to promote a 'multi-modal' transportation system for all of Ohio's citizens.

Through various transportation-related efforts, [ODOT's Office of Transit](#) advocates continued personal mobility for all Ohioans by supporting, coordinating, and funding public transportation as a critical element of the state's overall transportation system.



[U.S. Senate Adopts ANCOR Resolution](#)

6. National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 14

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR*) reports that the U.S. Senate has adopted a resolution designating the week of September 14, 2009, as '*National Direct Support Professionals Week.*'

The designation is a means of recognizing the important contribution that Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) make in every community throughout the nation.

The designation provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support Professionals play every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

More about Direct Support Professionals Week in the September issues of *Pipeline*. Also, look for articles illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's

developmental disabilities community in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in September 2009.

**Read the ANCOR resolution at <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>.*



September is National Preparedness Month

7. Get Ready for National Preparedness Month 2009!



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security – and locally, the Ohio Department of Public Safety – sponsor National Preparedness Month (September) and encourage people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The ODMRDD is among those supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations.

Again this year as last, the ODMRDD will focus on preparedness opportunities for residents living at the ten Department-operated, community-based Developmental Centers, as well as encourage provider-sponsored preparedness efforts.

Trainings for staff, individuals, and families via the national *Ready* campaign include activities that encourage individuals to have an *emergency supply kit*, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them. Visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY to receive free materials.

Look for more information at www.mrdd.ohio.gov in September.



8. Interagency Work Group on Autism, Status Report Online

Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) has published a *Status Report* noting progress and accomplishments. Since implementing a Work Plan of activities in late 2008, the IWGA has identified many opportunities for state agency partners to coordinate efforts, be

creative despite challenging budget issues, and determine ways to join efforts in serving and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. The report may be viewed at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/topics/iagautism.htm> .



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are online at the ODMRDD website event calendar, accessed from the lower bar 'calendar' on the homepage, at https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Reminder: Ohio District Aktion Club Convention, August 29 & 30

Ohio District Aktion Club's annual convention is August 29 and 30, 2009 at *Recreation Unlimited* in Ashley, Ohio. According to Ohio District Aktion Club Administrator, Sande Johnson, the convention theme is "The Hero Within," and there will be a poster and speech contest on the theme topic, "How has Aktion Club made you a hero in your community?" This year's conference will incorporate several training and discussion elements along the subject of leadership.

For more information: <http://www.ohioaktion.org/>; Sande Johnson at sande@gofindlay.com



2. Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or fish1@osu.edu .



3. Editor's Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
ODMRDD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Ohio.gov | Department of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities

After October 5, 2009

Ohio | Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

***After October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 18

- 1. Senate Bill 79, "The Name Change Bill", Ceremonial Signing August 28
 - 2. Mount Vernon Developmental Center Celebrates a Century of Service
 - 3. Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others
 - 4. Ohio Self Determination Association Conference to Spotlight Housing Incentives
 - 5. National Preparedness Month Efforts, Statewide
 - 6. Providing Improved Safety in Residential Settings
 - 7. Changes Within Division of Medicaid Development and Administration
 - 8. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention/Awareness Month
- See *Pipeline Postscripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community Attends Historic Ceremony

1. SB 79, 'The Name Change Bill', Ceremonial Signing



Historic Signature – Governor Ted Strickland signs Senate Bill 79 in a ceremony involving several self-advocates and other members of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community. The ceremonial bill signing commemorates the July 7 official signing of the bill that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities,

(effective 90 days from signature) as well as the names of local County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

On August 28, the Cabinet Room at the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 40 representatives of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community, including several of the self-advocates from Athens County who spurred the proposal and eventual passage of Senate Bill 79.

Prior to the ceremonial signing, as attendees gathered for the group photograph, Governor Ted Strickland took a moment to recognize and thank the members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate who sponsored and supported the legislation removing the words 'mental retardation,' including Senator Jimmy Stewart, who introduced Senate Bill 79, Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips, who jointly introduced House Bill 118 supporting the same efforts, and Senator Fred Strahorn, a long-time proponent of the bill who introduced similar legislation last year.

Governor Strickland reiterated his support of the bi-partisan legislation, stating,

"I applaud the legislature for working to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation, and I am especially pleased to see the strong participation of Ohio's self advocates in this process."

In addition to the actual signing ceremony, the Governor participated afterward in some more informal photographs and visited with attendees. Among them was Nicholas Miller, an eighth grade student at Marysville Middle School. He received services from a County Board when he was a toddler and, two years ago, had attended a Board meeting asking them to change the name of the agency. Later he attended a formal hearing where he provided public testimony.

According to his mother, "He also thanked the County Board for helping him when he 'had a disability.'" She added that probably the most exciting thing Nicholas had to tell his friends when he returned to school the following Monday was that the Governor wrote him an excuse for missing school to attend the ceremonial signing! (He did.)

About The Bill

[SB 79](#) MRDD ([Stewart](#)) To change the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the name of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and to make similar name changes for the Joint Council on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Developmental Center Closure Commission and certain state and county funds.

[Full Text](#)



Why is Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Jody Harris, sharing a *Pipeline Quarterly* with Governor Strickland? Because, later in the day, the Governor was headed to Athens County to address a group at Diagnostic Hybrids, a company that employs several individuals with disabilities through PersonnelPlus. Interestingly, some of those very individuals had taken the day off work there to attend the ceremonial signing! See [Pipeline Quarterly Winter 2007](#) 

Congratulations to all who assisted in the passage of this important legislation.



[Mount Vernon Developmental Center, 1909-2009](#)

2. MVDC Celebrates a Century of Service

[Mount Vernon Developmental Center](#) (MVDC) is located in Knox County on 310 acres of land. There are nearly 200 residents at the center in 10 different living areas. The majority of people who reside at MVDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The facility serves 'Region 5' in Ohio, which includes the following counties: Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.

Aptly named, the large and many-windowed Great Room in the Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) Administration Building was pleasantly packed on August 19, as well-wishers gathered to commemorate the facility's 100 years of service to the community, and to launch the facility into its second century. According to MVDC Superintendent, Ernie Fischer,

"We are very proud of our 100 years of service to the Knox County community and to the State of Ohio. At Mount Vernon Developmental Center we have a dedicated and caring staff that focus on the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and will continue our mission ... to *'Provide each person opportunities to grow, gain independence, and enjoy life.'*"



The Great Room, exterior view, at the Mount Vernon Developmental Center, administration building.

Visitors ranged from local and state officials to a guest who was a patient at the facility during its days as a tuberculosis sanitarium* in the 1930s. The roomful of guests applauded a program that included some reminiscing, both formal and informal, followed by a general reception.

A Brief History

During its 100-year history, the facility has served four distinct purposes and had four different names. In 1909, the facility was opened as the 'The Ohio State Sanitorium' for people who had tuberculosis, and, in 1945 it would become the 'Mount Vernon State Hospital' (1945-1969), as care for the disease improved and the patient base broadened. In 1969 it became, 'Mount Vernon State Institute' (1969-1979), adding to the facility people with mental retardation and other conditions, and, in 1979 the facility was named 'Mount Vernon Developmental Center.'

Marlene Jones, secretary and long-time member of the MVDC Parents, Friends, and Volunteers Association, reflected on the changes the facility has seen in recent decades. In the 1970s, Jones was one of the founders of the parent support organization, which was designed to do things the state was not able to do, such as make the facility more home-like by providing things like bedspreads, birthday parties, televisions, and games. She noted, "Over time these touches and other activities have helped make the Center a warmer place for patients and families."

Ginnie Whisman, ODMRDD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, addressed the group adding that modernization of the state system has allowed the mission to change from one of 'custodial care' to one of community integration and habilitation. She saluted former and current MVDC employees, noting that although rarely acknowledged as such, they are a part of the civil rights movement by serving as advocates for the rights of people with developmental disabilities. Approximately 420 staff work at MVDC in a variety of service areas.

NOTE: Direct Support Professionals Week is the week of September 14!

A Community Resource

Steve Oster, Superintendent of the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities and MVDC's Citizens Advisory Council chairman, highlighted the importance of the facility as a home for long-term residents, as well as a needed venue to help stabilize individuals needing a short-term stay. And, ODMRDD Director John Martin spoke directly from his own experience of having a son with developmental disabilities. He acknowledged the anxiety involved in sharing a family member with a state facility for fulltime care -- an issue that thousands of families have worked through during MVDC's 100-year history.

Director Martin also read a Proclamation from State Senator Bill Harris, and others were presented by State Representative Mary Ann Ruhl, Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Mavis, and County Commissioners Teresa Bemiller and Robert Wise.

Answering questions from event attendees, Director Martin acknowledged that state budget difficulties remain a challenge and affect everyone. He noted,

"We continue to follow the progress of national trends, but we do not intend to close any Developmental Centers in Ohio. The Department will continue to support those who wish to stay in our facilities, and it will also provide slow, planned, and supported ways for individuals who wish to live independently – in the community – to reach those goals."



Representing the House – State Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl presented ODMRDD Director John Martin, Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman, and MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer an official Proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives.



In the gloriously sunny Great Room at MVDC – retirees and other visitors at the centennial celebration reminisce and enjoy the historical displays.

*For more information about MVDC: Ernie Fischer, Superintendent (740) 393-6225
ernie.fischer@dmr.state.oh.us*

** ‘Sanitarium’ and ‘sanatorium’ refer to the same thing, (an institution devoted to the care and recuperation of people who are ill) however ‘sanatorium’ is a British variant of the word, and is how the institution was named at the time.*

Acknowledgements to ‘A Century of Service,’ compiled and edited by Mary Alice Gordon, and to the Mount Vernon News, Mount Vernon, Ohio.



National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 14 **3. Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others**

This year, the week of September 14 is designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week* - recognizing the important contribution that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community throughout the nation. The designation also provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support

Professionals play every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

Looking around the state there are many examples illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community -- including people generally 'behind-the-scenes,' but certainly in the forefront of peoples' lives.

PATHS, and Paths Followed

Throughout the state, direct support professionals describe their interpersonal relationships as mutually reinforcing, sometimes challenging, and often rewarding. Many have taken Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) courses, also supported within the ODMRDD Futures recommendations, and feel more prepared and empowered after completing the program:

“PATHS participation has made me more conscious of how staff need to do less for individuals and spend more time teaching them to do for themselves, and to have more full lives. That is what we are here for – to help individuals have full, and meaningful, and happier lives.”

- Carla Hugenberg, PATHS graduate



Getting Prepared to Vote – Erica Perkins (left), DSP, and Carol Jean Hughes, as they work together in Hamilton County to help Carol prepare to vote.

“Working with the PATHS program solidified my commitment to continue in this industry and to commit to improving myself as a professional. I believe that the more knowledgeable I am, the more empowered I am to teach and make a real difference in the lives of individuals I serve.”

Diane Gaither Thompson, PATHS CIP* graduate

***Certificate of Initial Proficiency**

“I am dedicated to the goals I have set for myself as a professional who works with people with disabilities. The success of these goals is not measured in dollars but in the satisfaction of knowing that as I traveled this road I was able to support, assist and help others who needed it.”

Phyllis Thomas, PATHS CIP graduate

And from another side of the same path, we have this from the Midwest Services newsletter in Massillon Ohio, where a resident's family member writes,

“We want to commend the direct care staff... Jamie... who has shown an amazing amount of perception and common sense in dealing with both staff and residents. ... The current staff is exceptionally patient, kind and competent in daily care. Angel and Amanda have been there for some time and we appreciate all they do. Last, but not least, Jessica & Jennifer have been invaluable to us from day one. We go to the house at least once a week, sometimes unannounced, and we always find [it] clean, it smells good, the food is good, the atmosphere is peaceful...”

Comments like these help to capture the essence of how much Direct Support Professionals can mean to a family. More in the September 16 issue of *Pipeline*.

“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”

- Sister Mary Rose McGeady

Look for articles illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community in

***Pipeline Quarterly**, publishing later this month.*

*Special acknowledgments to Amy Gerowitz and Debra Easely, representing Ohio PATHS.
For more information: <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>*



Ohio Self Determination Assn. Conference, Sept. 16 & 17

4. OSDA Conference to Spotlight Housing Incentives

On Wednesday, Sept. 16th, day one of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will host noted expert in the field of housing, Bob Laux, who will provide an in-depth training regarding utilization of incentives for housing, including:

- Trusts;
- Federal income tax credits;
- Individual development accounts;
- Shared equity programs;
- Equity investment pools; and,
- American Dream Funds.

In the current economic climate it is more important than ever to access all available funds that can provide supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The informational session is free, and the electronic registration form is at [2009 OSDA Conference Brochure.pub](#).

The Ohio Self Determination Association is making a long-term commitment to improving housing options in Ohio. Thanks to a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council, OSDA also will be hosting Bob Laux for three additional regional followup sessions.

Provider agencies, County Board Service and Support Administration (SSA) Directors, and Housing Directors are especially encouraged to attend.

Participants in the Wednesday morning session will explore the opportunities available using existing economic resources and incentives such as special needs trusts, home ownership in real estate, and individual retirement accounts. The afternoon will be an in-depth session to engage participants’ understanding of how housing and assets can be sought out and developed for people with disabilities.

According to workshop organizers, “This workshop does not have all the answers, but will clearly demonstrate steps and strategies that could work toward helping people achieve home sweet home!”

For more information contact Lee Wedemeyer at lwedemeyer@marioncbmrdd.com



September is National Preparedness Month

5. National Preparedness Month ‘09 Efforts, Statewide

The Ohio Department of Public Safety -- in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security -- sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The overall effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The ODMRDD is among those supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations.



Again this year as last, preparedness opportunities for residents living at the ten Department-operated, community-based Developmental Centers will be emphasized as part of ongoing health and safety efforts, and provider-sponsored safety and preparedness efforts will be encouraged. (see article below)

Trainings for staff, individuals, and families via the national *Ready* campaign include activities that encourage individuals to have an *emergency supply kit*, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them.

Visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials.

More information at www.mrdd.ohio.gov



Speaking of Housing during National Preparedness Month

6. Providing Improved Safety in Residential Settings

North Coast Community Homes (NCCH), a nonprofit housing development corporation with 190 properties serving 928 tenants in Cuyahoga, Lake, Stark, and Summit counties, has created a fire safety committee comprised of parents of tenants, attorneys, residential service providers, insurance consultants, County Board staff, and fire safety experts that goes perhaps further than most such committees to develop a comprehensive fire safety policy for their properties. A specific focus on a fire suppression range hood to minimize the risk of kitchen fires is an example of an outcome for this group.

Focusing on Prevention

The committee adopted a fire safety policy in 1995 mandating that all of their community-based rental properties would have interconnected smoke detection systems, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers. Additionally, and in line with state and local codes, if tenants could not safely evacuate without physical staff assistance, residential sprinkler systems would be installed.

A tragic fire several years ago in a non-NCCH home caused the organization's safety committee to further explore their own record on fire safety, and the records for a nine-year period showed that approximately 80% of fires in their rental properties for people with developmental disabilities were directly the result of cooking.

Project Funding

After a considerable amount of review, the Board of Trustees adopted a policy to install range hood suppression systems in all of the NCCH community based rental properties that had stoves. NCCH committed to install 198 of these units in their properties over a two year period.

The average cost of installation of the Guardian Residential Stove Top Fire Suppression unit is \$1350, or \$259,200 for all 198 units. To help fund the project, NCCH went to the private sector, and to-date, the NCCH has received approval of \$96,000 from eleven Stark and Summit County foundations to support this effort.



How it Works: If a fire starts on a stove, a sensor in the unit activates two spray nozzles under the range hood directly above the surface of the stove. A colorless, odorless gas is discharged on the fire for 90 seconds, extinguishing the fire. Also, the electricity to the stove is automatically shut off. View a video at (http://iflss.net/Guardian_III_video.wmv).

Timing is Everything

According to Steve McPeake, President and CEO of NCCH, while the organization is still in the process of installing these units, it was too late for a home in East Cleveland on March 30, 2009, where a fire started on an unattended stove. He explains, “The fire consumed the kitchen cabinets and destroyed all of the kitchen appliances. The black smoke from the fire not only covered the entire kitchen, but affected all adjoining rooms.” He adds,

“The good news is that no one was hurt and the fire did not spread throughout the house. The bad news is that the extent of the damage was significant, and the estimated cost to rebuild the kitchen was \$34,000. When we rebuild the kitchen we will install a hood fire suppression unit over the stove!”

During September, National Preparedness Month, the focus on ways to improve the safety of individuals with developmental disabilities who are living in the community continues to be on

minimizing the risks involved in everyday living, as well as on being prepared for emergencies. While there are no guarantees, efforts such as these by an organized safety committee can result in an increased level of protection for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, statewide.

Contact: Stephen McPeake, North Coast Community Homes, (216) 662-1880, smcpeake@ncch.org



Department Update

7. Changes Within Medicaid Development & Administration

In order to provide better customer service and efficiency to the field, there have been some recent organizational changes in the ODMRDD Division of Medicaid Development & Administration (MDA). In reorganizing, MDA hopes to simplify processes in several areas, both within the Department, and when assisting others.

According to MDA Deputy Director, Patrick Stephan, “For example, the Department’s Claims Services Unit, lead by Debbie Hoffine, is now under MDA. In addition, we also have absorbed Provider Certification, lead by Sally Clingman. We are excited to have the opportunity to work more collaboratively now with these units in order to provide the best possible customer service to the field.”

For a list of specific contacts, visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/resources.htm>.

Also in line with a strong desire to provide improved support and assistance to the field, MDA has recently initiated a monthly recognition opportunity. Patrick Stephan notes,

“If there is a staff member in MDA who stands out to you as having provided excellent customer service, we would like to hear about it. Please contact Angel Morgan at Angelia.Morgan@dmr.state.oh.us, and simply provide the name of the person you are recommending and the reason why this person deserves positive recognition.”

For more concerning Medicaid Development and Administration, including an overview of Medicaid and other recently updated information, visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/>.



8. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention/Awareness



These babies are happy to report that Governor Strickland has designated September as
September as
“National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and other alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery, Governor Ted Strickland has designated September 2009 as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio.

Ohio's FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is especially focused on raising awareness that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.

FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

FASD is 100 percent preventable!



Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of preventable birth defects, learning disabilities, attention deficits, mental retardation, and behavior disorders.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary disabilities such as substance abuse issues and disrupted school experiences, and help families better understand and cope.

The ODMRDD works closely with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) in support of Ohio's FASD Initiative to promote a message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies. In recognition of FASD Awareness Month, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities children's programs will be receiving from the ODMRDD a copy of the Governor's Proclamation.

Under ODADAS' leadership, several state agencies, including the ODMRDD, have formed the Statewide FASD Steering Committee. The Committee's primary goals are public awareness and specific education and training for agencies, organizations, and professionals.

The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from nine state agencies, providers, and parents. The mission is to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address and prevent FASD.

According to ODADAS Director Angela Cornelius Dawson, "Healthy children are the most important resource in the great State of Ohio. FASD Awareness and Prevention Month increases understanding for those individuals and families affected, and through greater awareness, seeks to minimize further effects, ensuring healthier communities across the state."

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

Each year, as many as 40,000 babies are born with FASD, costing the nation about \$4 billion, according to the FASD Center for Excellence. In Ohio, Department of Health officials estimate that FASD affects approximately one in 100 births at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300 million

annually for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and mental health services, foster care, and unemployment.*

**Larry Burd, PhD., noted FASD expert from the University of North Dakota has developed an FASD Prevalence and Cost Calculator for states based on 18 years of research. Using Ohio's population and the number of live births, the 1 in 100 figure and \$300 million/year cost were calculated. Source: www.online-clinic.com/Content/Materials/calculator.asp*



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are online at the ODMRDD website event calendar, accessed from the lower bar 'calendar' on the homepage, at https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. The ARC of Ohio Sponsors "It Starts with Me, Advocacy in 2009"

The ARC of Ohio is sponsoring an advocacy event on Friday, September 11, at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. 'It Starts with Me, Advocacy 2009' will feature keynote speaker, Dave Rastoka, with a presentation titled, 'You're Walking, Talking, and Breathing, But are You Really Alive? – 10 Rules to a Happy Life.' The full day of informational presentations includes, 'The System,' with The ARC of Ohio's executive director, Gary Tonks, providing a roadmap for getting what you need when you need it. The 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. event includes lunch.

For registration and more information: The Arc of Ohio, (614) 487-4720, arcohio@rrohio.com



2. Reminder: Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Grant Funds Available

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') has available \$608,000 in grant funds for 2010. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a variety of projects listed at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Grant/10COM.htm>.

Carolyn Knight, Acting Director of the DD Council, explains that all grant awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Applicants must provide cash or in-kind 'matching' funds of 33.33% in non-poverty areas and 11.11% in poverty areas.

Grant applications will be processed using a new online submission process, which will be made available on September 3, 2009. Training on the new submission process will be offered.

Deadline for submissions will be Friday, October 2, 2009.

For more information: Carla.Sykes@dmr.state.oh.us



3. Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS)

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) Annual Conference 2009, 'Stimulating Ideas for Challenging Times' is September 29-30 at the Westin Hotel in Columbus. The OAAS is a not-for-profit organization that represents member County Boards in the developmental disabilities community, statewide. Highlights of the conference include a keynote address by Patti Mitchell, internationally known Ohio artist/photographer formerly associated with the Athens County PassionWorks Studio, as well as several sessions on the subject of the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#).

OAAS provides a network of resources and technical assistance for the management and operation of adult services programs.

For more information or to register for the conference: www.oaas.org



4. Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or fish1@osu.edu.



5. Editor's Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write

UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
ODMRDD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.

After October 5, 2009



Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

***After October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 19

- 1. Ohio's Direct Support Professionals in the Spotlight This Week
- 2. Carolyn Knight Named Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Director
- 3. Ohio Self Determination Association Conference Encourages *A Life Without Limits*
- 4. National Preparedness Month – Tips on Preparedness for People with Disabilities
- 5. Next Chapter Book Club Writes the Book on It
- 6. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Awareness Efforts

See *Pipeline PostScripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

Saluting Ohio's Direct Support Professionals

[This is National Direct Support Professionals Week](#)

1. Ohio's Direct Support Professionals in the Spotlight

As noted in the September 2 issue of *Pipeline*, the week of September 14 is *National Direct Support Professionals Week* -- recognizing the important contribution that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in communities throughout the nation. The designation also provides an opportunity to spotlight the role Direct Support Professionals play, every day, in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, as well as the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

In her role as Deputy Director for Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers, Ginnie Whisman is well aware of the critical role of DSP's the the lives of people with developmental disabilities. She comments,

"Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of our service delivery system. The quality of our services begins and ends with them. Our system could not function without these dedicated and caring professionals, and we are proud to recognize and honor them at our Developmental Centers for their tireless efforts in working with the individuals we are entrusted to serve."

Following are just a few examples from around the state illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. While many consider themselves to be generally 'behind-the-scenes,' they are in the forefront of peoples' lives, and we salute their efforts.

In Guernsey County ...

From Janice Hall, Executive Director at Guernsey Residential, we received a great photo and short written piece ... “On August 12, 2009, when Guernsey Residential, Inc. staff member, Rob May, decided to “pop the question” to his girlfriend, Morgan Neuhart, he enlisted the help of his friends – Vaughn, Randy, David and Charlie (pictured below).



Their intentions are clear! Vaughn (WILL), Randy (YOU), David (MARRY) and Charlie (ME) Note the open engagement ring box skillfully displayed.

Because the Guernsey Residential, Inc. direct support staff work seven days on and seven days off, the schedule promotes a family style atmosphere. All four guys were very excited to invite Morgan to be a part of their family.

Morgan tells everyone ‘how sweet’ the proposal was and that she has ‘five fiancés’. Rob wanted to include ‘his family’ in this because, as he stated, “I spend so much time with the guys that it was important to me that they be involved.”

Rob and Morgan tied the knot on September 5, 2009. Congratulations to the now-extended family on a successful and original proposal!

In Champaign County ...

April 10, 2009 was truly a “Good Friday” for Ernest Lewis in Lima, Ohio, when he received a much needed-kidney at the Ohio State University Medical Center. Direct Support Professionals at Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) played an important part in this day, and continue to support him following it.

Ernest has been on a kidney donor/recipient list for three years and on dialysis three days per week during that time.



Ernest is feeling good again – DSP, Rebecca Dotson (left) and Ernest Lewis prepare dinner with Dena Willett, program administrator.

Allen County program administrator Dena Willett, notes, “The call (about the donor availability) came late at night. Staff was surprised and very excited for Ernest. DSP Jermel Hayes was called to quickly transport Lewis to Ohio State, where the awaiting kidney required immediate action. All of this came together as smoothly as possible.”

Because he is now a kidney recipient, Ernest’s dietary needs are closely monitored by staff -- including Jermel Hayes, Rebecca Dotson, and home manager Annie Jones – who work with him to assure that his diet restricts salt, sodium, and caffeine use, along with controlling potassium levels. Interim Nursing Care is also contracted to provide medication administration and to carefully monitor the anti-rejection medications.

According to staff at CRSI, Lewis is doing well following “Good Friday,” and looks forward to being able to do the things he loves with more energy -- including bowling, fishing, and working in the yard. He’s also an OSU Buckeye fan, and works at Marimore Industries in Lima. Ernest says he’s very happy to be done with dialysis, adding,

“I feel much better and work in the yard a lot. Before, I got tired a lot.”

Thanks to CRSI staff for this positive “Good Friday” story.

In Cuyahoga County ...

Sibylla Linden of Grand Manner, Inc. provides this look at the work of DSP’s: The Martin House Clinical Treatment Program is designed to house and support individuals with developmental disabilities who have a history of specific sexual-offense behaviors, and is a collaborative project between Grand Manner and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Martin House was the first residence in the County to serve this specifically identified population, and the Treatment Program* now incorporates not only offender-specific interventions, but also offers more traditional rehabilitative learning opportunities.

Dual goals of the program are prevention of re-offending and ensuring community safety. Staffing is twenty-four hours every day, 365 days per year, with a ratio of three staff/four individuals during waking hours. DSPs at Martin House practice a Relapse Prevention model and incorporate a cognitive behavioral approach.

An individual’s relapse prevention plan incorporates a variety of formal and informal mutually-reinforcing interventions. The program also works with individuals to improve academic skills and secure employment.

Kenneth is a successful 'graduate' of the Martin House Treatment Program. He entered the treatment program in 1999 at age 18, and progressed gradually. In 2002, with ongoing staff support and guidance, Ken was 'graduated' with a high school diploma from a Cleveland Public Schools-sponsored Life Skills program confirming that he had mastered basic academic skills.

In 2006 Ken and another individual moved into an apartment. Both are served through the Individual Options Waiver, with services provided by Grand Manner, Inc. At this point one of Ken's greatest challenges had been securing and maintaining employment. Despite job search assistance, Ken was unable to keep jobs due to his impulsive social behavior. He worked in some community-based jobs, but had difficulty focusing on tasks.

Ultimately, to ensure that he received supports based on needs, Grand Manner created a specific job for Ken, within their system. He is now responsible for the pick-up of food orders from a warehouse and delivering the orders to thirteen different ICFMR locations. In this supported employment arrangement, Grand Manner staff transport Ken and another client to the warehouse and then on to each of the thirteen locations.



Ken, on the job. Ken was pleased as could be to have his photo taken while putting in a good day's work.

According to Sybilla, "Ken's apartment and his job in the community offer him not only an earned paycheck, but also have enhanced Ken's self-esteem and feelings of independence. He has re-connected with a few family members and enjoys some weekends visiting with them." She adds,

"Ken says he hopes to someday obtain his driver's license, and has been taking driving lessons. He is now a real part of the community, rather than being isolated from it."

When Ken reviewed this article about him, he grinned broadly -- and approved it.

**For more information on the Martin House Clinical Treatment Program, contact Sibylla S. Linden, Grand Manner, Inc., at 440-428-9082.*

In Hamilton County ...

Ruth Waldron, a Hamilton County graduate of the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) program, who has earned the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP), has this to say regarding her work:

"I can't think of a more fulfilling and meaningful occupation than serving people with disabilities and helping them to live full and meaningful lives. Not every day is easy

working in this field; however the sense of satisfaction that I get making a difference in another person's life makes it all worthwhile."



Ruth Waldron, Hamilton County DSP and graduate of PATHS

Graduates of PATHS, the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, can earn a Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) as a first-level credential, and a Certificate of Advanced proficiency as a second-level credential. The ODMRDD also supports PATHS participation as part of the continuing work on several Futures Committee recommendations. For more information about PATHS, go to <http://www.ohiopaths.org/>



Across The State, REM Honors Its Own

Carla Parker, state director for REM Ohio, a provider of services to adults with developmental disabilities headquartered in Akron, had this to say regarding the celebration of Direct Support Professionals Week:

"DSPs enable our most fragile citizens and their families to live healthy and productive lives in their communities. Our DSPs provide services for hundreds of residents and their families everyday, throughout the state. National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week is but one way we all can demonstrate gratitude for what they unselfishly do for so many."

REM Ohio's regional administrators requested nominations from across the state recognizing DSPs who have gone 'above and beyond' in serving the people they care for each day.

The following DSPs will receive special recognition during National DSP Awareness Week:

- **Northern Region:** Phadera Clayton, Cleveland; Kara Francisco, Lyndhurst; Vendetta Hobson, Richmond Heights; Gabriele Biederman, Cleveland; Sara Morris, Cleveland; Tonya Jones, Cleveland; Marquette Miller, Euclid; and Cynthia Alexander, Euclid; Lori Ashley, Lorain; Charlene Felix, Lorain; Alecia Watchorn, Oberlin; Emmanuel Adika, Lorain.
- **Eastern Region:** Carlysa Williams, Akron; Shawn Williams, Canton; Laura Miller, Uniontown; Dorothy Loftin, Akron; Ericka White, Akron; Alice King, Akron; and Keith Hudson, Akron.; Christina Carlson, Akron; Julanna Harrison, Warren; Sandra Sparks, Akron and Elaine Ramsey, Canton.

- **Central Region:** Karen Lawson, Columbus; Emma Wetzel, Centerburg; Tonya Reeves, Columbus; Mary Jones, Delaware; Eva Kistler, Pleasantville; Christine Wright, Lancaster; Marie Robinson, Akron; Nancy Phillips, Pleasantville; Janet Stoneking, New Concord; Cliff Wood, Bloomingdale; Joni Burnem, Uhrichsville; and Sandy Moore, Cambridge.

National DSP Recognition Week also focuses attention on the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) National Advocacy Campaign and its mission to promote support of House Resolution (HR) 868, the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act of 2009. HR 868 helps address DSP workforce issues by giving states an option to secure additional federal dollars to improve wages for the direct support workforce who care for people with disabilities. For more information go to www.rem-oh.com.

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

Special thanks to Missy Craddock, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), for her assistance in coordinating information for this observance of Direct Support Professionals Week.

Look for articles illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community in

***Pipeline Quarterly**, publishing later this month.*



2. Carolyn Knight Named Executive Director, Developmental Disabilities Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (“DD Council”) has named Carolyn Knight Executive Director. She has been serving the organization as Acting Executive Director since late 2008, upon the retirement of Dave Zwyer.

Prior to her appointment as the agency’s Acting Director, Carolyn was Executive Director of Ohio Legal Rights Service, and was a DD Council member participating actively on various Council committees, including the Outreach Committee.



Carolyn Knight – Executive Director, Ohio DD Council.

As Executive Director, Carolyn will oversee the DD Council's many grant programs and the interactions between staff and grantees, including a focus on assuring that underserved and previously unserved populations receive the information and support they need. Outreach to underserved/unserved populations has become one of Council's strongest efforts over the past several years.

Accepting the Executive Director position, Carolyn commented,

“My hope is to give people with disabilities and their families a strong and unified voice on the myriad of issues that affect their lives. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve in this way with the DD Council.”

In a recent *Reach Out e-Diversity* newsletter [E-Diversity](#), a publication made available through a Council grant, Carolyn shared her perspective regarding the developmental disabilities community, noting, “When we join together, the power of our community to transform our own lives lies not only in the causes we share, but among the solutions we provide.”

Congratulations to Carolyn Knight in her new role as the Ohio DD Council's Executive Director.

Reminder: DD Council Grant Funds Available

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') has available \$608,000 in grant funds for 2010. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a variety of projects listed at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Grant/10COM.htm>, a new online submission process.

All grant awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Applicants must provide cash or in-kind 'matching' funds of 33.33% in non-poverty areas and 11.11% in poverty areas.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, October 2, 2009.

For more information: Carla.Sykes@dmr.state.oh.us



Ohio Self Determination Assn. Conference

3. OSDA Conference Encourages 'A Life Without Limits'

On September 15, day one of the two-day Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, organization representative Lee Wedemeyer provided opening remarks encouraging the more than 275 attendees to, “Gain knowledge, share knowledge, and empower other people to lead a life without limits. That's what we're here for!”

His comments were an excellent springboard to the keynote address by Harvey Alston, an energetic, nationally-known motivational speaker, who challenged everyone to, “Be the best you can be!” After warming up the crowd with some interactive audience participation and discussion, he asked everyone in the room to raise their hands if they thought they could work harder at being their best. Hundreds of hands immediately shot up.

With hands waving everywhere, Alston then invited attendees to show appreciation for the Direct Support Professionals and others in the room who help self-advocates to be their best – and invited them to “Give it up for DSP's!” Enthusiastic applause and a few hoots and hollers ensued, and several spontaneous hugs were shared.

Alston's words of encouragement, and examples of how to get to where you want to be in life, "No matter what your circumstances are," were clearly taken to heart, as the session ended and the room was filled with excited conversations. Perhaps most noteworthy was the general friendliness, respect, and courtesy shown by the large group of conference attendees as they filed out to the vendor information tables and socialized before lunch. Random snippets of conversation included,

"Like Harvey said, I'm gonna work harder in my job."
"Where do you work?"
"Kroger. I'm a bagger."
"I'm a bagger, too!"
"Yeah?"
"Yeah!"
"Cool."

"I hope they have a pepper mill. I like cracked pepper, not the powdery kind. It has no taste."
"I like cracked pepper, too."

"I'm gonna sneeze."
"Sneeze into your elbow!" (he did)
"Bless you!"
"Thank you."

"Where are we going for dinner?"
"We haven't even had lunch yet!"
"OK."

Lunchtime at OSDA includes an awards program, during which the ESDY awards are given to individuals and/or groups who have distinguished themselves in the areas of self advocacy, or advocating for the developmental disabilities community in general. Individuals honored this year were Tom Fish, Robert Schumak, Diana Mairose, Sharon Travis, Scott Weikle, Odis Lewis and Sarah Fresch. The Steven Cooley Award was earned by a large group of self advocates from Athens County (see photo), who were instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 79, [SB 79](#) which removes the words 'mental retardation' from the name of Ohio agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities.



Looks Like They Were Motivated! – Motivational speaker Harvey Alston (far right) works with OSDA conference participants to illustrate what it takes for people to be happy with themselves. The letter boards spelling out 'H-A-P-P-Y' were then flipped to show related words including Attitude, People, and Pride.



Winners of the coveted Steven Cooley Self Determination Award – Athens County self advocates gather for a group photo. The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities representatives earned the award by being persistent and clear in their desire to have the words ‘mental retardation’ dropped from the names of Ohio agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities. Judging from the passage of SB79, the ‘Name Change Bill’, and according to participants, “It worked! We did it.”

Day two of the OSDA conference (today) will feature noted expert in the field of housing, Bob Laux, who will provide an in-depth training regarding utilization of incentives for housing. OSDA has made a long-term commitment to improving housing options in Ohio, and a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will allow Bob to return for three additional regional followup sessions.

For more information about OSDA, contact Lee Wedemeyer at lwedemeyer@marioncbmrdd.com or visit <http://www.ohiosda.org/>



September, National Preparedness Month

4. Tips on Preparedness for People with Disabilities

For the millions of Americans who have physical and/or cognitive disabilities, emergencies such as fires, floods, and other major safety concerns present specific challenges beyond those that may be routinely considered. The same challenges also may apply to elderly individuals and other ‘special needs’ populations.

A booklet developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the National Organization on Disability, titled [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special ...](#) can help prepare an emergency plan to protect these individuals, their families, caregivers and others in their support network in the event of an emergency. The booklet reminds direct service staff, especially, to:

Post the plan where everyone will see it, keep a copy with you, and make sure everyone involved in the plan has a copy.

In addition to the preparedness information offered through The Ohio Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other sponsors of National Preparedness Month, local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are ‘on board’ encouraging individuals served locally to prepare for emergencies in their homes and workplaces.

For example, the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities has prepared a one-page Emergency Preparedness flyer which may be accessed at [Be Prepared](#) and serves as a guide and reminder – including simple text and clean graphics.



Keep these items in a “Grab and Go” bag near your bed:

First aid kit, flashlight, radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned goods/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of your medical conditions, and emergency contact phone numbers. If you need to leave your home, take a one week supply of medications with you.

In training for staff working in the developmental disabilities community over the past few years, Ann Weisent, with the ODMRDD Office of Provider Standards and Review, has focused on activities that encourage individuals to have an emergency supply kit, an emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them. She explains,

“It’s so important to talk about these things when you’re preparing a person’s Individual Service Plan with them – so that everyone involved in that person’s circle of support has the same information, and knows it’s been discussed.”

For more information, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials.

NOTE: Also supporting emergency preparedness, information about the H1N1 virus (swine flu) is available on the ODMRDD website at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/H1N1SwineFluInformation.htm> and is updated regularly at <http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/provide/emergency-preparedness/index.shtml>, the Ohio Department of Health’s website.



5. Next Chapter Book Club Writes the Book On It!

On Saturday, September 12, a ‘book signing’ was hosted by Barnes & Noble at Columbus’ Easton Towne Center, celebrating the publishing of a book about the Next Chapter Book Clubs (NCBCs) -- a model community literacy program for people with developmental disabilities.

Authors Tom Fish and Paula Rabidoux, with Jillian Ober and Vicki Graff, hosted the book-signing event marking a new chapter in the life of this exciting statewide, national, and now international program. Barnes & Noble was packed with NCBC participants along with their families and friends, dozens of books were signed and purchased, and readings by both new and seasoned readers were a part of the literary excitement. Congratulations to all involved!

Look for more on this story, including more photos, in the *Summer 2009* issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing later this month.





On the Same Page – Jillian Ober (left) and Vicki Graff, two of the Next Chapter Book Club ‘gurus’, at the Book Signing event.



6. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Awareness Efforts

During Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month, the centers for Disease Control website <http://cdc.gov/cdctv/> is hosting a video titled “The Story of Iyal,” wherein a mother tells her compelling and personal story of her child, and her families’ experience of living with FASD. The video brings home the FASD message ...

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is focused on raising awareness that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.



<http://www.notasingledrop.org/>

Statewide efforts to ‘get the word out’ on the subject include a collaborative effort by the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services and several other county agencies, who pulled together a three-day community information and education program addressing FASD this month. A link at http://www.wdtn.com/subindex/participate/need_2_know shows a related video/story about FASD, and was aired on Dayton’s local Ch. 2 WDTN. Montgomery County’s program involved several speakers who addressed numerous FASD issues targeting the medical community, education staff, professional staff in the developmental disabilities field and interested family members.

For more information: Tim Pfister, Community Relations Specialist, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services, tpfister@mcmrdd.org.



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the ODMRDD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. DD Council Conference to Focus on Healthcare Reform

Join people with disabilities, their families, advocates, and others in learning about health care reform, both nationally and in Ohio, and how to advocate for better health services at the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) conference October 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. Look for more information in *Pipeline* during October.

Contact: Mary Smithson msmithson@wowway.com at DD Council.



2. Georgetown University Releases *Knowledge Path*, Focusing on Children with Special Needs

Children with Special Health Care Needs: Knowledge Path is an electronic guide to programs and other resources that are family-centered, community-based, and culturally competent on the subject of children with special health care needs. This new edition of *Knowledge Path*, produced by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Library at Georgetown University, contains information on websites, publications, databases, and social media for health professionals, program administrators, policymakers, educators, researchers, and families. Separate sections address specific aspects of care and development, such as early intervention and education, financing services, rehabilitation, screening, and transition. *Knowledge Path* is updated periodically, and is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_cshcn.html.



3. Reminder: Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS)

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) Annual Conference 2009, 'Stimulating Ideas for Challenging Times' is September 29-30 at the Westin Hotel in Columbus. The OAAS is a not-for-profit organization that represents member County Boards in the developmental disabilities community, statewide. Highlights of the conference include a keynote address by Patti Mitchell, internationally known Ohio artist/photographer formerly associated with the Athens County PassionWorks Studio, as well as several sessions on the subject of the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#). OAAS provides a network of resources and technical assistance for the management and operation of adult services programs.

For more information or to register for the conference: www.oaas.org



4. Reminder: Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or fish1@osu.edu.



5. Editor's Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental

disabilities, and usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in some publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
ODMRDD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

After October 5, 2009



Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

*This is the last issue of *Pipeline* under the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities name. Beginning with the October 14 issue, it will be published under the new Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities name.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities), and DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.

Wednesday, September 30, 2009
Volume 3, Issue 20

- 1. Frances Strickland to Lead Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration, October 8th
 - 2. *The 2010-2011 Workplan*: Series Begins in October
 - 3. Grants Totaling \$6.7 Million to Provide Targeted Employment and Training Opportunities
 - 4. Family Advisory Council Weighs-In on Family Care Service, Waivers, and More
 - 5. *Partners in Policy Making* Annual Conference, October 9-10
 - 6. Looking Back at National Direct Support Professionals Week
 - 7. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Annual Conference to Focus on Health Care Reform
- See *Pipeline PostScripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

1. First Lady Frances Strickland to Lead Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration, October 8th

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland will lead Ohio's celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday, October 8, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (in case of rain: Statehouse Atrium). The event is free and open to the public. The theme for this year's celebration is,

“Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business.”

The celebration, sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, will include recognition of several American Recovery & Reinvestment Act stimulus projects, and local Pathways Partners that are working to strengthen Ohio's statewide network of disability employment services.

RSC is the state agency charged with helping Ohioans with disabilities obtain jobs, and helping businesses recruit and retain these workers. The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is a 21-member council that advises the Governor and General Assembly on disability issues.

Featured during the event will be:

- Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland, *Keynote speaker*

- RSC Administrator, Michael Rench
- School for the Deaf, ‘signing’ the Pledge of Allegiance
- Ohio workers with disabilities and their employers
- Display featuring assistive technology
- Artwork from the Hattie Larlham Creative Arts School, Akron Ohio



National Disability Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the diverse talents that employees with disabilities bring to the workforce.

For more information about the event, contact Brenda Rhodes at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, (800) 282-4536 ext. #1475, or visit their website at www.rsc.state.oh.us .

History

Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” President Harry S. Truman designated the (now former) President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the law. Congress changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” in 1988. The responsibility for leading the nationwide recognition was transferred to the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in 2001.

Related Information

ODEP and the U.S. Employment and Training Administration have issued a *Training and Employment Notice* and disseminated a *White Paper* and *Toolkit* which focus on Expanding Apprenticeship Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities. Visit ODEP's new [Apprenticeship](#) page, where you will find links to the *Training and Employment Notice*, the *White Paper*, the *Toolkit* and a press release announcing the cooperative agreement awards.

Free Disability Employment Awareness Month Posters at:
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/ndeam2009poster.htm>



2. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Series Begins in October

Simplify the Waiver System ... Plan for Fiscal Sustainability ... Plant the Seeds of a Positive Culture ... What are the priorities and plans for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, as we move -- with our new name -- into 2010-2011?

Following completion of the biennial budget process earlier this summer, we developed a framework to impact priority issues needing to be addressed, and in compliance with budgetary constraints. This priority Work Plan has been developed and will be discussed with various stakeholders throughout Ohio’s developmental disability community. It is designed to improve supports and services, while streamlining the overall system.

Some priority areas contained in the Work Plan have developed through the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee, and represent work that is ongoing, while other priority areas have developed via specific stakeholder feedback, or budgetary constraints. Priority issues include simplification of the waiver services system, a plan for fiscal sustainability, and creating a statewide environment that fosters the tenets of the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#).

Beginning in October, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will publish a series of articles in *Pipeline* that will highlight our top priority areas. The Work Plan is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. We look forward to sharing this information with you!

[Look for *The 2010-2011 Work Plan*, beginning in October, in *Pipeline*.](#)



3. Grants Totaling \$6.7 Million to Provide Employment and Training Opportunities via Urban Youth Works Grants

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will use \$6.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to provide employment and training opportunities to Ohio's urban youth through Urban Youth Works grants to 16 organizations -- including the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (new name is grant-funded entity).

ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin stated, "These funds will provide assistance to a vulnerable sector of our society and give these youth an opportunity to take a new, positive direction in their lives. I am grateful to the Obama administration and members of Congress who advocated for the stimulus bill and these resources."

The various programs funded by the grants will target youth who may be:

- Disengaged from the educational system
- In or 'aging out of' the foster care system
- Affected by having developmental disabilities
- Migrant youth
- Homeless and/or runaway youth
- Youth offenders
- Children of incarcerated parents

These groups have been targeted due to histories of high unemployment. Youth ages 16-24 and living at or below 200% of the poverty level are eligible to participate.

[Each of the programs funded will remove barriers to youth employment by offering services such as career counseling, skill assessment, job readiness preparation, education, training, and job search assistance. More than 1500 youth are expected to benefit from these services.](#)

As an example, the 'Internships that Work Initiative' will provide funds for youth with disabilities, youthful offenders with disabilities, and disengaged youth, to receive short term on-the-job training internships from community employers in the Dayton and Toledo areas. The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) initiative will build upon work funded by the Medicaid

Infrastructure Grant (funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), with which the DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) are currently partnering to improve outcomes for young people with disabilities.

These initiatives also further the implementation of the Futures Committee recommendations to create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Grant awards, ranging from \$168,000 to \$500,000 will be made to the following organizations: Alvis House (Columbus); Berea Children's Home (Berea); Cleveland Christian Home (Cleveland); the Easter Seals Resource Center (Cincinnati); Flying High, Inc. (Youngstown); Harbor, Inc. (Toledo); Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (Cleveland); Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation (Columbus); Project Rebuild Community Vocational High School (Cincinnati); The Employment Source (Canton); Workforce Investment Board of Lucas County (Toledo); Urban League of Greater Cincinnati (Cincinnati); *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (Columbus)*; Towards Employment, Inc. (Cleveland); Unified Health Solutions (Dayton); and Zeigler Habilitation Homes, Inc. (Toledo).

Funding will be distributed in October, to launch services to youth through December 31, 2010.



4. Family Advisory Council Weighs-In on Family Care Service, Individual Option Waiver, and More

The September 22 meeting of the ODMRDD Family Advisory Council (FAC) initiated a new meeting site, as well as welcomed several new individuals and families from across the state. In fact, 27 counties were represented at the meeting held at the new Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) location, 470 Glenmont Ave. in Columbus, which provided a larger meeting room (gymnasium) and ample accessible parking. This now will be 'home' for FAC meetings, as the space at Columbus Developmental Center was becoming too cramped for the growing number of meeting attendees.

Meeting planner and Family Advocate Peggy Martin noted, "There were nearly 100 people at this meeting, and the OCALI location worked out very well in terms of accommodating the growing participation in this group – we are grateful to OCALI for their support in offering this location to us." She added,

"With 27 counties represented, we are excited about the 'statewideness' of participation."



Morning agenda items included ODMRDD Director John Martin's 'family chat' session, and a spirited discussion regarding options under consideration for Family Care Service and the

Individual Options Waiver. Patrick Stephan, Medicaid Development and Administration Deputy Director, also shared material in the early discussion phase regarding Medicaid initiatives in the context of overall planning, for review by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at the end of the calendar year. He stated,

“There are a number of things we are considering in the interest of finding creative ways to share costs and services, and to assure comparable services, statewide.”

The afternoon agenda included helpful information from Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) representative, Karla Rinto, and from Ohio Legal Rights staff on the subject of Family Support Issues.

For more information about the Family Advisory Council, visit the Department’s website at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm> or contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us; or by phone at (614) 466-8706.

The next meeting of the Family Advisory Council will be November 17, at the new OCALI location, 470 Glenmont Avenue, Columbus.



5. Ohio Partners in Policymaking Annual Meeting Oct. 9-10

The Fifth Annual *Ohio Partners in Policymaking* (PIP) meeting will be held at the *Hyatt on Capitol Square* in Columbus, October 9 – 10. The theme is,

Charting a Course for Leadership: Discovering hidden links and new relationships.

The gathering’s overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates.

Partners in Policymaking is an internationally recognized leadership program that prepares parents, other family members, and adults with developmental disabilities to advocate effectively and knowledgeably with policy and decision makers on the local, state and national levels. These advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members in the forefront of public policy decisions.

Graduates learn to ‘partner with policymakers.’

Keynote speakers will be Bryon Murray -- self-advocate from Utah, owner of his own consulting company, and author of *“Putting the Puzzle Together: The Bryon Murray Story,”* and Michael Flannery -- a former stand-up comedian from Cincinnati, TV reporter and news anchor at WCPO-TV, and currently the Information Officer for Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries.

In 2007, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council recognized the need to coordinate this growing group of more than 150 PIP graduates, and build on their expertise. They established the role of Statewide Coordinator to locate past graduates, create a networking contact system, energize and facilitate their advocacy activities, and coordinate the Annual meeting. Essie Pederson and Linda Kunick are Ohio’s Statewide Coordinators.



Scenes from last year's Partners in Policymaking gathering.

For more information about Partners in Policymaking or the Annual Gathering, contact Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhcorp.org.

PIP Training Opportunity – Imagine the Possibilities

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2010. The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities, and for parents of children who are under age 12 and have a disability. The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets are available online at http://www.cmr-cleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm, by calling Partners in Policymaking at (216) 622-0755, ext. 14, or email efakan@thearcofgreatercleveland.org for more information.



Looking Back at National Direct Support Professionals Week

6. Ohio's Direct Support Professionals in the Spotlight

As noted in previous issues of *Pipeline*, the week of September 14th was *National Direct Support Professionals Week* -- recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in communities throughout the nation and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages. At our ten state-operated Developmental Centers, the spirit of appreciation was shown in a variety of ways -- a few of which are shared here:



Columbus Developmental Center Direct Care Professionals Honored at September Event.
 (l. to r.) Rob Capaldi, Naomi Bankes, Katie Kraner, Bill Bone, and Nicki Cross hugging Patty Johnson.

Years of Service pins were presented to staff earning five, ten, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service as well as to retiring employees. Chrysanthemum plants and mugs for certain years of service and retirees are purchased courtesy of fundraisers and not with state funds.
Thanks to Katie Kraner at CDC, for the submitted photo.

Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) staff were recognized for years of service during a September ‘Community Care Day’ event at the site’s outdoor shelter house. Ice cream sundaes and cake topped off the event, also attended by CDC residents who applauded enthusiastically for their favorite staff members. Judging from the sound of it, everyone was their favorite! Thanks to all who made this a special event for Direct Support Professionals and other staff.

Gallipolis Developmental Center

Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) celebrated Direct Support Professionals Week by providing snack baskets to each work area for employees on all three work-shifts. Snacks were provided by the Employee Recognition Committee. Baskets included an assortment of fruit, crackers, cookies, chips, and other treats, as well as soda, water, and juice. Each employee also received a thank you note recognizing them for their efforts and dedication in providing residents with quality care and support. Brenda Mershon at GDC noted, “Our direct care employees were appreciative and happy to receive a free snack to see them through the day. A little ‘thank you’ goes a long way!”

Montgomery Developmental Center

In recognition of National Direct Service Professionals Week, executive staff at Montgomery Developmental Center distributed cookies to all Therapeutic Program Workers (TPWs) in their residential locations, on each shift. Each TPW also was presented with a homemade ‘Thank You’ card, designed by the residents at the Center. (See below)



Thanks to all Direct Support Professionals throughout Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Community.



7. DD Council Conference to Focus on Healthcare Reform

People with disabilities, their families, advocates, and others will learn about health care reform, both nationally and in Ohio, and how to advocate for better health services, at the Annual Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Conference on October 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Columbus.

Why is Health Care Reform So Important for People with Disabilities?

People with disabilities have a big stake in the current debate to make quality, affordable health care available for all. Major health care reform must address the needs of the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities, including such issues as:

- Pre-existing conditions
- Affordability
- Portability
- Preventive Services
- Cost caps
- Long-term care

People with disabilities have unique experiences that qualify them to speak about chronic conditions, and the inefficiencies and exclusions of the current health care system. Conference attendees, including people with disabilities and advocates, should bring solutions to the table that strengthen health care efforts for all.

Co-hosts for the Annual DD Council Conference are the Nisonger Center, The Ohio State University, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Cincinnati. Registration information is available from the Axis Center at axiscenter@aol.co. Registration for the conference is \$35, and includes lunch.

For more information, contact: Mary Smithson msmithson@wowway.com



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the ODMRDD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Information Session for Domestic Violence and Disability Service Providers

On Monday, November 2, a brown bag lunchtime (noon – 1:30 p.m.) information session for domestic violence and disability service providers will be hosted at the Old Worthington Library, 820 N. High Street in Worthington, focusing on a subject that, according to one co-convener, “Does not get discussed very often, and needs to be addressed.”

Attendees will learn more about and discuss issues surrounding the vulnerability of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities – especially concerning people who may try to take advantage of their vulnerability.

According to Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, ‘This is a subject we need to talk about. People who have learned to be compliant to get what they want or need can be more easily manipulated and taken advantage of – might not know it’s OK and necessary to not be compliant in certain situations, or to report certain behaviors that are directed to them. It’s a health and safety issue to be sure.’

The session also will address caregiver abuse – a subject some providers may feel uncomfortable addressing or acknowledging – yet it exists, and being educated helps reduce the risk.

Participating in the information session will be representatives from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, and others.

RSVP by 10/29/09 (10/25/09 for interpreting service.)

Phone 614 825-0551, Toll Free 888 622-9315, actionohio@sbcglobal.net



2. PAR – Professionals, Advocates, Resources: Annual Conference Oct. 14-16

PAR has updated their acronym to mean ‘*Professionals, Advocates, Resources,*’ and is pleased to announce the theme for the 41st Annual PAR Convention, October 14-16, at Embassy Suites, in Dublin ...

It's a Jungle Out There: Get the Tools You Need to Survive

Keynote Speaker will be Bob Nelson – ‘*On A Mission to Motivate.*’ Breakout sessions will include subjects such as: DD Clients in the Court System; Private and Public Day Habs; Monitoring Individual Finances; Community Employment; Medication Administration; Self-Determination; Guardianship; How To Be Safe; Prescription Medications, and much more! Professionals can earn up to 19 credit hours.

PLUS: Silent auction, vendors, artist showcase, and awards luncheon!

Information and registration at www.par-ohio.org , PAR Office 419-522-6207



3. Reminder: Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (“SIBS” conference) event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or fish1@osu.edu .



4. Editor’s Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental

disabilities, and usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. In the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in some publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
ODMRDD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

After October 5, 2009



Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 21

- 1. State's Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration Led by Ohio's First Lady
- 2. *The 2010-2011 Workplan*: Series Begins in the October 28 Issue of Pipeline
- 3. At Mount Vernon Developmental Center: Memorial Garden Honors Sonya Mawhorter
- 4. Celebrating 30 Years at Wood Lane Homes
- 5. Name Changes at County Boards Foster Fresh Ideas

See *Pipeline PostScripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business

1. State's Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration Led by First Lady Frances Strickland

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland enthusiastically led Ohio's celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* at the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday, October 8th. The theme for this year's celebration, '*Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business*,' was supported by several organizations and individuals gathered on the west lawn of the Statehouse, with a spirited program including the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band, the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities Bell Choir, the Columbus School for the Deaf, and others who joined in welcoming the First Lady's words of acknowledgement and encouragement. She stated,

"Today we re-dedicate ourselves to fostering a more inclusive work culture, and to filling more employment opportunities in Ohio businesses with people who have disabilities. Through my work with the Ohio Children and Families First Council I have learned so much about the many gifts and talents that people with disabilities bring to the work environment and to their communities, and I acknowledge and applaud their contributions."

The First Lady's remarks were underscored by Michael Rench, Administrator for the Ohio Rehabilitative Services Commission (RSC). He noted that collaborative efforts through American Recovery & Reinvestment Act stimulus projects, and local Pathways Partners are working to strengthen the statewide network of disability employment services. He added,

"These projects are helping hard-to-reach Ohioans whose talents may otherwise be hidden or become lost treasures."



Meeting and greeting – Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland and RSC's Michael Rench visit with attendees at the Disability Employment Awareness Month celebration last week.



The Pledge of Allegiance – 'Signing' the Pledge of Allegiance was a dedicated and earnest group of students from the Columbus School for the Deaf.



Ready to Ring– Frances Strickland pauses for a photo with the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities Bell Choir.



Ready to Play – The Ohio State School for the Blind patiently await their turn to play a few tunes during the Disability Employment Awareness Month program. They also are proud to tell you that they have been invited to play at this year's Rose Bowl Parade.'

The celebration was sponsored by RSC and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities.

RSC www.rsc.state.oh.us is a state agency helping Ohioans with disabilities obtain jobs, and helping businesses recruit and retain these workers. The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities www.gcpd.ohio.gov/ is a 21-member council that advises the Governor and General Assembly on disability issues.

- Around Ohio's Employment Scene -

Fairfield County and surrounding area

Two noteworthy programs on the employment scene in Central Ohio include Project SEARCH, and LIFEWorks. Both target the end of high school 'transitional' age group and prepare individuals for jobs in the community. The Project SEARCH program, new to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities this year, is a joint effort between the Fairfield County Board of DD, Fairfield Medical Center, and the Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Center, with assistance via the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). Project SEARCH currently provides work experience for six high school seniors from Fairfield County who have developmental disabilities.

LIFEWorks is a joint effort linking Fairfield County with Franklin, Licking, Hocking, and Union counties, as well as Goodwill of Columbus and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center. Students participating in LIFEWorks gain job training experience during three six-week internships, with the goal of being hired by the end of the internships.

Effectively entering the workforce after high school is what transitional programs are all about.

Fairfield DD Superintendent John Pekar notes that the two most important elements in getting these employment programs off the ground were funding and partnerships. "The LIFEWorks grant was through the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and allowed us to fund a fairly broad partnership with the intent of improving employment opportunities for young people with disabilities who are entering the workforce after high school. During this transitional period the responsibilities between school districts and the various agencies and local services available often are not as clearly defined as they could be."

He adds, "Over about a year and a half we pulled together a collaborative group comprised of several service providers and school districts, and focused on transition planning. The goal was to prepare a formal agreement regarding transition services, signed by all parties, that delineates 'who's responsible for what' in terms of helping young people with developmental disabilities gain work skills and opportunities in the community. The agreement constitutes a commitment from local community partners to improve communication, coordination, and services for students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to adulthood -- so when they graduate from high school there are alternatives to the traditional workshop setting."

Pekar concluded,

"Formalizing a transition agreement was a huge plus for us, and we can now move forward with a unified direction. The Fairfield County Transition Task Force agreement is referred to as 'The Fairfield County Transition Initiative – Local Interagency Agreement,' and its purpose is to improve the coordination of services for students with disabilities transitioning from education to adulthood."

According to Bob Gaston, Fairfield County Board of DD adult services director, the agreement identifies such areas as Transition Quality Indicators, Overview of Transition Services, 2010 - 2012 Goals, 2010 -2012 Special Projects, Terms of the Agreement, and the Participating Agency Commitments to the task force.



Project SEARCH Intern, Ian Baustian, is folding surgical towels in the Surgical Sterilization Department at Fairfield Medical Center.

"This Central Ohio area is leading the state in terms of transition services, and we're very excited to tell people what we are doing," Pekar concluded.

Learn more about Fairfield County transitional employment efforts in the Autumn issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in December.

Licking County – LICCO Products Gain National Attention in College Bookstores

LICCO Inc., the private, nonprofit workshop operated by the adult services staff of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD), is gaining national attention. During October, which is not only National Disability Employment Month, but also Breast Cancer

Awareness Month, the National Association of College Bookstores will sell 'pink ribbon' items from LICCO's exclusive Spirit Line jewelry products.

Adults with developmental disabilities create the Spirit Line products, including key chains, bracelets, necklaces, watches, and other beaded accessories. The 'pink ribbon' items, a nationally-recognized symbol associated with breast cancer awareness efforts, will be sold by National Association of College Bookstores 'member stores' throughout the country.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items will benefit breast-cancer research and advocacy groups in the local areas served by the bookstores. Jewelry sales also will benefit LICCO employees by providing quality employment activities, including assembling and packaging.

Kyle Miller, LICCO's chief executive officer, explains,

"We are very enthusiastic about teaming up with the National Association of College Bookstores. This is an exciting time for LICCO, as we launch our products for the whole country to see. More importantly, I'm very proud that we are a part of a national campaign to help others through breast cancer awareness."

According to Miller, LICCO has received jewelry orders from about 15 college bookstores throughout the country, and the organization hopes the marketing exposure received through the October campaign will lead to future partnerships.

LICCO's Spirit Line jewelry started as a recreational/leisure activity at LICCO during the 2006 Ohio State University football season, when Buckeye necklaces made by workshop employees became so popular that Spirit Line Products was launched to fulfill the demand and offer new job opportunities to adults who have disabilities.

For more information visit www.liccoinc.com, or contact Heather.Odendahl@lcountydd.org



- More About Ohio's Employment Scene in *Pipeline*, October 28 Issue -



2. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Series Begins October 28th

What are the priorities and plans for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, as we move into 2010-2011? *Simplify the Waiver System ... Plan for Fiscal Sustainability ... Plant the Seeds of a Positive Culture ...and much more.* [Read More.](#)

Following completion of the biennial budget process earlier this summer, we developed a framework to impact priority issues needing to be addressed, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This priority Work Plan is being discussed with various stakeholders throughout Ohio's developmental disability community, and is designed to improve supports and services, while streamlining the overall system.

Beginning in the October 28 issue of *Pipeline*, we will publish a series of articles in *Pipeline* that will highlight our top priority areas. The Work Plan is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. We look forward to sharing this information with you!



[At Mount Vernon Developmental Center](#)

3. Memorial Garden Honors Sonya Mawhorter

A fitting tribute to Sonya Mawhorter, longtime advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families, and previous Executive Director of 'The League' (the Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded*) was unveiled at Mount Vernon Developmental Center last month. The Sonya Mawhorter Memorial Garden ceremonial opening featured a short program and tour of the carefully landscaped garden area, complete with various unique items once used at Mount Vernon Developmental Center and now converted to decorative fountains and planters. A large stone bears a plaque with the sentiment,

**The Sonya Mawhorter Memorial Garden
is dedicated to the memory of Sonya Mawhorter, for her unwavering commitment to
Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities.**

In commemorating the garden, Deb Plaza, Executive Director of The League following Sonya's death in May 2008, spoke of Sonya's legacy, stating,

"Sonya was truly an inspiration. She dedicated herself to helping people with disabilities and never lost sight of what was important ... people. She proved that one person can make a difference."

Al Leist, a founder, parent advocate and Vice President of the organization, also noted Sonya's accomplishments, commenting,

"Sonya Mawhorter was Executive Director of the Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded for more than 15 years. Under her leadership the OLMR was responsible for raising the bar on the quality of life for thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities in Developmental Centers and in community settings. Sonya was able to advocate for hundreds of developmentally disabled citizens in Ohio, and as a result, these citizens did obtain better services and programs."

The garden also features commemorative engraved bricks along the walkways, and a variety of decorative structures and hardy plants. MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer notes with appreciation that The League contracted with *Willow Works*, MVDC’s vocational program for residents, for the initial development of the garden, and that the garden will be maintained by *Willow Works* employees. “We are very pleased with how this project has come together, and with the results of the organization’s planning and thoughtfulness.”



The Sonya Mawhorter Memorial Garden.

** The Ohio League for the Mentally Retarded is generally referred to as “The League” and the formal adoption of that shortened name is currently under discussion by that group.*



4. Celebrating 30 Years at Wood Lane Homes

Thirty years ago, four individuals with developmental disabilities left state institutions for their “own” home in Portage, Ohio. They were the Wood Lane pioneers. And when the Portage group homes were dedicated just three months after the original four individuals moved in, they already had been joined by 18 additional people moving from state institutions.

That original “moving in” anniversary was celebrated last month, along with the many partnerships which have made Wood Lane Residential Services a success in Wood County, and a residential service model for others across the state.

Today, Wood Lane Residential Services serves more than 150 individuals. Some live independently or semi-independently in their own apartments or with their families, and others live in one of 26 group homes throughout Wood County, including two “elder haus” residences and a respite home. The future holds the promise of even more options.



DODD Director John Martin talks with Joylynn Riffle (while shielding her eyes from the sun) at the Wood Lane Residential Services' 30th anniversary. (Photo: Aaron Carpenter/Sentinel-Tribune)



Enjoying the festivities ...

- (Above, left) Staff members flank Dennis, a long-time resident of Wood Lane Homes.**
- (Above, right) Mr. and Mrs. Creps, long-time family advocates with a son and daughter in the developmental disabilities service system.**
- (Below, left) Paula Heffelfinger and Brooke Bennett (in pink) pal around together.**
- (Below, right) Greg Bair, CEO for Wood Lane Residential Services, and 30+ year employee of the organization, obviously enjoying himself at the celebration.**



Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John Martin praised Wood Lane's reputation for quality services, noting,

“What you do as caregivers is the backbone of our care system. The relationships you develop with the individuals you provide services to is incredibly important.”

Wood Lane residential supervisor, Linda Brownell, updated the audience regarding the Portage homes’ original 24 residents. She indicated that seven still live in the homes, six have moved on, and 11 had passed away. Brownell especially thanked the Portage community for welcoming the residents in 1979, at a time when group homes were not common.

Long-time member of the Wood Lane Board of Developmental Disabilities, David C. Miller, addressed the scope of residential services that began with Portage, stating, “Wood Lane Residential Services has grown far beyond what any of us imagined 30 years ago. It now employs 330 people, and has an annual budget of \$10 million.” He continued,

“Despite that tremendous growth, the program has not lost sight of its ‘reason for being’ – that is – to help turn those ‘group homes’ into ‘my homes’ for the residents.”

Miller also praised Wood Lane for its ability over the years to maximize federal and state dollars available for residential services. Local funding makes up only eight percent of the current \$10 million budget.

Among the staff members at the 30 year celebration were Cortny Schwartz and Marianne Mock, who work in the Restle Home, serving nine male residents. Their comments spoke for dedicated direct service professionals throughout the organization, explaining,

**“Our main goal is making sure the guys’ needs are met,” said Schwartz.
“It’s not about us. It’s about them.”**

Acknowledgements to the Bowling Green Sentinel Tribune, Sept. 21, 2009 issue, article titled, ‘Wood Lane Homes Celebrate 30 Years.’ For more Wood Lane information contact Liz Sheets at lsheets@woodlane.us



5. Name Changes at County Boards Foster Fresh Ideas

Across the state, as all 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities continue the process of dropping the words “Mental Retardation” from their names, new logos are being unveiled and old signage is being replaced. It is an historic time of change and re-definition.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Office of Policy and Constituent Support has received many articles, press releases, and other contacts regarding this exciting time in the history of people with developmental disabilities, and we applaud the importance of each change in each community.

Here’s one story that especially caught our attention, and displays a unique contribution from within the group of individuals served in Allen County.

In Allen County, Becky Boutin Expresses Herself

While Becky Boutin may not feel especially comfortable in some social settings, she has no problem expressing herself artistically. The new logo and letterhead for the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities is an excellent example of her talents ‘gone public’.

In a local newspaper article, Becky is quoted as saying, "I kind of thought about what it was all about, what the general feel of the agency was to me," she said, explaining,

"The thing that left the biggest impact on me was the feeling of community and togetherness and the positive energy that comes from the place."

Becky has Asperger's Syndrome, a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum, and has been an agency participant for three years. She is part of *ArtAbility*, a program that provides artists with disabilities opportunities to sell their artwork.

Responding to publicity about the new logo, Allen County Board of DD Superintendent Esther Baldrige said, "I couldn't be happier! I don't think anyone outside of the agency could have captured our mission and our vision as well as Becky did."



Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Way to go, Becky Boutin! More about Becky and other exciting 'Name Change' glimpses in the Autumn issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in December.



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. DD Council Conference to Focus on Healthcare Reform

People with disabilities, their families, advocates, and others will learn about health care reform, both nationally and in Ohio, and how to advocate for better health services, at the Annual Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Conference on October 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Columbus.

Co-hosts for the Annual DD Council Conference are the Nisonger Center, The Ohio State University, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Cincinnati. Registration/conference information is available from the Axis Center at axiscenter@aol.com. Registration is \$35, and includes lunch.

For more information, contact: Mary Smithson msmithson@wowway.com



2. Information Session for Domestic Violence and Disability Service Providers

On Monday, November 2, a brown bag lunchtime (noon – 1:30 p.m.) information session for domestic violence and disability service providers will be hosted at the Old Worthington Library, 820 N. High Street in Worthington, focusing on a subject that, according to one co-convener, “Does not get discussed very often, and needs to be addressed.”

Attendees will learn more about and discuss issues surrounding the vulnerability of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities – especially concerning people who may try to take advantage of their vulnerability.

Participating in the information session will be representatives from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, and others.

RSVP by 10/29/09 (10/25/09 for interpreting service.)

Phone 614 825-0551, Toll Free 888 622-9315, actionohio@sbcglobal.net



3. PIP Training Opportunity – Imagine the Possibilities

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2010. The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities, and for parents of children who are under age 12 and have a disability. The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets are available online at http://www.cmr-cleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm, by calling Partners in Policymaking at (216) 622-0755, ext. 14, or email efakan@thearcofgreatercleveland.org for more information.



4. Ohio SIBS Conference November 6-7

Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel.

Complete conference information is online at www.ohiosibs.com, or contact Dr. Tom Fish at fish.1@osu.edu 614-292-7550) or Michelle Truby at truby.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu. There will be a special track for siblings.

Topics to be discussed include: Assuring Quality Outcomes Through Family Engagement; The Sibling Relationship ... a Discussion with Siblings about Siblings; and Advocating for Health Care and Wellness.

This conference was one of the first of its kind in the United States to address concerns of adult brothers and sisters of people with developmental disabilities.



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 that the hotline number exists, and is 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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. To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 22

- 1. *The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas*
- 2. Disability Employment Awareness Celebrated Statewide
- 3. More About Employment: Ticket to Work Training to Offer Helpful Information
- 4. Heinzerling Foundation Marks 50 Years
- 5. Voting Rights and Resources for People with Disabilities
- 6. Gathering of Nearly 100 Partners in Policymaking Graduates Charts Course for Leadership
- 7. Name Change Activities Across the State

See *Pipeline PostScripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

Publishing November 24th ... Pipeline, Annual Thanksgiving Issue

For what are you thankful? In November 2007 the first Thanksgiving Issue of *Pipeline* was published, highlighting a few of the many things for which we, at the then-named ODMRDD, were thankful. The issue included articles on caring direct-service staff; parents providing new opportunities for their children with disabilities; and, extra efforts of all kinds throughout the state. The 2008 Thanksgiving Issue* continued the tradition, asking for your input, and it was most inspiring. Again this year we invite YOU to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit information for consideration to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov by 11-18-09.

*See the 2008 issue at [Pipeline Volume 2 Issue 24](#).

First in a Series

1. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas



The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the first in a series of *Pipeline* articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Ten Priority Areas

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio’s developmental disabilities service delivery system;

- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio’s state-operated Developmental Centers;
- Create a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families’ needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

The Positive Culture Initiative

Looked at collectively, the bulleted list above contains several concepts that are inter-connected, and therefore the list is in no ‘priority order.’ For example, the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) [Read More](#) is alluded to in the list as, “Create a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide.” The PCI approach is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships, and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships. And, according to Pam Berry, policy staff member with the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support,

“The Positive Culture Initiative is about making the shift in thinking away from power, control, and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement when supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.”

Pam and other policy staff members have met with County Boards of DD and other service providers, as well as individuals and families throughout the state, to determine the interest level and the capacity for an integrated positive culture approach to service delivery. What they have found has been both affirming and energizing, according to Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, who notes,

“We are very encouraged by the meetings we have had with our stakeholders and with direct service staff who are on board with the PCI approach. It has been an education for us, as well, to see that there are so many opportunities for this to make a difference in peoples’ lives – and to foster mutually-beneficial outcomes as part of more thoughtful interactions.”

Patrick adds, “The next phases pertaining to this priority area include applying the PCI principles to all interactions and transactions in our system – among and between state and county staff, individuals, families, and other advocates and providers.”

From a State and National Perspective

DODD Director John Martin is definitely on board as a PCI believer -- and will be speaking in November at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Annual Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. His presentation will address Ohio’s statewide effort, led by the DODD, toward banning the use of prone restraint, and limiting the use of restraints in general, across all of Ohio’s systems.

The conference program relates, “Having persons representing prisons, state police, education, mental health and various other systems, all working together and using the language of the state’s Positive Culture Initiative has been a unique experience offering opportunities to effect real change. Director Martin will note that a key to success in the State of Ohio was instilling ownership of the effort at the local level, rather than being directed by the state, opening the door to a grassroots culture change.”

Elements of the Positive Culture Initiative and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to Director Martin's [Director's Flexible Performance Agreement](#) – which is a contract with the Governor's Office to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for more about the PCI service model in the future at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm>

NEXT: 2010-2011 Work Plan, Part II, in a November issue of Pipeline.



[October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) **2. Disability Employment Awareness Celebrated Statewide**

The celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* has provided many opportunities to recognize efforts across the state, and to promote the fact that Ohio workers with disabilities are diverse, reliable, and good for business! As noted in the October 14 issue of *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 21](#), here are a few more examples of these statewide efforts:

In Richland County, Recognition for Employers

Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) saluted more than 150 area employers during the month, and featured a breakfast which attracted nearly 300 people. At the breakfast, Richland County employers of individuals with developmental disabilities from Newhope's Adult Services program were recognized, as well as companies that contract with RNI.



Honored as the Community-Based 2009 Employer of the Year was Richland County Transit (RCT). General Manager Willa Lear accepted the award and described how she worked with one individual, Mike King, to ride the RCT bus many years ago. Lear recalled what Mike said when, after two weeks of training, she told him that he was ready to ride on his own. She said,

“He looked at me and said, ‘That means I’m normal. I’m like everybody else now.’ ” She replied, “Mike, you are – but before you just didn’t know how to use the bus.”

The Industry-Based 2009 Employer of the Year was MTD Consumer Products of Shelby. RNI currently produces 11 different replacement parts for MTD that are sold in such stores as Lowe's, Home Depot, and Menards.

Employees of the Year recognized at the event were Guy Adkins, a local Kroger employee in community-based employment, and Richland Newhope Industries' facility-based Employees of the Year, Jeff Pfleiderer and Kandi Takacs.

Featured speaker at the Employer Recognition Breakfast was former professional football player Shawn Harper of Columbus. Harper overcame several learning disabilities, poverty, and speech challenges to become a successful motivational speaker and business owner.

He recalled his struggles growing up and how he succeeded by choosing to believe in the positive things that people told him. To the employers on hand, he commented, “Thank you for your investment, patience, and for giving us a chance. That’s all we need. Don’t ever think your investment is a waste of time.”

“Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business.”

In Cuyahoga County, An Urban Farm

An urban farm is inching closer to reality in Cuyahoga County, where next spring it will be tended by individuals enrolled in the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) community employment program. Legislation is pending (City of Cleveland) to grant the property to the CCBDD and is enthusiastically anticipated. The future worksite is a cooperative effort including The Ohio State University Extension Service, the St. Clair-Superior Development Corporation, and ‘A Piece of Cleveland’, a company dedicated to productive re-use of materials from old buildings.

According to CCBDD officials, after months of planning the project enjoyed a strong start when 50 AmeriCorps City Year participants worked at the site earlier this month, clearing away remaining bricks and fragments from the Stanard School, which once stood on the site. Slightly more than an acre in size, the farmland has been dubbed the ‘Stanard Farm’ in recognition of its history. In addition, according to area historians, before the Cleveland School District constructed the school there in the early 1900s, it had been a farm.

CCBDD Superintendent Terry Ryan is excited about the 2010 employment opportunity, stating,

“We see the Stanard Farm as a wonderful opportunity for the men and women involved in our employment program to work in the community. And, personally, I would be thrilled for us to have five or more urban farms like this within the coming years.”



Brick by Brick – Americorps City Year participants work to prepare the soon-to-be urban farm site.

In Lake County, He's Still Working – at 100 Years Old

Speaking of the importance of employment, Joe Direnfeld is still working at 100 years old! On September 12th, New Avenues to Independence, a provider serving Lake, Cuyahoga, and Ashtabula Counties, celebrated Joe Direnfeld's 100th birthday. Many friends joined Joe on this occasion and enjoyed a cook-out, games, and dancing. At the festivities Joe opened a present from the Cleveland Indians – an autographed baseball and team picture, as well as an official congratulatory proclamation from the State of Ohio.

Joe's interests include reading, shopping, eating at restaurants, and dancing. He also has a passion for the Cleveland Indians -- and watches every one of their games with his Cleveland Indians hat on!

Joe still goes to work every day at Buckeye Industries, New Avenues' Vocational Services program and rarely misses a work day.

Born in Pennsylvania on September 14, 1909, Joe Direnfeld has resided in Northeast Ohio since 1964. He attended public school until third grade when he was traumatized by witnessing a friend fall from a second-story porch. After the fall, (and the friend's subsequent death from the accident) family members say he was 'never the same.'

Joe continued to live with his parents and worked as a newspaper carrier and a ticket taker at the movies. When his parents died in the early 1960s, Joe began living at 'Mt. Vernon State Hospital' (now Mount Vernon Developmental Center) for lack of a more suitable home. In 1964, he moved to Perry Ridge Nursing home, later converted to an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR). In 1997, New Avenues purchased the Perry Group Home where Joe still resides with seven other individuals.



Happy 100th! Joe Direnfeld with New Avenues to Independence Executive Director, Tom Lewins.

Pipeline Perspective:

While Joe enjoys working well beyond the usual realm of 'retirement age', it is understood that many individuals with developmental disabilities do not wish to do so, just like many of their friends who do not have developmental disabilities. Many adult service centers and workshop settings afford older individuals the opportunity to retire and encourage social interaction and activity in other ways. If you'd like to weigh in on this subject, please send your thoughts to feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us and we'll share your input in a future issue of *Pipeline*.

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: – some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." - Sam Ewig, noted author



[More About Employment ...](#)

3. 'Ticket to Work' is Working in Ohio – Training in November

'Ticket to Work' is a federal employment program designed to expand the number and types of service providers available to assist Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities who want to work. These approved providers are referred to as Employment Networks (ENs). There are very few limitations on who or what can become an EN. Public or private organizations, individuals, family members, educational institutions, service providers, employers, and county and local governments are all eligible to become ENs.

Individuals who receive a check under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs and are between the ages of 18 and 64, can participate in the Ticket to Work Program, designed to provide additional funding for services that assist individuals with developmental disabilities in finding and keeping a job.

One Example

Careers Unlimited, a program of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Ohio, is one example of an agency that has joined the Social Security Administration as an Employment Network, and offers the Ticket to Work program. Kevin Krotzer, Director of Programs at UCP, said,

“Ticket to Work is about choices, and UCP has a long history of giving people with disabilities choices for services and job opportunities, so it was a natural fit.”

For more information about the Ticket to Work program through UCP of Ohio, contact the Careers Unlimited office at (614) 279-0109. The Careers Unlimited program is a community provider of the Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and a member of the Columbus Workforce Alliance.

History

Ticket to Work is part of the *Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999*. In Ohio, the program began in 2003. As for the 'ticket' -- under Ticket to Work, Social Security provides disability beneficiaries a ticket they may use to obtain the services of the Employment Networks. The network and the ticket-holder together design a plan to assist the beneficiary in reaching his or her goals. Recently, new administrative and regulatory improvements have made it easier and more profitable for Employment Networks to participate in the Ticket to Work program, get paid earlier in the employment process, and at higher rates.

Training for Ohio Service Providers, November 9

Attend a Ticket to Work Training for Ohio Service Providers to learn how your organization can improve its bottom line by:

- Putting Social Security beneficiaries to work;
- Becoming an Employment Network under the Ticket to Work program; and,
- Taking advantage of a viable source of funding for employment services.

The next training opportunity in Central Ohio is November 9, from 9-11 a.m. in the auditorium at the Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, in Columbus. For more information or to register for the training, contact Debbie Courtney at debbie@wilres.com or call (850) 386-2022.

To learn more about 'Ticket to Work', visit www.cessi.net/ttw or www.ssa.gov/work. or reference pdf at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/NationalDisabilityEmploymentAwarenessMonth.htm>. Additional resources at: ADA-OHIO (The Americans with Disabilities Act), adaohio@aol.com, <http://www.ada-ohio.org/>.



4. Heinzerling Celebrates 50 Years of Caring Service



In September 1959, Otto and Mildred Heinzerling opened the doors of Peck O' Wee Ones in a converted medical office building on East Broad Street in Whitehall. They had operated an in-home day care center in the past, but eventually saw the need to care for a population often overlooked at the time -- children with severe and profound mental retardation.

The space was licensed for 12 beds, and Otto and Mildred worked without salaries to provide around-the-clock care for their residents. Otto staffed the office, recruited volunteers, and raised money. Mildred took care of bathing, feeding, personal care, and cooking. It was a lifetime commitment.

After the deaths of Mildred and Otto in 1967 and 1973, respectively, the Heinzerling family resolved to continue meeting the needs of the children at Peck O' Wee Ones, with Dr. Robert "Bob" Heinzerling, their son, at the helm. Peck O' Wee Ones would become known as the *Heinzerling Memorial Foundation* in 1974, honoring the memories of Otto and Mildred.

Dr. Bob Heinzerling, while managing his own practice as a dentist, spent several years fundraising and lobbying for assistance to expand the facility to better meet the growing needs of individuals living there. In 1979, the new Heinzerling Memorial Foundation, a 22,400 sq. ft. facility, officially opened its doors in southwest Columbus.

Later, the need was clear for another facility when the Heinzerling residents grew to become adults. In 1982 the Heinzerling Developmental Center was built for this purpose.

For 50 years the Heinzerling Foundation has been an integral part of the community, providing a service that was previously unavailable.

Many things have changed in 50 years . . . 12 licensed beds have turned into 213 licensed beds. A small office building has turned into 122,000 square feet of living and recreation space. And, two staff members have turned into more than 500.

Jed Morison, Superintendent of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, notes that one thing hasn't changed -- the spirit of giving and serving at Heinzerling. He states, "The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities values its partnership with Heinzerling, and congratulates the Heinzerling family and staff on 50 years of caring service."



The mission of the Heinzerling Foundation is to provide a loving and nurturing environment that enhances the development, education and quality of life of individuals with severe or profound mental retardation.

For more information, contact Tanna Slaven, Development Coordinator, Heinzerling Foundation (614) 272.8888, www.heinzerling.org



5. Voting Rights and Resources for People with Disabilities

Editor's Note: Nine Ohio counties will have levy issues on the ballot this November 3rd : Brown, Carroll, Crawford, Hamilton, Hocking, Holmes, Morrow, Pike, and Union. Look for a Pipeline Extra on November 4th with voting results on those issues.

People with developmental disabilities have the right to vote, and to have access to information to help them do that. If you are a person with a disability, or work with someone who may need information, reassurance, or assistance to vote, please note that in addition to the U.S. Constitution, laws that protect this right to vote include the Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the Help America Vote Act <http://www.fec.gov/hava/hava.htm>

If a poll worker says a person with mental retardation or another developmental disability cannot vote, the law says that *the poll worker must allow the person to complete a special ballot named a Provisional Ballot*. The person should complete the Provisional Ballot before leaving the polling place. Later, an election worker will determine whether or not the vote can be counted.



**The law says that everyone is allowed to cast a ballot.
If you have questions before or on Election Day, November 3, 2009,
call "The Election Protection Hotline" at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).**

At this number people will speak with you (not just an answering machine) and lawyers are available to help voters with disabilities get advice and help with voting issues.



6. Gathering of Nearly 100 Partners in Policymaking Graduates Charts Course for Leadership

Earlier this month, nearly 100 Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) graduates and family members met for the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council's *Fifth Annual Gathering of Ohio PIP Graduates* at the Hyatt on Capitol Square, in Columbus. Funded by the Ohio DD Council, the meeting's theme, "Charting a Course for Leadership: Discovering Hidden Links and Relationships," encouraged participants to take a closer look at their personal accomplishments, skills, and relationships.

Keynote speakers included Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, self-advocate and graduate of Utah PIP Bryon Murray, and parent and advocate Michael Flannery from Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries in Cincinnati.

PIP is a leadership program that prepares adults with developmental disabilities and their family members to partner with local, state, and national legislators and other policy makers to effect change. According to Essie Pederson, PIPs Co-Statewide Coordinator, "It is expected that these efforts would improve and increase the services and supports people with DD and their families need to maintain a quality of life in their communities."

Reinforcing the goals of the program was Cindy Slavens, a 2009 PIP Graduate from Salem, OH. She explained,

"Partners in Policymaking has helped me learn where my strengths are, things I can and cannot do, and how to run with my abilities to make change. I have become a better advocate for myself and others. Right now I am working on a project focusing on employment awareness."

And, actively participating in the policymaking process, Mary Brewster, a 1999 PIP graduate from Cleveland, was selected to meet, at a later date, with Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown to discuss pressing issues affecting adults with DD and their family members. She plans to collect concerns from graduates throughout the state to present to Senator Brown at their meeting.

In 2010 the Ohio DD Council will again solicit applications from Ohio PIP graduates to represent the state at the 2010 National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Until then, graduates throughout Ohio will work to create and make the most of opportunities to influence policies that support issues that directly affect the more than 80,000 Ohioans with disabilities.

A new Partners in Policymaking class is being offered in Central Ohio by the The Arc of Greater Cleveland. For more information on this class contact Erin Fakan, (216) 534-2556 or efakan@thearcogreatercleveland.org.



Group photo of some of the Partners in Policymaking graduates who attended the October 2009 Gathering.



Partners in Action – Diana Mairose (left) and Cindy Slavens (right) with Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner.

Acknowledgements to Essie Pederson for material and photos contained in this article.



7. October – A Month Filled with Name Change Activities

The October 14 issue of Pipeline [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 21](#), carried several items pertaining to the ‘Name Change’ at County Boards of Developmental Disabilities throughout the state, and we’re wrapping up the month with these glimpses of activities on that subject:



Heralding the name change at the Monroe County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Woodsfield, Ohio, were (l. to r.) superintendent Helen K. Ring, Min Zheng, Troy Hickman, Yvonne Craig, Stephen January, Kevin Kraft, Michael Kanzigg, and workshop director Dan Lollathin. submitted photo, Martha Ackerman

Monroe County Board of Developmental Disabilities officials signed a resolution last month, removing the term ‘mental retardation’ from its name. According to the *Monroe County Beacon* newspaper, Helen K. Ring, superintendent of the Monroe County Board, emphasized to local commissioners that it is important for everyone in the community to understand that the recently-passed law, Senate Bill 79, changes only the name of the agency. She noted, “The law does not change who we serve or the services we provide, and eligibility for services has not changed. It is the same agency, and simply has a new name, as required by law.”



DODD Director John Martin lends a hand to the Department’s name change process at the Rhodes State Office Tower, as the last letter in ‘retardation’ proves rather stubborn (but eventually joins the rest of the alphabet propped on the top of the sofa). Signage wording will be realigned and the seal (center) will be replaced.



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

Reminder

1. Information Session for Domestic Violence and Disability Service Providers

On Monday, November 2, a brown bag lunchtime (noon – 1:30 p.m.) information session for domestic violence and disability service providers will be hosted at the Old Worthington Library, 820 N. High Street in Worthington, focusing on a subject that, according to one co-convenor, “Does not get discussed very often, and needs to be addressed.”

Attendees will learn more about and discuss issues surrounding the vulnerability of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities – especially concerning people who may try to take advantage of their vulnerability.

Participating in the information session will be representatives from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, and others.

Register by 10/29/09

Phone (614) 825-0551, Toll Free 888 622-9315, actionohio@sbcglobal.net



2. Ohio SIBS Conference, November 6-7 in Columbus

Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel. Complete conference information is online at www.ohiosibs.com, or contact Dr. Tom Fish at fish.1@osu.edu (614) 292-7550) or Michelle Truby at truby.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu. There will be a special track for siblings.

Topics to be discussed include: Assuring Quality Outcomes Through Family Engagement; The Sibling Relationship ... a Discussion with Siblings about Siblings; and Advocating for Health Care and Wellness. This conference was one of the first of its kind in the United States to address concerns of adult brothers and sisters of people with developmental disabilities.



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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.

To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

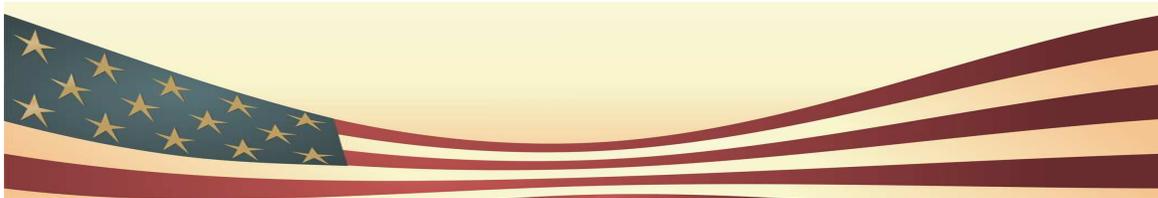
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

November 4, 2009

Results of the November 3, 2009 Election Developmental Disabilities Levies, Statewide



The results are unofficial and will be certified by the respective County Board of Elections at a later date.

<i>Brown County Board of DD:</i>	1.0 mill, replacement PASSED
<i>Carroll County Board of DD:</i>	1.0 mill, renewal PASSED
<i>Crawford County Board of DD:</i>	1.5 mills, additional PASSED
<i>Hamilton County Board of DD:</i>	3.62 mills, renewal PASSED
<i>Hocking County Board of DD:</i>	1.5 mills, replacement PASSED AND 1.5 mills, replacement PASSED
<i>Holmes County Board of DD:</i>	2.5 mills, replacement FAILED
<i>Morrow County Board of DD:</i>	0.9 mill, additional FAILED
<i>Pike County Board of DD:</i>	1.0 mill, additional PASSED
<i>Union County Board of DD:</i>	2.4 mills, renewal PASSED

To all, we appreciate how much work was involved in your efforts.
Congratulations to all who passed their levy.

More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>



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

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov , phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor's Note: DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the DODD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the DODD website, at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/> .*

To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* issues are archived at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, November 10, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 23

- 1. November is National Family Caregivers Month
- 2. *The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part II – Assuring Quality Services*
- 3. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Honors Athens County Self Advocates
- 4. *HOME Choice* Helps More Than 300 Move from Long-Term Care Facilities in First Year
- 5. Dr. Julie Gentile Earns National Award for Clinical Practice
- 6. Disability Housing Network to Release New Research at December 3 Conference
- 7. Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Information for Families
- 8. Ohio Public Images Announces Developmental Disabilities Awareness Events

*See **Pipeline PostScripts** at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.*

Next in *Pipeline*, November 24 ... Annual Thanksgiving Issue

For what are you thankful?

Again this year we invite YOU to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit information for consideration to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov by 11-18-09. Thank you.

**See the 2008 issue at [Pipeline Volume 2 Issue 24](#).*

1. November is National Family Caregivers Month

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November as *National Family Caregivers Month*, in support of family caregivers in the workplace who balance work and family caregiving responsibilities. The official proclamation* states, "Families are best able to care for their loved ones when they can take time away from work without fear of losing their job or their income."

An estimated 50 million Americans provide care for family members who live with chronic ailments, disabilities, or issues due to aging conditions. The proclamation "encourages all Americans to pay tribute to and support those who are caring for their family members, friends, and neighbors in need of assistance."

According to *Ascribe*, a public interest newsletter, family caregivers provide more than 80% of all long-term care in America, with services valued at an estimated \$375 billion annually.

During this Thanksgiving month, we are thankful for Family Caregivers.

**Read the official Whitehouse Proclamation: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamations-national-family-caregivers-month>*



Second in a Series

2. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part II – Assuring Quality Services



The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact ten priority areas, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the second in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas. See [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), for details.

Part I of this series highlighted the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) described as, “Creating a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide.” The PCI approach is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships, and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.

Part II – The ‘Quality Services’ Priority

Part II of this series now focuses on streamlining processes and assuring quality services. According to Kate Haller, DODD Deputy Director for Legal and Oversight services, this involves developing and implementing a standard method of reviewing service delivery and outcomes, as well as focusing resources on new providers, and providers who may need additional assistance or attention.

She explains, “One of the action steps we will be taking in this area is maximizing the use of our website for users to access more information provided by the Office of Provider Standards and Review and Provider Certification staff. Recently, we improved the information on our DODD Website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/new.htm> and Kelly Miller and her team will be adding other enhancements and interactive capabilities in the near future. Along with this, we plan on standardizing our review tools and processes across providers, residential facilities, and County Boards, and encouraging the use of a self-evaluation tool.” Kate adds,

“One of the things that we are going to put some time into doing in 2010 is more clearly defining the unique purpose of the Quality Assurance function, and implementing any changes in collaboration with stakeholders. This, along with some additional software upgrades to help us schedule, track, and report survey results, should go a long way toward streamlining and improving our services, overall.”

Another element within this ‘quality services’ priority includes implementing a ‘tiered approach’ to Major Unusual Incident review of County Boards and Developmental Centers. This has been addressed by Scott Phillips’ team in the MUI Investigation Unit. Now, instead of an annual on-site visit each year, County Board and Developmental Center reviews will range in frequency from one to three years, based on performance.

Several elements of this priority area and the expected outcomes correspond to DODD Director Martin’s [Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement](#) – a contract with the Governor’s Office to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

NEXT: 2010-2011 Work Plan, Part III, in a December issue of Pipeline.



3. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Honors Athens County Self-Advocates

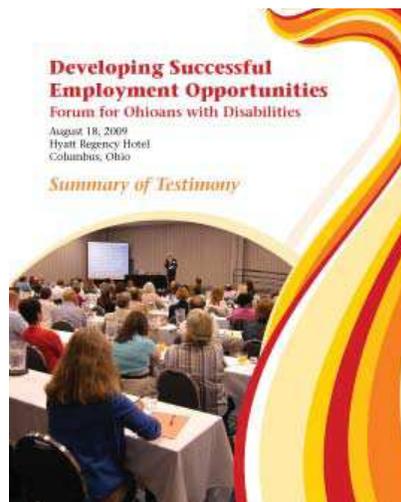
The 2009 Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) *Advocacy Award* winners are four leaders of the Athens County PersonnelPlus Advisory and Advocacy Council: Andy Leinbaugh, Jason Licht, Glenda Murray, and William Peacock. The advocacy award, presented at the recent ODDC annual conference, honors a person or organization that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

The Athens advocates were very influential in their advocacy efforts supporting the 'Name Change legislation,' Senate Bill 79, that removed the term 'mental retardation' from the names of Ohio's state and county board agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

Dee Tobias, ODDC member, presented the award to the group, stating that the name change legislation "was a long-needed change in the State of Ohio," and commended the award winners for their leadership and effective advocacy. Congratulations to these hard-working Athens County self advocates!

More About the Ohio DD Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is a group of 35 people, appointed by the governor, who plan and advocate for Ohioans with disabilities. ODDC receives federal funds and distributes those funds by awarding grants for projects and activities that may influence public policy, pilot new approaches, empower individuals and families, and advocate for system change. The below publication is one such recent effort:



A Summary of Testimony on the subject of the recent forum, 'Developing Successful Employment Opportunities,' is available on the ODDC website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Pub/Employment%20Booklet.pdf> *

*Paper copies of the booklet are available, and are free. Contact ODDC at: 8 East Long Street, Suite 1200 Columbus, Ohio 43215, Voice phone: (614) 466-5205 (800) 766-7426 (Toll free in Ohio); TTY: (614) 644-5530; Fax: (614) 466-0298; Website: www.ddc.ohio.gov.



Expanding Choices

4. HOME Choice Helps More Than 300 Move from Long-Term Care Facilities in First Year

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has announced that more than 300 people who once lived in long-term care facilities have moved to home settings, thanks to a one-year-old program named HOME Choice (Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice).

ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin commented,

“HOME Choice has made a positive, life-changing difference in the lives of Ohioans who would otherwise have had *no choice* but to remain in long-term care facilities. It also is helping build partnerships with public housing authorities and other agencies and service providers to overcome a common obstacle to independent living: finding accessible, affordable housing.”



The HOME Choice project is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This “Money Follows the Person” demonstration grant provides up to \$100 million in matching funds over five years to allow individuals who are elderly or disabled and who live in long-term care facilities, to relocate to home and community-based settings. In addition, the program will help Ohio in balancing its long-term services and support systems by allowing greater choice, flexibility, and transparency.

HOME Choice relocates Medicaid-eligible individuals who have lived for at least six months in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities, hospitals, or residential treatment facilities for children. The project also pays for some services not funded by Medicaid that may facilitate a successful transition.

More information about HOME Choice, as well as success stories, can be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm>.



5. Dr. Julie Gentile Earns National Award for Clinical Practice

Dr. Julie Gentile, who serves on Ohio’s collaborative group known as the Coordinating Center of Excellence* (CCOE) has earned the *National Award for Clinical Practice* from the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD). CCOE partners are the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The NADD provides expertise to educators, medical and other professionals, policy-makers, and families, including education and training on mental health issues relating to persons who have cognitive or other developmental disabilities.

Dr. Gentile (pronounced “Gen – TILL – ee”) is Director of the Dual Diagnosis Program and Director of Medical Student Mental Health Services at Wright State University in Dayton. In her affiliation with the CCOE she has worked in three specific areas that, collectively, address important issues, statewide, that will improve services for individuals with a dual diagnosis.

According to Lara Palay, DODD Project Manager, Mental Illness/Intellectual Disability, Dr. Gentile has made a difference in service availability for Ohioans who have a dual diagnosis, setting up contracts with psychiatrists at clinics around the state, so that individual assessments may be provided in geographic areas that otherwise might not have access to these services. Also especially noteworthy are Dr. Gentile’s work in the following areas:

- Assessing individuals to determine best treatment approaches, given an individual’s circumstances and characteristics;
- Training students in Psychiatry at Wright State in effectively working with affected individuals; and,
- Organizing information for families who are seeking assessments and treatment for affected family members.

In addition, Dr. Gentile has prepared useful templates that suggest and organize what information may or may not be useful for medical field practitioners to have when meeting with an individual or family, to determine best approaches to treatment. Lara explains,

“Julie’s work in helping caregivers, individual patients, and families be prepared for psychiatric visits, and to know what to expect, is critical in improving relationships between medical professionals and patients/caregivers. Providing the information needed, in the way it is needed or best understood, can mean more effective care and outcomes. DODD has made her templates available to counties around the state.”

Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), through their mental health agency, Ben-el, recommended Dr. Gentile for her commitment to serving individuals with dual challenges and her commitment to setting high standards for individuals who fall into service gaps between diagnoses of developmental disabilities (DD) and Mental Health (MH).

The Award and the Awardee

The purpose of the national award is to recognize an individual whose contribution in the area of clinical practice has resulted in significant improvement in the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as mental health needs. It is the second year for this award.

In receiving the *National Award for Clinical Practice* Dr. Gentile commented, “I was honored and humbled to receive this award. Laura Baxter at CRSI nominated me, and she was able to attend the NADD conference last month, as well, which was very meaningful to me.” She continued,

“The award gave me an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the ongoing support and commitment I have received from Director Martin, Kevin Aldridge, and other DODD staff; Director Stephenson, Mike Schroeder, and other staff at ODMH; and Carolyn Knight and other staff at the DD Council. Without the support of these individuals, I would not be able to do my work for people with dual diagnosis.”

Congratulations to Dr. Julie Gentile, and the collective work of the CCOE in improving the outlook for persons with a dual diagnosis in Ohio and across the nation.

* <http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/promote/coordinating-centers-of-excellence.shtml>
For more information <http://www.thenadd.org/>



6. Disability Housing Network to Release New Research

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) is releasing the results of Ohio's first-ever research into the cost of 'scattered site rental housing' at its Fall Conference on December 3, as part of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD) Convention at the Hilton, Easton, in Columbus. (More convention information at [Pipeline Postscripts](#), below.)

The DHN informational session at 1 p.m. will present special needs housing data collected from a detailed financial survey of housing corporations across the state. Conducted by an independent accounting firm, the research study covers topics such as comparison of housing corporation costs and revenue, costs of development and maintenance, and comparison of housing corporation costs with licensed group homes. The study also received the support (non-financial) of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), in the interest of helping the disability housing community make data-driven decisions based on effective research.



DisabilityHousingNetwork.org

Supporting housing corporations
that provide safe and affordable housing
for individuals with disabilities

There are many policy implications for tenants, for County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, housing corporations, and for the DODD, said Steve McPeake, DHN Chairman and CEO of North Coast Community Homes, noting,

"The single biggest take-away from the research is that special needs housing requires the cooperation of multiple entities. It is financially challenging to provide safe and affordable rental housing for low-income people with disabilities. Therefore, maintaining this 'scattered site rental housing'* is a responsibility for not only the nonprofit housing corporation, but also local and state partners."

Details of this new research will be shared and discussed at the DHN Fall Conference on Thursday, December 3, at the OACBDD Annual Convention. View the full list of sessions on the DHN website at www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org. [Click here](#) to register for the conference through the OACBDD website. The DHN Conference will be listed as a track for Thursday. [Click here](#) to get information about reserving rooms near the conference hotel.

**Scattered site rental housing is housing in the community for people with disabilities, that is not an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR), and not a group home or traditional institutional setting.*

For more information contact Steve Farrell, Steve Farrell at stevifarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org



7. Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Information for Families Who Have Children with High-Risk Medical Conditions

For frequently updated information on this subject, please check the Ohio Department of Health website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/> and DODD website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/H1N1SwineFluInformation.htm>

New Brochure Available

A brochure titled, *Seasonal and 2009 H1N1 Flu: For Parents Who Have Children or Adolescents With High-Risk Medical Conditions* is now available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The brochure provides specific information regarding children considered to be at-risk, including those with asthma and various neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions including:

- Disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), and stroke, as well as ...
- Moderate to severe developmental delay, intellectual disability (mental retardation), muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury; chronic lung disease such as cystic fibrosis, and numerous other conditions.

The CDC brochure provides information in a simple format, and may be referenced at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare/toolkit/pdf/H1N1Seasonal_HiRiskChildren_Final.pdf.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov or www.flu.gov or call 800/CDC-INFO.



8. Ohio Public Images Announces DD Awareness Events

Ohio Public Images, Inc.(OPI), an information and advocacy group encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 2009 'Call for Entries' for their annual Media and Awareness Awards  [Call_for_Entries_2009.pdf](#).

The awards nominations and competition will honor individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through their exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during the 2009 calendar year. The competition also recognizes outstanding self-advocates and elected officials who champion the causes of people with developmental disabilities.

The awards will be presented at a luncheon on March 15, 2010, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference.

The Public Images Network, and its parent organization, Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. For more information, contact Mary Pat Riker at (419) 380-4049, or e-mail: MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org .

Save the Date – March 4, 2010, Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff
OPI also announces the 2010 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Statewide Kickoff Event will be at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on Thursday, March 4, 2010. Details as the date draws nearer in future issues of *Pipeline* and at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/> .



Preview!

Pipeline Quarterly, Autumn 2009

Publishing in December 2009

A Different Culture Embraces the Positive Culture Initiative



Holmes County families volunteer to make 1200 pizzas for a fundraiser. Yes, 1200! The Amish community in Holmes County strongly supports the Holmes County Training Center, and embraces the agency's Positive Culture Initiative approach to relationship-building with individuals and families served. Read more in *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing next month.



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD) 26th Annual Convention, December 2 - 4

The annual OACBDD Convention is slated for December 2-4 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton, in Columbus. A variety of informational and professional development tracks are scheduled and may be reviewed at www.oacbdd.org . Scheduling is designed specifically to enable conference-goers to attend many interesting and diverse sessions, including the Disability Housing Network session on December 3, highlighted in article #6 in this issue of *Pipeline*.

Again this year, the OACBDD will hold a Vendor Show & Sale, displaying products made by individuals with developmental disabilities from around the state. The third annual Vendor Show & Sale will be after sessions are over on Thursday, December 3 -- a great time to shop for early holiday gifts while enjoying the company of other conference attendees.

Conference registration is all on-line this year, and once the space is full, registration will close and the on-line registration option will no longer operate. Go to www.oacbddd.org and click on 'Events', 'Annual Convention' to register. Registration deadline is Nov. 30, 2009, 4:00 p.m.



2. The ARC of Ohio Training, December 11

The Arc of Ohio will host a training on December 11 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Topics on the agenda include:

- The DODD New Futures Waiver for children with intensive behavioral needs;
- Transition Waivers;
- Ohio Legal Rights' discussion of issues related to special education, and terms of the recent partial settlement of *Doe vs. State of Ohio*; and,
- Trusts and Guardianships

Registration information and other details will be published shortly at <http://www.thearcofohio.org/>



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 24

In This Issue ...

- 1. Collaborative Symposium Spotlights Success
- 2. Family Advisory Council Members Learn More About Conflict Resolution Process
- 3. Special Feature

Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State

- Includes reader input and a bonus item -



1. Collaborative Symposium Spotlights Success

The second annual Collaborative Symposium, hosted by the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OSCBDD), the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and APSI brought together nearly one hundred attendees and presenters at the Westin Hotel in downtown Columbus, spotlighting successful collaboration activities from across the state. Topics included:

- Creating a self advocacy leadership network;
- A prevention program with community police;
- A partnership between Franklin County Board of DD and Columbus Goodwill Industries;
- A mutually-enhancing partnership in Greene County;
- Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in tough economic times; and,
- System efficiencies – what synergies can happen when providers, county board and advocates work together.

Speaker panels addressing these topics included representatives from a broad range of state and local agencies. They connected with the audience on a number of ideas, as did keynote speaker Bob Milbourne, past President and CEO of the Columbus Partnership, a business-driven organization focused on improving the general culture and climate of the area.

Milbourne noted,

“One thing I believe that business leaders across the state would probably say to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community is that 88 different ways of doing things is probably too many. There are probably too many providers, too. Working together to determine service strengths and combining some approaches, geographically, is probably a good idea.”

He added that the benefits versus cost of local governance, local cultures, and the variety of choices among providers are understandably important considerations when looking at the operation of agencies across the state, no matter what their field of endeavor. “I understand that part of it very well, and it is an interesting dynamic with no simple answers,” he said.

Among the presenters and panel members was DODD Director John Martin, who addressed the subject of supporting individuals in tough economic times, stating,

“I have noticed in other states, as money gets tighter within the disabilities services community, feuding increases among the players. I have not seen this to be how we have reacted here in Ohio. I see, instead, collaborative efforts like this Symposium, doing some pro-active things with real results. That is why I am proposing a project to help support the work of this group, to be funded by the Department, to highlight innovative, collaborative practices throughout the state.”

In addition to the day’s presenters and panels, the Symposium offered a forum for informational displays sharing the results of mini-grants from the Collaboration Work Group. The grants were made available to applicants wishing to enhance or expand collaborative efforts in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

“OPRA is thankful for our statewide community of providers and especially for the direct support staff who walk the talk” – Teri Derry, Senior Manager, Training & Development, OPRA



At the podium, Hamilton County’s Diana Mairose, a graduate of Ohio Partners in Policymaking, introduces a panel discussing Advocacy Leadership during the Collaborative Symposium.

Also at the podium, Walter Vaughn.

Panel, left to right: DJ Maes, Marvin Moss, Robert Shuemak, and John Romer.



2. DODD Family Advisory Council Learns More About the Complaint Resolution Process

The Family Advisory Council (FAC) provides opportunities for families to provide input to policy makers and to offer information regarding what their needs are. It also provides families opportunities to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to people who have family members with developmental disabilities. One of the priorities of the DODD is to energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

In addition, it is hoped that the resulting family network will reach many other families in Ohio, and provide them with information and education regarding our system. Members of the Council also share what resources have been developed in their area that could benefit others. The FAC meets every other month, and more information is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

The November 17 meeting of the Family Advisory Council fulfilled members' requests for more information about how to request a state hearing and participate in the complaint resolution process, among other topics. Representatives from DODD Legal Services, Michael Wise and Marc Kleiman, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) representative Donna Vargo addressed a group of more than 75 attendees, meeting at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office in Columbus.

Questions from attendees were numerous, and illustrated a desire to be more well-informed regarding specific action steps to take if a family does not feel their family member is being rightfully considered (eligible) for needed services, or is otherwise not receiving needed services.

Complaint resolution for services not funded by Medicaid is a different procedure from that used for Medicaid-funded services, and being prepared with the information needed at all steps in the process is important. According to ODJFS' Vargo, the complaint process is a 'tiered approach,' for which it is important to,

“Know the rules, and be prepared with documentation in order to advance through each level in the process.”

The presenters referred attendees to helpful information on the DODD website at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/> -- Administrative Resolution of Complaints for County Boards, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 5123:2-1-12; and, on the ODJFS website at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OLS/BSH/decisions.asp> . There also is an ODJFS Client Services Hotline, toll-free at (866)-244-0071. Staff there will assist callers in understanding program eligibility and serve as liaisons to the county regarding various problems pertaining to cases.

Also on the meeting agenda was the traditional 'Director's Chat,' which included a discussion with DODD Director John Martin on subjects including waiver funding, particularly for

Individual Options Waivers (See: [The Individual Options Waiver Handbook](#)). Director Martin noted the importance of accessing federal matching funds for waiver services, and the current discussions in Ohio's developmental disabilities services community regarding funding for waiver services across the state.

The FAC meets every other month. More information is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

Contact: *Peggy Martin* at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov ; (614) 466-8706



· 3. Special Feature

Giving Thanks – Thoughts from Across the State



In this issue closest to the observance of Thanksgiving, we highlight a few of the many things for which we, at the DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful.

***Pipeline* also takes this opportunity to thank all our readers for your feedback and comments during the year. Many articles are the result of reader input.**

Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by **John Martin, DODD Director**

Last week I toured Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) in southern Ohio. A couple of things especially made an impression on me from that trip. First was a large photograph of all of the staff and residents who lived and worked at the Center, taken in 1929, and the admission logs from that time period, in a rather remarkable historical display. Gallipolis was, originally, a place for persons with epilepsy, and the logs documented the admission of children 11 and 12 years old, who had perhaps a single seizure, and for that reason were placed at Gallipolis for many, many years.

The photograph documented these children, dressed in their suits and dresses for the group picture. I wondered as I looked at the picture and read the records – in 80 years, when someone looks back at what we are doing today, what will they think?

The second thing that struck me during this trip was the GDC Combined Charitable Campaign. Last year only 26 people participated by giving to the campaign, and this year 241 participated. Gallipolis, for the first time in many years, exceeded their Combined Charitable Campaign goal. I wondered, what accounted for this incredible increase in generosity, at a time when staff wages

have been reduced by almost 4%? There probably are as many answers to this question as there are people participating – in any event, their generosity is certainly something to be thankful for in the Gallia County community.

Year end is a time for reflection. I just received the National Core Indicators (NCI) annual report with the 2007-2008 data, and was taken by the five-year trend in one of the measurements. On the subject of Loneliness, 45% of the individuals in this national survey reported feeling lonely either ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ -- a number that has remained fairly consistent since 2003-2004 when they started tracking this kind of data. And I wondered, thinking about the picture from Gallipolis taken in 1929, which of the staff in the picture reached out to the 11 year-old boy taken from his community of brothers and sisters, parents and friends – who stepped up to be his friend and help him not feel lonely?

Those of us who read the *Pipeline* are from many different parts of our service system, but in whatever part we find ourselves, there are people who are lonely and people affected by the economic crisis. As I continue to make my way around the state, I am impressed by the creativity and caring exhibited by each of you. It is my hope that we can draw upon examples such as the generosity of the staff at Gallipolis, and those around us, who -- irrespective of their place in the system -- reach out with gentleness and kindness to those around them.

It is not possible to judge by a picture, or what is written on a piece of paper, who has reached out to be a friend -- but it is probably the most important part of what we do. May each of you have a relaxing and meaningful Thanksgiving holiday. – *John Martin*

Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American. ~O. Henry



Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others **Developmental Center Staff Support Community**

Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) retiree and longtime friend, Jim Bonnette, recently lost his DJ equipment and extensive CD collection in a fire. Cue the MVDC Employee Council! They organized a bake sale and silent auction, while staffer Deb Smith spearheaded a ‘CD drive.’ Staff were eager to come together to help Jim and his wife Patsy, who also retired from MVDC.

The event raised \$1,098.00, and 75 CDs were collected. Jim and Patsy sent a big ‘thank-you’ to everyone at the Center, and Jim later stated that this outpouring of generosity gives new meaning into the phrase, “Gone, but not forgotten,” and reinforced his feeling that the MVDC family has some of the best people around when it comes to caring about others.



He's back to DJ-ing Again! (l. to r.) Deb Smith, Steve Schumacher, MVDC Employee Council Treasurer Chris James; MVDC Employee Council President Linda Oliver, and Connie James, MVDC Employee Council member, present CDs and a check to Jim.



First Place winners! –This family of scarecrows, created by Snyder/Hab Services, was a big hit! At MVDC, each living and support area was encouraged to create a scarecrow to enter into a contest at their Fall Festival. Snyder/Hab Services walked away with First Place in the scarecrow contest with their family of scarecrows, which even included the family dog.



Thankful for Passing the Levy, Changing the Name **Hamilton County Celebrates with Back-to-Back Events**

What was formerly the Hamilton County Board of MRDD became Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) on November 4. Superintendent Cheryl Phipps ‘drove home’ the name change by climbing into a Duke Energy truck that hoisted her, in a cherry-picker, to the top of the agency’s administration building to rip the letters ‘M’ and ‘R’

from the building signage. Hundreds of supporters on the ground cheered and clapped as the letters were removed.



Pass the Levy, Change the Name: (L. to R) HCDDS Superintendent Cheryl Phipps dons a harness and hard hat to remove the 'M' and 'R' from the agency's administration building; Teresa Frank leans over to share the moment with Ron Martin, a staffer at the agency; The crowd on-hand is large and enthusiastic.

The 'name change event' was held the day after the agency passed a 5-year property tax levy with 68% of the vote. The levy represents 73% of their funding to serve more than 8000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Hamilton County.

November was definitely a banner month for HCDDS, as they were also named one of Greater Cincinnati's top 25 "Best Places to Work" by *The Cincinnati Business Courier*! More than 100 workplaces participated in an on-line employee survey that was the catalyst for choosing the top 25. They won in the 'grand' category, up against the likes of 5/3 Bank and others. HCDDS has much to be thankful for this year.



Thankful for Artistic Talent

TWi Artist Scott Simler Wins Pumpkin Race Logo Contest

At the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, a running jack-o'-lantern created by artist Scott Simler was selected as the official T-shirt logo for the annual 2009 Pumpkin Race. Artists from The Workshops inc. (TWi) participated in a contest to design original artwork for the shirts that race participants receive. The contest was open to all TWi employees, and Simler received an award of \$50 for creating the winning entry.



The artist and his work. Scott Simler with the winning logo design, used here on a cornhole set (produced by individuals at TWi) that was awarded to the top male and female finishers in the four-mile event. Scott was on hand the day of the race signing the logo t-shirts of the race participants.

The Great Pumpkin Race was run October 31 and offered families and walkers a one-mile run/walk, and serious runners raced in a 4-mile Subway Challenge Series competition. The race began and finished at Stark County's Whipple-Dale Centre. All proceeds from The Great Pumpkin Race benefit Stark County Special Olympics. Thankful for the support, Stark County's Lisa Parramore reports, "We had 569 total runners that day...up 22% from last year, which is quite an accomplishment given the economy, and the cold rainy day."

More About Artistic Talent

Special thanks to the hundreds -- maybe thousands -- of artists with disabilities throughout the state who have been sharing their talents with their local communities for years. We are thankful that the opportunities to do so are growing.

The DODD encourages support of the various art and craft fairs sponsored by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and others in the disability services community across Ohio. There is much to be enjoyed, and, in many cases, you will have opportunities to meet the interesting and talented artists who have created and shared their original work.

For example, the Rendville Art Works artists drove north this past weekend to Granville, Ohio, to display their work for the third year in a row, drawing a packed gallery at Bryn Du Mansion. There's no prettier venue to stage an art show! Director of the Rendville Art Works, Joel Yeager, said they opened the doors on Friday night, the first day of a two-day show, to a crowd of several hundred people -- and sold most of the work the first night. All proceeds go to the Rendville artists.

Read more about this show in [Pipeline Quarterly](#), publishing next month.



Homer and Marge, by Rendville artist, Ron
Larger-than-life renditions of TV characters, Homer and Marge Simpson, are painted on wood, and give this spacious room at the Bryn Du Mansion a trendy attitude.

To submit artwork to be considered for usage on the DODD website homepage at www.dodd.ohio.gov, email Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, See this month's feature at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/art/artist.htm>



“We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”
~Thornton Wilder

Thankful for Families and Friends Personal Glimpses

Jill Campbell-Brown, Habilitation Specialist, TAC Enterprises, Springfield, OH

I am thankful for the unconditional love my mother and father have given our family, grandkids, and great-grandkids. I am thankful for every day that I wake up and go to sleep and see beautiful sunrises and sunsets. I am thankful for our troops that protect our country. I am thankful for the persons educated to take care of our developmental disabilities population and give them opportunities to participate in whatever they choose! I am thankful for every minute I am here to participate in life and all those that I meet along the way.

Karen Wagenbrenner (Mom to Lynzie, Age 13)

Thankful for a beautiful Angel -- Lynzie Kay was born on August 21, 1996. She has been a true blessing to not only me, her mother, but to so many people who have touched our lives. Lynzie has Rett Syndrome. Rett Syndrome is a Neurological disorder diagnosed almost exclusively in girls. The children develop normally until 6 to 18 months of age. A regression robs the child of speech and hand skills. Rett Syndrome leaves its children profoundly disabled and dependent on others.

But, every day Lynzie gives a piece her love to all she meets. She has many friends and family that love to spend time with her. She was asked to be on the cheerleading squad at school because her friends believe she is just like them. Lynzie adores her school friends and they think she is the best! She has taught many of us about what is important in life. Although she can't walk or talk, she reaches out with her smiles, laughs and cuddles. Like all of the Rett Syndrome girls, she is a true gift for all of us to enjoy.

Pam Frank, Parent Advocate

Thankful for our 'magnetism' -- This year has been a difficult year for many, and we are no exception. We are used to adversity and things not going easily with our son who is now 25 years old. What we are now having to adjust to is the fact that we are aging and not getting any stronger/ healthier ourselves. This year has been big medically for both of 'my son's parents.' It has been quite an adjustment for him to not always be the center of the medical attention!

We still both have our jobs (for which we are most thankful) and our family is wonderful and flourishing -- all 4 siblings are helping each other and excelling in their studies. We are most grateful that we also have an amazing support system building around us. Old friends and new, family, neighbors -- they come together in times of need. They were always there for our son and they are here now for us. I believe that the 'reason for this upcoming red-and-green season' is making all this love we are experiencing possible, and that same reason has something to do with why we feel thankful.

Everyone we come in contact with seems to be reacting to and responding to us. There must be something drawing us all together to give thanks this holiday season! Therefore, I am most grateful for all of us living with disabilities -- because we are so 'magnetic'!



Pam and Doug Frank

Leona Crogan, Parent Advocate, Mahoning County

Thankful for so many things --

I am a parent of a 21 year old son with Down Syndrome. As an advocate for many years I have seen much to be thankful for -- even now with the economy in flux.

1. I am thankful for GOOD doctors and HOSPITALS who give GOOD INFORMATION to new parents upon the birth of a special child.
2. I am thankful for GOOD Early Intervention programs for offering support to families and infants who so desperately need support at this very emotional time in their lives.
3. I am thankful for GOOD school districts who inform their special education supervisors and teachers of the students' rights under the Federal law 'IDEA' so they may pass it along to families and parents to provide them the appropriate supports and services necessary.
4. I am thankful for GOOD school districts and Boards of Developmental Disabilities for trying to work together to transition a graduating high school student with special needs so that he or she can have a quality day program for their "after school" life.
5. I am thankful for GOOD Service and Support Administrators employed by local County Boards throughout the State, who walk alongside the families in order to ensure the health and safety of their special sons and daughters.
6. I am thankful for GOOD day programs that offer a day filled with many activities and work in order to assure that our sons and daughters have opportunities to be productive.
7. I am thankful for GOOD residential/supported living providers who offer our adult sons and daughters the opportunity to live independently and be more in control of their own lives.
8. I am thankful for our GOOD local County Board superintendents and board members, who have the monumental task of making certain there are enough dollars to go around for all of the programs they offer, including any social activities they provide.
9. I am thankful for GOOD County Probate Judges who have the vision and sensitivity to make good decisions that will significantly affect the lives of people with developmental disabilities.
10. I am thankful for GOOD volunteers from different agencies who commit to being a guardian for the part of this population who have no one to monitor their adult life after their families are gone.
11. I am thankful for GOOD voters in all of the counties who share their already thin resources to vote "yes" for our levies, so that local County Boards can provide the necessary dollars for supports and services -- including much-needed respite for families/parents/guardians who work tirelessly and lovingly 24 hours a day - 7 days a week.

I have many other things to be thankful for - but I'm going upstairs to look at my son's innocent face as he sleeps so soundly with no worries, because of the above-mentioned things. I will always believe that there are GOOD people in this world who, at one time or another, have been touched by someone with a developmental disability.

JoDale Benz, Early Intervention Specialist, Preble County Board of DD

Many research studies demonstrate that Early Intervention services are effective. Even though we already know this, it's still a blessing to see the effect "up close and personal."

At the end of May, a 17-month old girl began Early Intervention services through the Preble County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD). She had a traumatic brain injury and was unable to sit independently, had no words, and no functional use of her left hand.

Fast-forward 4 ½ months ...

JoDale Benz, Early Intervention Specialist at the PCBDD writes: "I have seen this little girl weekly since early June. In addition, she attends a combined weekly Occupational Therapy/ Physical Therapy (OT/PT) session. Her mom and dad consistently practice what they are learning and embed the strategies into their daily routines. Today, she cruises the furniture, will stand at the couch to play, uses both hands, and has a speaking vocabulary of approximately 25 words. At the end of my most recent visit, she stretched out her arms to be picked up.

Laying her head on my shoulder, she gently patted my back and said, "Good girl."

Last week I received a letter from the office of her neurosurgeon. The letter states, 'Her office visit demonstrated marked improvement in all areas of her development. On examination, no areas of concern were noted including muscular tone and potential spasticity.' This little girl and her parents are an amazing example of early intervention at its best."

The Parents Comment ...

"We are very thankful for the wonderful early intervention services that JoDale Benz provides for our daughter and for us. It truly has been a blessing!"



Editor's note: According to E.I. Specialists, a critical part of the article above is, "Her mom and dad consistently practice what they are learning and embed the strategies into their daily routines."



Thankful for Holiday Traditions

U-CO Dinner Keeps on Giving

As folks at Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities' U-CO Industries gather for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year, they will be reminded of Maria Streng.

Maria was employed by then-named 'Union County 169 Board of Mental Retardation' and the 'School of Opportunity' back in 1970. She wore many hats during her more than 20-year tenure, and once stated, "I have learned much during my years of service, and feel that I have received much more than I could ever give."

In 1982 Maria prepared the first Thanksgiving Dinner at U-CO. Each year she looked forward to preparing "from scratch" all the food that was enjoyed by program participants and staff. When Maria retired at the end of 1990, the dinner continued, but without Maria's special touch.

Marking the 27th anniversary of U-CO's first Thanksgiving Dinner, the agency now has honored Maria by naming the annual event, "The Maria Streng Annual Thanksgiving Dinner."



Thank You, Maria!
Maria Streng, 1928-2009



Thankfulness Potpourri from Around the State

From: Pamela McCort, Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Thankful for the Self Determination Leadership Team at BCBDD: The SDL Team's role is to provide leadership to the Belmont County Board in the areas of self advocacy and self determination. They have provided trainings to other county boards and provider agencies, as well. Recently, I introduced the team at a symposium at Bethany College (not far from Belmont County, in West Virginia) and witnessed the impact they had on those present. It was an awesome experience! These four self advocates absolutely took control of the room. They educated and informed the audience, in their own words, about what people with disabilities are capable of achieving when one looks beyond the disability to see a person's potential. Seeing the impact they made that day -- and in other instances -- is something I am truly thankful for!

From: The DODD Office of Human Resources/Health & Safety

Thankful for safely-prepared holiday meals: Whether you are an experienced cook or a novice in the kitchen you may need some guidance preparing a Thanksgiving meal. Helpful tips regarding kitchen/food safety can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/holidaycook.htm> including: *Cleanliness* -- Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often during meal preparation.

Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, knives, sponges, and counter tops. Have a happy (and safe) Thanksgiving!

From: Patrick Lanahan, DODD Deputy Director

Thankful for the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act: I am grateful that President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This legislation is at http://www.hrc.org/laws_and_elections/5660.htm



Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. ~Erma Bombeck

Thankful for a Sense of Humor, reprinted/requested from Pipeline 2008
'One Tired Turkey' – Remembering Thanksgiving 1998

Back by popular demand from the 2008 "Giving Thanks" Pipeline special feature, your Pipeline editor is pleased to share with you a memorable family Thanksgiving about which she wrote in 1999 for The Advocate newspaper in Licking County. We all can use a little humor once in a while, and this story is absolutely true. A bonus item at the end has been added this year.

This story could have been titled, "Why Our Tom Turkey Could Have Been Named, 'Bob'". It's a Thanksgiving story which, if it hadn't been true, would have been pretty hard to come up with as fiction. I mean, how many things can happen to a turkey in the span of five minutes?

Good Thing the Video Camera Wasn't On

Thanksgiving at our house is a time for Grandpa to come from Chicago to visit and enjoy a large family meal. He roams freely throughout the house with a video camera, taking candid film of the meal in-progress, starting in the early morning.

On this particular Thanksgiving (1998) the meal was progressing nicely, and without mishap. We were about five minutes from dinnertime.

A dish of cornbread stuffing was baking en-casserole, with the bulk of it stuffed into the turkey cavity. The sweet potatoes were baking, too, along with the green bean casserole and rolls. Cranberry salad was chilling, and mashed potatoes were in the preparation phase. The turkey was roasting on the Weber grill, outside, as we like to do. It really is delicious this way, and turns a beautiful golden brown. Plus, it frees up the oven for everything else.

Grandpa made the rounds with the video camera. "Ooh," he said. "Look at that turkey ... it's almost done, and the dressing looks very inviting, swelling out of the cavity." (Dad loves to narrate.) "How much longer, Honey?" he asked me.

"About five minutes," I replied, confirming with Dan, my husband the turkey chef.

Dan came in for potholders to take the turkey off the grill, and got the large ceramic platter, onto which we traditionally transfer the turkey. It was all quite Martha Stewart-ish.

One minute later I looked out the window to see Dan lift the turkey off the grill. He was headed toward the platter a few feet away on the patio table. Sparky, our dog, was vigilant.

I stepped around the corner to the sliding glass door, opening it to let Dan and the turkey come inside.

Within that span of time, the turkey cavity had become empty. Sparky looked alarmed, and Dan was mad.

“What happened?” I asked.

“The dressing fell out of the turkey and hit the bricks. Before I could pick it up, Sparky ate it.”

I paused to absorb this news.

“He ate a boiling hot blob of cornbread dressing that fast?!” I asked incredulously.

“Well, do you see it anywhere?” asked Dan, rhetorically.

I did not.

Now What?

The turkey did look good, although empty, and Grandpa was reading the paper in the living room, oblivious to the lost dressing. Plus, I did have a casserole dish full of the same thing.

Dan set the turkey platter on the right side of the double sink. It was dangerously close to the soapy water side, in which I was soaking a few dishes. The double sink is often used as a holding place when we're short of counter space.

Suddenly, the tom turkey slipped into the soapy water and bobbed up and down perilously, fighting for its golden brown life.

I watched in disbelief.

It bobbed again, just missing the rim of the empty cavity which could instantly fill and submerge the bird completely.

“Dan! Why did you set the turkey THERE?!” I asked, keeping my voice low.

No reply. It was too far gone. Or was it?

“Get it out of there now,” I whispered to Dan, emphatically.

We fished it out, rinsed it off, and returned it to the Thanksgiving platter.

“Dad, time for dinner!” we announced proudly.

In came my Dad with the video camera.

“Wow! Looks good!, he said, training the lens on the tired turkey.

“What happened to the dressing?” he asked.

“Oh, I mixed it in with the casserole dishful so it would all be together,” I replied.

Sparky looked bewildered, and scouted around for more cold water. – *Sherry Steinman*

PostScript -- Still Thankful, after all these years **Electric Carving Knife Adds to the Story, Years Later**

Since 1998, our family has continued to enjoy many Thanksgivings with Grandpa, who is, quite thankfully, still an annual visitor (from Chicago) to our home. We are without Sparky since 2006, however – but he lived to enjoy 12 wonderful Thanksgivings. We still miss him. Dad continues to delight us with his presence, although the video camera is not used much any more.

Recently he did hazard an attempt (and I mean hazard) at turkey-carving with an electric knife. Most hilariously, whenever he hit the ‘on’ button, he simultaneously hit the ‘blade eject’ button, which produced interesting results. “This thing won’t work right, Honey. It keeps coming apart.” Then, after two or three more aggressive tries with identical results ... “Give me the old sharp knife we used to use.”

Where was the video camera when I needed it?

Happy Thanksgiving!

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.

~Cicero



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on ‘calendar’ at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

Reminders

1. Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD) 26th Annual Convention, December 2 - 4

The annual OACBDD Convention is December 2-4 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton, in Columbus. A variety of informational and professional development tracks are scheduled and may be reviewed at www.oacbddd.org. Scheduling enables conference-goers to attend many interesting and diverse sessions, including the Disability Housing Network session on December 3.

Again this year, the OACBDD will hold a Vendor Show & Sale, displaying products made by individuals with developmental disabilities from around the state. The third annual Vendor Show & Sale will be after sessions are over on Thursday, December 3 -- a great time to shop for holiday gifts while enjoying the company of other conference attendees.

Conference registration is all on-line this year, and once the space is full, registration will close and the on-line registration option will no longer operate. Go to www.oacbddd.org and click on 'Events', 'Annual Convention' to register.

Registration deadline is Nov. 30, 2009, 4:00 p.m.



2. The ARC of Ohio Training, December 11

The Arc of Ohio will host a training on December 11 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Topics on the agenda include:

- The DODD New Futures Waiver for children with intensive behavioral needs;
- Transition Waivers;
- Ohio Legal Rights' discussion of issues related to special education, and terms of the recent partial settlement of *Doe vs. State of Ohio*; and,
- Trusts and Guardianships

Registration information and other details will be published shortly at <http://www.thearcofohio.org/>



Mark Your Calendars!

Statehouse Kickoff Event, DD Awareness Month, March 4, 2010



The DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI) 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 4, 2010. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date gets closer. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
Volume 3, Issue 25

In This Issue ...

- 1. Third in a Series, 2010-2011 Work Plan: Priority Area -- Information Systems
- 2. Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Annual Conference Reflects on Active Year
- 3. DODD Receives Grant to Improve Employment Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- 4. Improvements, Updates to DODD Website Geared Toward Assessibility and Easier Navigation

In the Next Issue of Pipeline, December 23, 2009
2009 Year in Review



Getting ready for the Holidays – The Greenhouse at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) is packed with perfect poinsettias. TDC residents help to plant the poinsettias and enjoy watching them grow. One such poinsettia planter, Phillip W., says he loves working in the Greenhouse, and as soon as the poinsettias start to bloom, he gets even more excited about the Holidays.

Third in a Series

**1. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part III – Upgrade and Integrate
DODD Information Systems**



The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the third in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

Priority Area: Information Systems

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. Upgrading and integrating our information systems infrastructure is one of the ten priority areas, and is well underway in terms of strategy and development of specific action steps.

During the biennial budget process, the DODD worked with stakeholders to identify specific service areas that would benefit from improved online access to information, as well as provide simpler and more frequently updated databases. As part of an overall DODD Information Systems upgrade during 2009-2011, these elements include:

- Implementation of the Individual Data System (IDS);
- Implementation of the Cost Projection Tool (CPT);
- Development of the online Individual Service Plan (ISP), including a summary page;
- Re-development of a Provider Search tool that includes a provider 'report card';
- Modification/replacement of the Provider Certification System database to support the new Provider Certification Rule; and,
- Expansion/improvement of the capacity for monitoring performance and outcome data.

According to DODD Director John Martin, speaking at the recent Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) conference (see story below), data-driven decisions have always been key to effective resource management, and are now even more important in light of budget reductions. He stated,

"We can no longer make decisions based on a general gut feeling that the decision is a good one. We can look at a situation and say, 'It looks like the dollars here are being used most effectively,' but if that is not borne out by the numbers or trackable trends, then it is not going to be a responsible decision."

Director Martin went on to say that, for example, residential options for individuals living in the community are shown to be more cost-effective in certain waiver-based situations, but seem to level-off and become 'flat', or less cost effective once a ratio of residents in a setting reaches four to five individuals. (See *The Ohio Picture: What We Have Achieved Together* for more information.)

Addressing the subject of, "What we have achieved together," Director Martin noted that the reason there is a strong emphasis on Information Technology and infrastructure is that, "This approach will help us to achieve the recommendations set forth by the 2008 Futures Committee, and make the most effective use of the disability community's limited resources. It is what our stakeholders, including the statewide provider community, have asked us to do."

Addressing the upgrades and integration of our information systems infrastructure, DODD Deputy Director of Information Technology Services Bryant Young has employed a practical, business-model approach to all projects, with a focus on serving the customer/user and keeping expenditures at a minimum. In this process, the IT unit is identifying some areas for improvement, examples of which include providing more advance information prior to changes, responding to customer feedback in a timely and straightforward manner. He comments,

“I am energized about the upcoming year, and the opportunities that lie ahead to deliver systems and tools that will make our agency better for our internal and external customers.”

Elements of this Priority Area, and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to Director Martin’s flexible Performance Agreement – which serves as a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV, in a January 2010 issue of Pipeline.



2. Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 26th Annual Convention Reflects on Active Year

At the 26th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Convention, December 2-4 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton in Columbus, the theme was *A Brighter Tomorrow*, and presentations and sessions throughout the three-day event spotlighted an active year.

The conference opened with comments from OACB Executive Director, Dan Ohler, and DODD Director, John Martin. The two noted that throughout 2009, collaborative efforts between the organizations continued to be strong, including several discussions regarding priorities and new directions driven by listening to system stakeholders. According to Ohler,

“Serving people with developmental disabilities – that’s why we’re here, that’s what we do.”

Building on that thought, Director Martin noted in a presentation titled, *The Ohio Picture: What We Have Achieved Together* that the Department’s top priorities for 2010-2011 include managing statewide service information to more accurately measure specific outcomes for people served, as well as for service providers. For example, he cited the National Core Indicators (NCI) data, which has been helpful in ... “identifying how we stack up against other states in terms of service satisfaction, availability, and accessibility.” (See <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/nci.htm>)

Disability Housing Network Introduces Research

Of special note during the three-day conference was the Disability Housing Network (DHN) session, during which participants learned about housing planning at the county level, as well as reviewed follow-up information from the Housing Guidance Work Group, The Work Group

members have prepared tools and guidance to help address issues across the state among housing corporations, service providers, and county boards.

In addition, DHN introduced Ohio's first-ever research into the cost to provide 'scattered site rental housing', which has replaced the group home model since 1992. More about this will be posted shortly at the DHN website, www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org.

Legislators of the Year

Among the many awards and honors presented at the conference, the OACB Legislators of the Year Award were presented to *State Senator John Carey*, who represents the 17th District of Ohio, and currently serves as chair of the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee, and to *House of Representatives member Jay Goyal*, who serves in the leadership of the House as Majority Whip, as well as serves as a member of several critical committees.



OACB Legislators of the Year, left to right: Jay Goyal, John Carey

photos courtesy, Ohio.gov website

Betty Macintosh Award

While other awards were numerous (and are available to view at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>, click on 'Awards'), the presentation of the Betty Macintosh Award was especially meaningful this year. The award is presented annually to a professional in the Developmental Disabilities service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in professional leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities. This year's recipient, Jim Canney, has been Superintendent at Madison County Board of DD for 21 years, and has been in the DD system for 33 years. As stated in the nomination, Jim is one of the strongest leaders in the system, and has championed many successful efforts, including improved services to children with developmental disabilities. The emotional presentation brought Jim to the podium too moved to say more than, "Thank you!"

Ohio's First Lady

Ohio's First Lady, Frances Strickland, addressed luncheon attendees on Friday, December 4, reinforcing the Administration's enthusiasm for the statewide effort this year to 'Disable the Label' and remove the words 'mental retardation' from the names of County Boards and the state department serving individuals with developmental disabilities. She noted that,

" The signing of Senate Bill 79, the 'Name Change Bill,' prompted possibly the most important shift in direction for Ohio's disability services community since Senate Bill 169 was passed in July 1967, creating Ohio's 88 County Boards. The power of motivation is so important – by bringing this name

change about, we are indeed, disabling the label, and opening up more opportunities for inclusion. I applaud the efforts made by self advocates to bring about this progressive change.”

Also Heard ...

Among the conference’s informational sessions were several geared toward family advocacy, including *Advocates for People with Developmental Disabilities*, headquartered in Dayton. Leading this group, parent advocate Wynema Mebane shared a video featuring three families “... telling their family’s story, warts and all – what they deal with every day – we didn’t edit out the chiming clocks, the vocal outbursts, or the restless children – it’s all there to show legislators and other viewers what we mean when we say we need these supports and services!” She adds,

“It’s grassroots advocacy, and it’s alive and well in Ohio. We have 496 parents actively involved in our area’s Advocates organization, representing 1138 families in Montgomery County. Our County Board can do a lot, but we are there to tell our story as only we can.”

Montgomery County Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein discussed several local efforts at a separate session focusing on County Board Communications efforts, noting, “People are grateful for personal contact – personal interaction. Don’t forget about personal contact! Send cards, show you care ... it’s very important to what we can do in our communities.”

For more information following the OACB Conference, visit their website at www.oacbdd.org.



Family Advocates Wynema Mebane (l.) and Sherry Stauber ‘tell it like it is’ at the recent OACB conference.

Summing up a full slate of events and activities, the conference served to re-energize and inform Ohio’s disability services community, and focus on what needs to be done and what *can be* done. As one participant noted, “You have to decide what is important and what is not. Then you have to do what is important.” Going even a little further than that, conference attendees heard,

“Stop growing programs and start growing peoples’ lives!”

Southeast Ohio-area Superintendent Monty Kerr, who received the Ken Legats Excellence in Administrative Leadership award, named for the late Muskingum County Superintendent, and presented each year. Congratulations to Monty, the 2009 recipient.

“Think about those gifts that we receive. Gifts from the people we serve – like when a parent grabs your hand and thanks you. That’s a gift.”

Willie Jones, Director of Operations, Belmont County DD.
Congratulations to Willie for earning a Partners in Excellence Award for 2009.



3. DODD Receives 2010 Grant to Improve Employment Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

DODD has received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a 2010 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG). The \$500,000 grant will begin January 1, 2010, and it is the second year for DODD to apply for and receive the targeted funding. According to Leslie Paull, Manager of Economic and Employment Development, the federal funding will allow for the continuation of several MIG projects started last year, as well as explore new avenues to employment for individuals with disabilities throughout the state.

“What is exciting in this second year is that we can continue the transitional (‘school-to-work’) projects in Montgomery County and Tuscarawas County which were begun last year, as well as explore some different options through requests for proposals (RFP’s) to work with employers to build business leadership networks in their local communities. This is how lasting employment opportunities are developed.”

Ohio currently receives federal funding under a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to develop a stronger foundation to support individuals with disabilities who are either already working, or looking for a job. As explained by CMS, “The goal of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant program is to support people with disabilities in securing and sustaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. The program will achieve this goal by providing money to states to develop and implement core elements of the *Ticket to Work* and *Work Incentive Improvement Act*.”

Leslie Paull explains that in 2010 the MIG will fund many initiatives that will improve work opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Ohio. She offers this list of examples (and that’s the short list!):

- Implementation of a model to improve employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities and provide more seamless transition services from the education system to either ... a job ... the support to acquire a job ... or the means to produce income using customized employment and/or cross-agency collaborative funding;
- Implementation of strategies to improve benefits counseling services, usage of work incentives, and asset development tools to increase individuals’ income and resources;

- Providing specific training to a variety of service providers to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities; and,
- Continuing to provide support to the *WE GO to Work* projects that were selected in 2009 and demonstrated successful alternatives to traditional employment services.

What Does This Mean in Terms of People's Lives?

Concluding a discussion of how this federal funding has been used -- and will continue to be used -- to fund opportunities that improve employment options and community participation, here is an excerpt from a completed 2009 WE GO to Work project:

- *Rendville Art Works "WE GO To Work" Grant Project Summary:* "Funds from the grant were used very successfully by our organization, The Rendville Art Works (Perry County, Ohio). Our show at the Bryn Du Mansion (Granville, Ohio/ Licking County), November 20-22, 2009, worked out magnificently, due largely to the additional funds. The combination of monies slated for promotional and/or advertising had the right effect. People showed up in droves! There were approximately 50 people waiting to get in before the show opened Friday. Although it was difficult to ascertain an exact number of people who attended over the three-day event, we feel it would be conservative to estimate that number as several hundred. We understand that one person came from Vermont specifically to see the show, as well as another couple from the Washington D.C. area. In addition to the paid advertising the grant provided, we were featured in Ohio Magazine and in the Ohio Department of DD's newsletter, Pipeline. Sales were just over \$6,000 ... 100% of which the 20 Rendville artists received. This was more than \$1,000 better in sales than our previous shows in Granville. Rendville Artist Roy Crabtree sold a single piece (sculpture) for \$750.00 to Sharon Weiss of the Sharon Weiss Gallery of Columbus (*see photo below*) and, *he has been invited to dinner at her home in Granville for a special showing of the piece to her friends**. Also, it was nice to pay people for services such as graphic design work, space rental, etc. This payment helped solidify our relationship with the Bryn Du Mansion, and we have been invited back next year for another showing. We have received several emails from visitors to the show who are planning to visit the gallery/studio in Rendville, as well as received a few commissions for artwork from show patrons! Due to an exceptional deal we found on large picture frames, we were able to use some of the grant money to purchase a larger amount than planned, and realized more income from the framed works-on-paper as a result. **Italics are Pipeline's emphasis – this may be one of the most exciting outcomes of all.*



The Grant at Work: Artist Roy Crabtree and his Laurel and Hardy sculpture, with buyers Sharon Weiss and family. The sculpture will be displayed at the Sharon Weiss Gallery of Columbus. Also shown are framed sketches ("works-on-paper") done by Roy as he developed the sculpture.

In the Next Issue of Pipeline, December 23, 2009
2009 Year in Review ...
Will include Grants Used in 2009, and Projected for 2010.

For more information on grants such as the MIG, contact: Leslie Paull at leslie.paull@dodd.ohio.gov



4. Improvements, Updates to DODD Website Geared Toward Accessibility, Easier Navigation

As noted in the lead article in this issue of *Pipeline*, improvements in information systems throughout the DODD are a high priority, and will help us to improve service to our stakeholders, and, ultimately, to the more than 80,000 Ohioans within the developmental disabilities community. Simply stated, the goal is to streamline services and improve accessibility of information for all users. As stated by one IT Services staff member,

“For information to be useful, you have to know it’s there... then you have to be able to get to it.”

Visitors to the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov will notice that in the past few months, content areas on the site have been updated to include the Department’s new name, and several sections have been revised to allow for easier access to more information. In particular, the areas accessed from the homepage at ‘Medicaid’ <http://dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/> and at ‘For Providers’ <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/new.htm> have been augmented to include information that families and other stakeholders have requested. This will continue to be a major focus in the coming months.

It is important to note that the Strickland Administration’s ‘Ohio.gov’ family of websites, including the DODD and all agencies directly reporting to the Governor, have adopted certain graphic and usage principles that are both user-friendly and supported easily by a wide range of operating systems. This helps to eliminate ‘error notices’ and other pop-up issues that would otherwise occur. As one user of adaptive equipment wrote to the DODD webmaster,

“Bless you for not putting backgrounds and animated icons on your site – they play havoc with my programs and my monitor!”

For users of screen-readers and other adaptive programs, simplicity of design is very important, and visual or audio-based features such as those found on other sites may interfere with successful access to information or navigation. We are, however, carefully researching several interactive options, and will add them to our website architecture after they have been tested by various users of such programs. According to DODD Deputy Director Patrick Lanahan,

“We have been talking with families about the ‘Family Chat’ concept that will provide opportunities to network and link to other resources, and are looking forward to putting something in place that will work for the majority of people who wish to participate.”

Bearing out the earlier statement, “For information to be useful, you have to know it’s there ... then you have to be able to get to it,” DODD Communications Coordinator Aaron Powell noted that at a recent meeting in Chillicothe, Ohio, several parent-advocates were not aware of the fact that a great deal of information is now included on the DODD website at ‘Publications & Handbooks’ <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/public.htm> and, at ‘Glossary’ https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/WDS/WDS_Glossary.aspx , located on the lower bar of the homepage, as are several other information resource areas.

He added, “Because everyone is not a computer-user, and because many people feel it is helpful to have and ‘mark-up’ a hardcopy of a document for future reference, paper copies of publications, handbooks, and other information also are available.” They are provided by request to feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov in black and white, printed on two-sides, in line with budget constraints.



Pipeline Feedback

Feedback from stakeholders – including those who are not as computer-savvy as others – is always welcome. We are pleased to help you find the information that you need, and appreciate hearing from you regarding our website at webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov.

DODD’s quarterly feature magazine, *Pipeline Quarterly*, Autumn 2009 issue, will publish electronically later this month. It highlights individuals from around the state who demonstrate daily that people with disabilities are people with possibilities.

Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on ‘calendar’ at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

Updated Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

An updated Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities is now available at the Ohio Public Images website: http://publicimagesnetwork.org/bill_of_rights.htm The Bill of Rights is available as a poster, and is adapted from the Ohio Revised Code. Language has been modified to make each ‘right’ easier to understand, and less formal than the ‘legalese’ that is used in the Revised Code.

Reminder: The ARC of Ohio Training, December 11

The Arc of Ohio will host a training on December 11 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Topics on the agenda include:

- The DODD New Futures Waiver for children with intensive behavioral needs;
- Transition Waivers;
- Ohio Legal Rights' discussion of issues related to special education, and terms of the recent partial settlement of *Doe vs. State of Ohio*; and,
- Trusts and Guardianships

Registration information and other details are published at <http://www.thearcofohio.org/>



Mark Your Calendars!

Statehouse Kickoff Event, DD Awareness Month, March 4, 2010



The DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI) 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 4, 2010. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date gets closer. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 26

In This Issue ...

- 1. National Lawmakers Introduce Legislation to Protect Children from Abuse in Schools
- 2. Ohio Public Images Continues “*Just Like You*” Campaign Theme for 2010
- 3. Special Feature, ‘2009 Year in Review’

1. Nation’s Lawmakers Introduce Legislation to Protect Children from Abuse in Schools

Earlier this month, U.S. lawmakers introduced bipartisan legislation to protect children from abuse in schools. Reports from Washington D.C. indicate that the legislation introduced will, for the first time, [protect all children in schools from harmful uses of restraint and seclusion](#), and embodies principles earlier set by the Obama administration.

U.S. Representatives George Miller (D-CA) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) introduced the legislation on December 9, and U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) introduced companion legislation in the Senate on the same day. The lawmakers unveiled the bill at a press conference [click here to watch](#) (67.4 MB file).

The ‘Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act’ (H.R. 4247) would establish the first federal standards to protect students from misuse of restraint and seclusion and ensure the safety of everyone in the classroom. It would apply to public schools, private schools, and preschools receiving federal education support.

A report released last spring by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) revealed hundreds of cases of schoolchildren being abused as a result of inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion, often involving untrained staff. In some of the cases the children died, and a disproportionate number of these victims were students with disabilities.

Restraint, Seclusion Specifically Addressed

Restraint is used to restrict an individual's freedom of movement. *Seclusion* is used to involuntarily confine a student in an area, alone. Both practices are meant to be used only in situations of imminent danger.

"Something is very wrong when our children are at risk in their own classrooms," said Representative Miller, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee who requested the GAO investigation. He added,

"Today is a critical first step toward finally ending this nightmare of abuse and ensuring that all classrooms are safe for students, their teachers, and the entire school community."

Legislators supporting the legislation noted, "As difficult situations arise, teachers or principals just don't know what to do. The legislation gives states needed guidance and resources to enable teachers and school personnel to handle difficult situations in the most positive manner possible. The legislation will set clear guidelines so that children and educators alike can be sure of a safe learning environment."

The GAO found that:

- Restraint can become fatal when it restricts breathing;
- Many of the school staff who used these interventions in abusive ways had not been properly trained; and,
- These practices often are being used as a routine disciplinary tactic, rather than in response to an emergency.

In some of the cases GAO investigated, ropes, duct tape, chairs with straps and bungee cords were used to restrain or isolate young children.

State and Other Protections

Facilities that receive federal health funding, unlike hospitals and other medical and community-based facilities, currently are not regulated by federal laws that address restraint and seclusion in schools. While the Children's Health Act of 2000 regulates how and when restraint and seclusion can be used on children in these other settings, schools are not covered.

State regulation and oversight varies greatly. Many states provide no guidance or assistance regarding these behavioral interventions. However, in Ohio, there is some guidance on this important health and safety issue:

The DODD Information Notice on the subject of Prone Restraint, November 2008, may be viewed at: [08-11-03 PDF](#), and [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 16, August 5, 2009](#), reports on 'Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order Establishing Physical Restraint Policies'.

For more about the 'Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act' (H.R. 4247), view the information at [protect all children in schools from harmful uses of restraint and seclusion](#) at the Committee on Education and Labor website. The Education and Labor Committee plans to mark up the bill early next year.



2. Ohio Public Images Continues 2009 Campaign Theme 'Just Like You'

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Ohio Public Images (OPI) 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 4, 2010, from 10 a.m. – noon. "Just Like You," the statewide theme for the 2009 event, has been continued for 2010, and focuses on peoples' similarities rather than differences, encouraging everyone to welcome people with disabilities into their communities.

The event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and is expected to draw approximately 300 attendees from across Ohio.

According to DODD Public Information Officer Sherry Steinman, "We were thrilled with the statewide representation in 2009 -- more than 25 counties were represented." She added, "The most exciting part of the event last year was the announcement by Governor Strickland regarding Senate Bill 79, (the 'Name Change Bill') and was signed a few months later, in July, and his words of encouragement to the self-advocates who started the effort that led to the legislation."

The DODD, along with Ohio Public Images, and the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD sponsor the kick-off celebration, providing an opportunity for diverse organizations that serve people with developmental disabilities to raise public awareness and share ideas. In 2010, self-advocates again will be a part of the program and share individual successes, as well as meet with legislators.

Lon Mitchell, OPI Executive Director, noted, "The camaraderie exhibited by the presenters, speakers, and the individuals and families who attend this event is always energizing."

Pipeline will continue to provide updated information as the date gets closer. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

Reminder: 'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 8, 2010

The Ohio Public Images 'Call for Entries' for the annual Media and Awareness Awards  [Call_for_Entries_2009.pdf](#) entry deadline is January 8, 2010. Awards will be presented at a luncheon on March 15, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference.

The awards event will honor individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2009. The competition also recognizes outstanding self-advocates and elected officials who champion efforts that assist people with developmental disabilities.

The Public Images Network, and its parent organization, Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. For more information, contact Mary Pat Riker at (419) 380-4049, or e-mail: MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org.

Coming in January 2010, More about Medicaid Infrastructure Grants



3. Pipeline Special Feature 2009 Year in Review



What's important to remember this year, and always, is summed up nicely in this photo from Guernsey County, featured in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Summer 2009 [PDF](#). During September, the month in which Ohio celebrates *Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week* recognizing the contributions that DSPs make in communities throughout the nation, we shared this story of inclusion and caring ... "When Guernsey Residential, Inc. staff member, Rob May, decided to 'pop the question' to his girlfriend, Morgan, he enlisted the help of his friends – Vaughn (WILL), Randy (YOU), David (MARRY) and Charlie (ME). Said Rob, **"I wanted to include 'my family' in this. I spend so much time with the guys that it was important to me they be involved."** Note the open engagement ring box, so skillfully displayed. And ... Morgan said "Yes!"

... And we say, "Thank you!"

DODD Salutes All of Ohio's Direct Support Professionals!

This *Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals and key issues within the state's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD -- including the continuing work on bringing to fruition the Futures Committee recommendations, and recognizing ongoing budget concerns. Here, we take a look at the successes and challenges that have marked 2009 via *excerpts* from articles representing each month:

January ...

[Pipeline, January 7, 2009](#)

An Open Letter from Director Martin

Dear MRDD Community:

Like all of us, I have been reflecting on things – the way we all have become so used to doing with the advent of a new year. It occurs to me that in many ways, this year's annual process of

examination is no different from any other new year. Like you, I have been thinking about what changes 2009 might bring, what might come from my own efforts (as a person, a public servant, and as a member of the community). I wonder, also, what I might learn from past experiences.

I recall many new year conversations where someone remarks with humor, that, “Yes, indeed, this is the year I will start exercising! This time it will happen.” Maybe it does, and with great gusto at first. As time marches on, the gusto is gone, and so we try again next January. We find that next January what we did before wasn’t all that successful – wasn’t what we really meant to do, or tried to do. It might mean we will have a ‘harder row to hoe’ as we try again.

This is when we may realize that this understanding brings with it some challenges and opportunities. It doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try – and even though we didn’t quite realize all we had resolved to, generally all is not lost. There are consequences to deal with, and feelings of disappointment to resolve, but with the new year we try again.

What is most true for me this year is the commitment that we are all in this together. I believe there are things we can do this year to help us get through these challenging times. I have always believed that by listening to each other, we learn from each other. I have always believed that by working together, we strengthen and preserve those common values, aspirations, and commitments that bind us.

Pipeline, January 21, 2009

Ohio’s Budget Conversations Yield Much to Consider

It’s a good thing ODMRDD Director John Martin is a highly social person with lots of stamina. The schedule of five ‘budget conversations’ across the state between January 7 and 15 was a fairly challenging one, given the wintery travel conditions and days ending well after 9 p.m. Ever humble, however, Director Martin simply noted,

“I was so pleased to see so many people attend these meetings to share their ideas and their views, that it was actually more energizing than tiring.”

The overall goal of the budget conversations was to gather input and ideas from a broad spectrum of participants, and consider new ways to approach the challenges ahead.

Pipeline EXTRA, January 28, 2009

Ohio’s State of the State Address Highlights Education Plans and Approach to Budget Issues

Governor Ted Strickland announced today that it is ... “Our duty to make something of this moment ...” and took the opportunity to do exactly that by focusing clearly on education, budget, and economic opportunity issues in his annual State of the State Address.

The Governor then described his comprehensive school funding and education plan, fulfilling a campaign promise. Governor Strickland acknowledged the challenging economy, and said the situation exemplifies what writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, once stated:

“This is a very good time if we but know what to do with it.”

Pipeline EXTRA, January 30, 2009

Open Letter from Director John Martin: Budget Conversations Spur Action

In January 2008, Governor Strickland addressed the economic situation and ordered the first of three budget adjustments. For ODMRDD, the first of the three cuts (\$17.2 million) resulted in a reduction to its Central Office administration and Developmental Center costs. Central Office staff was reduced by nearly 16 percent. In the ten Developmental Centers, staff was reduced by 286 positions. We also reduced overall census at Developmental Centers by 132 residents.

In September 2008, national economic indicators plummeted. Governor Strickland ordered a further reduction in ODMRDD's budget by \$16.9 million. Savings of this magnitude could not be absorbed by Central Office. The Department looked to the community to make necessary adjustments, and reduced Family Support Services and County Board Subsidy line items to make the necessary reductions. It was important to us all to assure that these reductions did not adversely affect the health and safety of residents at the Developmental Centers. In addition, the Governor ordered that Medicaid-funded services were to be held harmless.

Only two months later, in December 2008, in the face of an unprecedented economic environment, the Governor acted once again to ensure a balanced budget for the fiscal year by reducing ODMRDD's annual budget by an additional \$19.1 million.

Overall, within 11 months, \$53.1 million had been removed from the ODMRDD budget.

Following the Governor's third budget announcement, ODMRDD convened a group of stakeholders, including leadership of MRDD system partners. We discussed the seriousness of the situation before us. This group suggested that I work with a few stakeholder organizations to conduct a series of community forums across Ohio to discuss the budget, and ask two essential questions. My goal was to listen. From the resulting five community forums we learned that ...

A majority of participants were concerned about:

- What will happen at Developmental Centers;
- The dilemma of aging caregivers;
- The need for well-trained and qualified direct care workers; and
- The need to provide better supports to family care givers, especially those with young children.

Suggestions that were made time and again included:

- Sharing resources among state agencies, county boards, providers, and families;
- Seeking regulatory relief cutting through the red tape that hinders creativity in providing services;
- Examination of shared services and use of technology to provide more flexible options that could save dollars in the long run; and,
- Making it a priority to invest in people living at home with families.



February ...

Pipeline EXTRA, February 2, 2009

State Budget Announcement Highlights Fiscal Sustainability

Ohio's Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) J. Pari Sabety today described a state budget for 2010-11 that will be driven by continually asking the question, "Is this spending fiscally responsible and fiscally sustainable?" The responsibility factor weighs heavily on all state agencies to provide services to individuals and families with increasing needs, as their agency resources decrease.

In a press conference today, OBM's Sabety clearly outlined a budget that responds to an unprecedented set of economic circumstances as a result of the national recession. As Governor Ted Strickland described, in part, last week:

... The budget would reduce spending by \$3.2 billion compared to '2009 planning levels,' while being bolstered with fee and fine hikes, \$3.4 billion in federal bailout money, and nearly \$1 billion from the state's rainy day fund.

Director Martin reinforced the impact of 2008 budget cuts with a group of MRDD stakeholders today, while reviewing some details contained in the budget announcement. In this context it is important to note that 2008 ODMRDD reduced Central Office administration by 16%, reduced census at our Developmental Centers by 132 residents, and instituted a number of other cost-saving measures.

Pipeline, February 4, 2009

Positive Culture Initiative

ODMRDD to Lead Effort on Development of State Policy

The Cleveland Plain Dealer and many other Ohio newspapers last week picked up an article via the Associated Press on the subject of prone (face-down) restraint, that authorities say contributed to the death of a teenager at an Ohio treatment center. The ODMRDD had banned usage of the restraint position in November 2008, before 17-year-old Faith Finley died at a Cleveland-area facility in December. The notice issued by ODMRDD in November (08-11-03  Prone Restraint), banned the face-to-the-floor restraint, saying that "overwhelming findings support the belief that its use poses an unacceptable risk to health and safety." A coroner ruled the teen's death a homicide, saying she choked on vomit and suffocated.

Governor Ted Strickland has called for the development of a state policy on the use of physical restraints, due to concerns about how Faith Finley died. In addition, agencies in at least 14 other states have severely curtailed or banned some restraints, most commonly the face-down position.

The ODMRDD has been asked by Governor Strickland to lead the effort to develop a standard policy, in the hope that the Department's ban will be adopted across Ohio.

An inter-agency committee, to be led by ODMRDD, will study and make recommendations on the use of prone restraints, and will move toward banning dangerous restraints.

Pipeline, February 18, 2009

Important Budget Update: Governor Announces Federal Stimulus Package Includes \$8.2 Billion in Funding for Ohio

Governor Ted Strickland has announced that Ohio will receive at least \$8.2 billion in federal funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that President Barack Obama signed into law yesterday.

“I applaud President Barack Obama’s visionary leadership and the efforts of Senator Sherrod Brown and the other members of Ohio’s congressional delegation who voted for this vital and necessary bill,” Strickland said.

He continued, “The federal stimulus is the right investment at exactly the right time to jumpstart the stalled economy. These resources will save or create more than 130,000 jobs for Ohioans and provide tax cuts to working families, while helping to protect essential state services that Ohioans rely upon every day.”

In the same issue ...

President Obama Posts Disabilities Agenda

Disabilities is one of 24 topics included in the Obama Administration agenda posted on the White House website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/> shortly after the inauguration. Obama’s plan discusses initiatives to improve education and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, supporting community-based living, and ending discrimination.

Briefly, the White House ‘disabilities agenda’ calls for providing Americans with disabilities with the educational opportunities needed to succeed by:

- Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- Supporting early intervention and universal screening for children with disabilities;
- Improving college opportunities for high school graduates with disabilities; and,
- Making college more affordable.

According to the disabilities agenda, President Obama also seeks to:

- End discrimination and promote equal opportunity by restoring the Americans with Disabilities Act and increase funding for enforcement;
- Support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act;
- Ensure affordable, accessible health care for all; and,
- Improve mental health care.



March ...

Pipeline, March 4, 2009

MRDD Awareness Month is in Full Swing

The only real disability in life is a bad attitude. - Anonymous

ODMRDD Budget Testimony Focuses on Fiscal Sustainability

ODMRDD Director John Martin provided budget testimony yesterday, March 3, 2009, to the members of the Human Services Subcommittee. The testimony touched on several topics, including the challenges of unstable funding streams and waiting lists; fiscal sustainability; and, several initiatives built on the foundation of the MRDD Futures Committee. In addition, Director Martin addressed the ODMRDD's response to the economic downturn -- specifically three budget reductions totaling \$53.5 million in General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriations.

During budget testimony, Director Martin noted,

“Ohio’s MRDD community is working together to address the long-term fiscal sustainability of our system. I will explain our pathway to working through these challenges, as we make changes to achieve the best possible and most sustainable uses of available resources. I will share how our response to the current budget’s reductions has been guided by the commitment to address long term fiscal sustainability, and how we continue to prepare our system to address both the constraints and the opportunities that lie ahead in the upcoming biennium, 2012-13, and beyond.”

Pipeline, March 18, 2009

Governor Strickland Announces Support for ODMRDD Name Change to Remove Words ‘Mental Retardation’



We're not exaggerating when we say, “... The more than 300 participants at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event on March 5, 2009, at the Ohio Statehouse.” In fact, there were close to 350 people in the Atrium area at one point during the event.

Below are highlights of Governor Strickland's comments at the MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event at the Ohio Statehouse, March 5, 2009.

“Good morning! It is a great pleasure to see you all here today from across the State of Ohio, to kick off the celebration and recognition of March as MRDD Awareness Month. The Statehouse

Atrium has been home to this event each year that I have been in office, and I was honored in 2007, as I am today, to join with you in celebration.

I see on the program today that several presenters will address the Rights of People with Disabilities, and demonstrate how self-advocacy is bringing to the forefront a clear message that the collective *abilities* of 80,000 Ohioans across the state is stronger than any disability they may have. Just like all Ohioans, I understand that you want jobs ... that you want a place to call home ... and that -- *just like me* -- you want to feel welcomed as a part of your community.

That is why for the next biennium I have proposed funding for ODMRDD to continue the progress being made to strengthen opportunities for employment, sustain community living, and encourage community participation. Increased federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama will allow us to move ahead with these initiatives.

In addition, I understand that self advocates have come to Columbus -- more than once -- to ask that there be a change in the words agencies that serve people with disabilities use in their names. Respectful words are important. That is why I am announcing today that I support having the Ohio Department of MRDD's name changed to remove the words 'mental retardation'.

Self-advocates, you have asked that this be done, and I have heard you! *Just Like You*, I think this is important. Your collective strength and conviction have made change happen.

And so, today I am asking ODMRDD Director John Martin to work with Senator Jimmy Stewart and other legislators, and with the County Boards Association and others, to see if this can be accomplished this year, while minimizing any expense associated with the change. Ohio will no longer be on the list of those states 'undecided' on the subject of words to describe its citizens who have developmental disabilities."

In the same issue ...

Senator Jimmy Stewart Introduces Senate Bill 79

On March 11, 2009, following the March 5th MRDD Awareness Month Kickoff Event and the announcement of the Governor's support for taking the words 'mental retardation' out of the State Department's name as well as the names of other related entities, Senator Jimmy Stewart introduced Senate Bill 79. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Tom Roberts, Bob Gibbs, Karen Gillmor, Nina Turner, and Mark Wagoner.

This bill would change the name of the *Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, and the name of *County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* and make similar name changes for other related entities.

In the same issue ...

[Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling Good Old Fashioned Billboard Promotions](#)

What: As one Southern Ohio MRDD staffer stated in an email along with her local billboard photo, “It’s great to drive through different counties around the state, and see so many wonderful and different takes on the *Just Like You* theme. It really makes me feel proud to be a part of the awareness effort!” Billboards were designed by local County Boards in collaboration with outdoor advertising agencies, and sometimes in partnership with businesses and organizations that offered financial support for the advertising.

Where: Knox County

Briefly: Shown is one of many treatments of the *Just Like You* theme, using local talent and pets:



For more information: Contact Knox County MRDD at (740) 397-4656. Andrea Perry-McKay at aperry@knoxmrdd.com



April ...

Pipeline, April 1, 2009

Senate Bill 79 moves through testimony March 31, 2009

**Excerpt from SB 79 Sponsor Testimony- MRDD Name Change
Senator Jimmy Stewart, Senate State and Local Government Committee**

Yesterday’s testimony on this bill included the following comments from Senator Stewart: “SB 79 is simple; it would change the name of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) and the County Boards of MRDD, to simply, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the “__” County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Several months ago, I attended a meeting at the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities where I was asked to sponsor legislation that would remove the term ‘retardation’ from the Ohio Department of MRDD. After listening to numerous constituents explain why the term was offensive to them, I agreed. ‘Retardation’ is an antique term, and Ohio is one of only

six states that continue to use it in the official title of a state department. I hope we can all agree that we must do our part to remove this degrading term from an agency funded by the people of the State of Ohio.”

In the same issue ...

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism Activists Spotlight Need for Information, Understanding

In 2000, the Center for Disease Control's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network indicated 6.7 per 1,000 children who were 8 years old had been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In 2007, the prevalence of children diagnosed increased dramatically -- to 1 in 150 -- according to monitoring network data.

Promising Approaches

Many promising activities are currently underway in Ohio to respond to the growth in the incidence of autism. Through a pilot project funded by the Ohio Department of Health and conducted by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, physicians in five targeted counties across the state are receiving training to recognize the early signs of autism.

The sooner autism is identified, the sooner an intervention program can start.

Pipeline, April 15, 2009

April Rally Focuses on Key Legislative Actions

Senate Bill 79, House Bill 118, House Bill 8 Each Move Through the Legislative Process

On April 1, 2009, the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 200 individuals with autism and other disabilities, activists, families, and state legislators, rallying to support Senate Bill 79, House Bill 118, and House Bill 8. HB 79 and HB 118 would strike the words ‘mental retardation’ from the name of the state and county entities overseeing services to people with developmental disabilities. For example, the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities would be re-named the ‘Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities,’ as the bill currently is written.

House Bill 8, introduced on the same day as the rally, mandates that health insurance policies providing basic health care coverage must include coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

The rally, co-sponsored by The ARC of Ohio, the Autism Society of America - Central Ohio Chapter; Autism Speaks; and, the Autism Society of Ohio, and People First of Ohio, among others, provided a cross-section of support for raising awareness of specific issues faced by families who have members with developmental disabilities, including ASD. The federal Centers for Disease Control report that the incidence of autism in the United States is 1 in 150 children, and there are more than 10,000 families in Ohio affected every day.

In the same issue ...

Solidarity's 10th Anniversary Draws a Crowd of Nearly 500

Despite a persistent and dreary drizzle, the crowd gathered around the registration desk was highly energized, as one of Ohio's leading conferences by and for people with disabilities' returned to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus yesterday -- opening to a crowd of nearly 500 people from across the state. The three-day event (April 14-16) celebrates *Solidarity's* 10th Anniversary and continues a tradition of bringing relevant information to people with disabilities, their friends and families, on issues important to the disability community.

Governor Strickland Addresses Relevant Issues

Governor Ted Strickland began the opening day luncheon with enthusiastic comments on Ohio's initiatives and targeted efforts to improve the employment scene for people with disabilities. He noted that the Medicaid Buy-In program, initiated last year, helps to create an environment where competitive employment opportunities are available, stating,

"This is critical to the dignity of individuals with disabilities, and to the economy of our state and our nation. Medicaid Buy-In is an important opportunity for Ohioans with disabilities, and it's the right thing to do. People with disabilities have the right to find and keep jobs without the risk of losing their medical benefits!"

Pipeline, April 29, 2009

The Futures Progress Report Completed –

Reports progress to-date on the 31 MRDD Futures Committee recommendations.

[CLICK HERE FOR MRDD FUTURES PROGRESS REPORT](#)

In the same issue ...

April 21 Testimony Supports Passage of SB79



On hand at the Statehouse, self-advocates, members of People First, and others provided support and testimony on April 21, 2009, to remove the words 'mental retardation' from Ohio's state and county board agencies. (Left to right): Jason Licht (seated); Sadie Hunter, executive director People First; Marty Zinn, co-coordinator, Developmental Disabilities Council Center on Public Policy; Glenda Murray, self-advocate (Athens); John Hannah, self-advocate (Champaign); Andy Leinbaugh, self-advocate (Athens); William Peacock, self-advocate (The Plains); Dan Ohler, executive director, OACBMRDD; Steve Koch (Athens), Deana Peacock, self-advocate, The Plains; Steven Koch, advisor PersonnelPlus (Athens); Mike Groleau, self-advocate, (Pickaway); Jim Gillespie, self-advocate (Athens); Senator Jimmy Stewart. *-photo courtesy, Steve Koch*

On April 21, 2009, members of the Ohio Senate heard testimony from several supporters of SB 79, and those in attendance heard the *vote passing the measure* at 10:30 a.m. Details regarding the resulting new name of the Ohio Department of MRDD, the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, and other related entities are under discussion, and will include input from self-advocates and stakeholders. The change will be phased in according to a yet-to-be determined timeframe, allowing entities to educate and inform their constituencies, and minimize any costs associated with the process.

Note: In the House of Representatives, House Bill 118 also addresses the MRDD name change, and is sponsored by Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips.

"Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families are ready for the next steps in the evolution of how they are perceived, and how they are served. They are ready for a change."

-ODMRDD Director, John Martin

In the same issue ...

Alcohol Awareness Month

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Spotlighted in School Settings

A national school-based initiative called Reach Out Now (RON) strives to prevent and reduce underage alcohol use, by raising awareness in young students about the dangers and potential consequences of alcohol use or abuse *before they begin to drink*. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*, through its *Center for Substance Abuse Prevention* promotes the RON initiative in schools and online at <http://www.toosmartostart.samhsa.gov/>.

During Alcohol Awareness Month, families, caregivers, and school staff across Ohio may wish to reinforce that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the only form of mental retardation that is completely preventable by simply not drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

Approximately 40,000 babies are born in the U.S. with FASD every year. Children born with FASD suffer effects that may be physical, mental, behavioral and/or have learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

Prenatal exposure to alcohol remains the leading preventable cause of birth defects, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits and behavior disorders.

No amount of alcohol should be consumed during pregnancy.



May ...

Pipeline EXTRA, May 6, 2009

Results of the May 5, 2009 Election – MRDD Levies, Statewide

Five County Board of MRDD levies were on the ballot, with all passing except for one, in Morrow County.

Pipeline, May 13, 2009

Update: Ban on Use of Prone Restraint

Governor Ted Strickland will be reviewing the proposed ban on prone restraint recommended by the ODMRDD and six other state agencies that oversee residential and and/or treatment centers for people with developmental disabilities or who have other issues resulting in health and safety concerns. Prone restraint techniques are illustrated in this pdf: *Click here to download PDF.*

The Associated Press reported progress on the proposed ban last week, and noted that Michael Rench, ODMRDD community services deputy director and lead on the task force that recommended the ban, felt that progress on the ban had been the result of a positive, collaborative inter-agency effort.

In the same issue ...

National Core Indicators, Year Two, RFP

The ODMRDD is pleased to announce the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the *Administration of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Consumer Surveys in Ohio – Year 2*. Eligibility is open to all entities/organizations. The RFP is posted on the ODMRDD website at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futuresmore/nci.htm> .

Deadline for proposal submission is June 5, 2009. Implementation of the work will occur July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 (actual start date to be determined).

The National Core Indicators is a collaboration among participating state agency members of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS), and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). *NCI has developed a systematic approach to performance and outcome measurement.* Through the collaboration, participating states pool their resources and knowledge to create performance monitoring systems, identify common performance indicators, work out comparable data collection strategies, and share results.

The goal of the initiative is to develop nationally-recognized performance and outcome indicators that will enable developmental disabilities policy makers to benchmark the performance of their state against the performance of other states.

Pipeline, May 27, 2009

Family Advisory Council Learns, Shares, Asks Questions

A jam-packed room greeted ODMRDD Family Advisory Council (FAC) members, as they gathered on May 19 at the Columbus Developmental Center to learn, share, and ask questions. Director John Martin continued his unblemished record of attending every FAC meeting and opening the floor to questions and comments – this time following a brief ‘view from the top’ discussing the current budget situation.

“Everything is on the table, in terms of the budget currently being reviewed at the Statehouse,” said Director Martin. He added,

“We will do the best we can with the budget we are given, and in light of a growing state budget deficit, we are expecting a lean one.”

In addition to the ‘dollars and cents’ discussion regarding the budget, Director Martin noted that advocacy efforts at the local level, driving decisions about local levy dollars, are an increasingly important element in Ohio’s management of funds for services supporting people with developmental disabilities.

In the same issue ...

Housing Census Provides First-Ever Overview of Special Needs Housing in Ohio

The 2009 Housing Report, a review of the special needs housing network in Ohio that includes a first-ever census of the housing corporations in Ohio, was presented at the Disability Housing Network’s (DHN) 2009 Spring Conference this month. The Report was conducted by DHN, and finds that there are 3913 Ohio residents in 1317 homes owned and operated by local housing corporations.

Steve McPeake, President/ CEO of North Coast Community Homes in Cleveland, and DHN’s Board President, noted,

“The census had a 75% response rate, with 58 of the 77 housing corporations in Ohio responding. This is a strong step toward helping the Ohio Department of MRDD accomplish one of their 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, that policy decisions be data driven.”

Highlights of the census include:

- 44% of all housing corporations own fewer than 10 homes;
- An additional 33% of all housing corporations own fewer than 21 homes; and,
- Conversely, nearly 70% of the homes are owned by just 22% of the housing corporations.



June ...

Pipeline, June 10, 2009

News Update: Status of Senate Bill 79

SB 79 – MRDD Name Change

Sponsor: Senator Jimmy Stewart, Senate State and Local Government Committee

The House of Representatives has passed SB 79 with a vote of 98–0. It now returns to the Senate for final action.

Director Martin Addresses Current Budget Environment

Ohio’s current budget environment is the most difficult in recent memory. It also has been characterized as the most challenging in decades, due to anticipated state revenue reductions reflecting 2005 tax reforms and unanticipated results from a sharp and long-term national economic downturn. In a recent statement, Governor Ted Strickland noted, “Because of the worsening economy, more tough budget choices are ahead.” As Director of the ODMRDD I

would like to share with you a few things that our organization is doing to meet some of these challenges, as we await further definition of the 2010-2011 biennial budget.

In light of the state's financial difficulties, ODMRDD employees represented by the state's largest labor union, OCSEA, have agreed to observe ten unpaid cost savings days per year for the next two fiscal years, beginning July 1, 2009. It is anticipated that unpaid cost savings days will be extended to exempt Department employees, as well, through language in Sub. H. B. 1, the state's budget bill, and to employees represented by other unions that are currently in negotiations. The ten unpaid days represent, for each affected employee, a decrease of about 3.85% in earnings, in each of the next two years.

In the same issue ...

Editor's Note

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are a part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out in ODMRDD publications wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.

Pipeline, June 24, 2009

Tracking Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill’

Sponsor: Senator Jimmy Stewart, Senate State and Local Government Committee

SB79 was approved by the Ohio Senate conference committee on June 17, thereby approving the amendments that were added by the Ohio House of Representatives. Following the Senate vote, the bill now moves to Governor Strickland for signature.

Because of the leadership of self advocates from the Southeast Ohio/Athens area, along with their respective state legislators, the Ohio General Assembly was moved to act on this issue. Early advocates' efforts motivated other advocates across the state, and bi-partisan support for this legislation gained steam quickly.

The progress of S.B. 79 and H.B. 118 proves that self advocates can, indeed, impact state government, and that legislators have listened to their call to action.

In the same issue ...

Ohio's Biennial Budget – A Work In-Progress

The ongoing budget discussion has resulted in the release of a 'framework budget proposal' for the Legislative Conference Committee to consider in addressing the budget shortfall. This proposal is an unusual and positive approach taken by Governor Strickland, and was developed

while collaborative conversations with the Ohio General Assembly leadership continue. In essence, the framework is a proposal designed to help move the budget discussions forward toward a balanced budget. It is important to remember that as a new development in the ongoing budget conversations, Governor Strickland's budget framework and the final budget will likely have differences.

The bottom line is that Conference Committee members must consider all factors as they work to present the Governor with a balanced budget.



July ...

Pipeline, July 8, 2009

Governor Strickland Signs SB 79, 'The Name Change Bill'

Yesterday, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79, a bill sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart, that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities, as well as the names of local Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) boards to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The bill also removes the term "mental retardation" from the titles of other state and county entities, councils, commissions, and various funds that use the term.

Governor Strickland stated,

"I applaud the legislature for working quickly to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation," Strickland said. "This change aligns Ohio with most other states in the way we identify and discuss citizens with developmental disabilities and special needs."

In the same issue ...

Talk About A Freedom Celebration!

Hopewell Industries, the adult services affiliate of the Coshocton County Board of MRDD prepared well for their first ever 'Freedom Celebration' on July 1, but they could not have been completely prepared for the major positive impact people like John Gillespie made on those attending. It was, indeed, a special event.

While rock 'n roll played in the background and people joined in games and pie-eating contests, John Gillespie, president of *People First* of Knox County, gave an emotional speech in his red, white and blue stove-pipe hat. Calling himself '*Mr. Bill O'Rights*', John talked about a recent visit to the Ohio Statehouse when he addressed legislators about taking the "R" out of the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities name. He said,

"I said to them ... 20 years ago, a man with autism wouldn't have been able to stand before you and speak to you about a word that makes my heart burn."



"Freedom knows no colors or disabilities."

Todd Gatewood spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. "We're fighting for the same things as Dr. King – freedom – what this country was founded on. Freedom knows no colors or disabilities," he said. (photo courtesy, Chris Crook/Coshocton Tribune)

In the same issue ...

Update on Ohio's Biennial Budget

Governor Ted Strickland has signed House Bill 245, a second seven-day temporary budget. The interim budget will be in effect from July 8 to July 14 and will continue to maintain critical state services at reduced funding levels.

Governor Strickland stated, "I have serious reservations about continuing to operate state government under interim budgets, rather than a comprehensive two-year budget."

Pipeline, July 22, 2009

As of October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named. Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities) and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words. (DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Governor Strickland Signs Biennial Budget Bill

Ohio's 2010-2011 Biennial Budget Bill, HB1, was signed by Governor Ted Strickland on July 17, 2009. The \$50.5 billion, two-year state operating budget passed the Ohio House by a vote of 54-44. The Senate passed the budget by a 20-11 vote. The bill is [posted online in its completed form](#).

In his budget message of July 17, Governor Strickland stated, "In the face of unprecedented economic challenges, we were able to come together to pass a balanced budget that invests in education without raising taxes on Ohioans." He continued,

"Because Ohio families and businesses cannot afford a state tax increase at this time, this budget instead reduces state government spending by an unprecedented \$2.5 billion. This after my Administration already realized budget reductions of nearly \$2 billion and reduced the state workforce by more than 3,400 positions – resizing state government back to the level it was during

the 1980s – to balance the budget in fiscal years 2008 and 2009.”

In the same issue ...

Gearing Up for the ODMRDD Name Change

Rolling Out ‘Department Of Developmental Disabilities’

Ninety days following Governor Ted Strickland’s July 7 signing of Senate Bill 79, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities legally will become the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The many self advocates who worked so hard to effect the name change can be hopeful that they will hear the word ‘retardation’ -- and its variants -- a lot less often. We are energized by their work and applaud them for their tenacity.

The Department is hopeful that with a gradual, common sense approach to the rollout, the name change will be fairly seamless at the state level, and will provide an opportunity to educate the enterprise-wide community regarding developmental disabilities in general.

Also on the positive side, ‘Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ has only five words instead of the current eight, so it will be more likely that people will choose to use the words more often, rather than the acronym. And, just as the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) routinely does not use the ‘O’ in ‘Ohio’ as part of their acronym, we have streamlined ours, as well.

Department of Developmental Disabilities – DODD.

Using the letters spoken individually, the acronym is simple, and has a similar spoken ‘rhythm’ as the former ‘MRDD’. Better yet, using the words becomes much easier to do more often.



August ...

Pipeline, August 5, 2009

Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order Establishing Physical Restraint Policies for State Agencies

On August 3, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed an executive order that bans prone restraint across all state systems and sets specific policies for other types of physical restraints.

According to the news release of the same day from the Governor’s Office, he stated, “Some state employees’ job duties require them to handle situations that may pose potential injury to themselves or others, and may require their intervention through use of a physical restraint. It is critical that we protect the safety, dignity and respect of both the state employee and those in the care of the state.” He continued,

“This executive order establishes minimum acceptable standards to make sure restraint is used properly, by a trained individual, and only when absolutely necessary to ensure safety and prevent harm.”

This policy is the result of a seven-agency work group that studied the use of physical restraint at the respective agencies when providing services. ODMRDD was the lead on the work group efforts and had banned the 'prone restraint' position in November 2008, due to the belief that it posed an unacceptable risk to health and safety. Prone restraint involves the restraint of an individual in a face-down position for an extended period of time. The November 2008 ban applies to all providers of services to individuals with disabilities who receive funds directly or indirectly from the ODMRDD to provide a service or support to an individual eligible for County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities services. The Department's *Information Notice* is at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/Infonotices/08-11-03.pdf> .

The Governor's Executive Order bans the use of prone restraint across all state systems, sets specific requirements for the use of 'transitional hold,' and limits the use of other types of physical restraints. In addition, the Executive Order creates the Ohio Policy Committee on Restraint and Seclusion to ensure Ohio continues to establish best practices. Read the full text of the order at: <http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Executive%20Orders/EO%2009-13S.pdf>

In the same issue ...

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebrates 19 Years – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Signed

The 19th anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was celebrated on July 26. Signed into law on that date in 1990, this landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

In a Proclamation issued on July 24, 2009, President Barack Obama stated,

“Our Nation is once again poised to make history for people with disabilities. I am proud to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on December 13, 2006. The Convention is the first new human rights convention of the 21st century adopted by the United Nations, and it represents a paradigm shift in protecting the human rights of 650 million people with disabilities, worldwide.”

According to ODMRDD Director John Martin, “Signing on to the UN Convention is long-awaited news. It is very exciting to see the progress being made since 1990.”

In the same issue ...

Provider Certification Rule Responds to Futures Recommendations

The ODMRDD is making preparations for implementation of the new *Provider Certification* rule (5123:2-2-01). The rule will implement, for the first time, the Department's existing statutory authority to time-limit provider certification and collect application fees for providers of Supported Living and Home and Community-Based Services waiver services.

The rule is responsive to several MRDD Futures Committee recommendations and represents a shared commitment throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community to create a better service delivery system. A copy of the rule is available at the Department's website (<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm>).

The rule streamlines and simplifies rules by replacing three existing rules regarding provider certification (5123:2-9-09, 5123:2-12-02, and 5123:2-12-06) with one rule.

Pipeline, August 19, 2009

Developing More Successful Employment Opportunities

"When my step-daughter entered the workforce 17 years ago at Walgreen's, she did a lot more than get a job – she entered the fuller life of the community."

– Michael Rench, Director, Rehabilitation Services Commission

An open forum titled, "*Developing Successful Employment Opportunities*," was enthusiastically attended by more than 200 people with disabilities, their families, friends, and people who serve them, on August 18th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus. The comment above from forum speaker, Michael Rench, Director of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, was one of many that highlighted the far-reaching benefits of employment -- and the equally far-reaching consequences of unemployment -- for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Hosted by the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, the forum was designed to provide a venue to share experiences concerning issues or circumstances that may be preventing people from getting a job, as well as suggestions to improve services and otherwise positively impact Ohio's employment picture for people with disabilities.

In the same issue ...

September is National Preparedness Month

Get Ready for National Preparedness Month 2009!

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security – and locally, the Ohio Department of Public Safety – sponsor National Preparedness Month (September) and encourage people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The ODMRDD is among those supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations.



September ...

Pipeline, September 2, 2009

Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community Attends Historic Ceremony

SB 79, 'The Name Change Bill', Ceremonial Signing



Historic Signature – Governor Ted Strickland signs Senate Bill 79 in a ceremony involving several self-advocates and other members of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community. The ceremonial bill signing commemorates the July 7 official signing of the bill that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities, (effective 90 days from signature) as well as the names of local County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

On August 28, the Cabinet Room at the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 40 representatives of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community, including several of the self-advocates from Athens County who spurred the proposal and eventual passage of Senate Bill 79.

Governor Strickland reiterated his support of the bi-partisan legislation, stating,

"I applaud the legislature for working to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation, and I am especially pleased to see the strong participation of Ohio's self advocates in this process."

In the same issue ...

Department Update

Changes Within Medicaid Development & Administration

To provide better customer service and efficiency to the field, there have been some recent organizational changes in the ODMRDD Division of Medicaid Development & Administration (MDA). In reorganizing, MDA hopes to simplify processes in several areas, both within the Department, and when assisting others.

According to MDA Deputy Director, Patrick Stephan, "For example, the Department's Claims Services Unit, lead by Debbie Hoffine, is now under MDA. In addition, we also have absorbed Provider Certification, lead by Sally Clingman. We are excited to have the opportunity to work

more collaboratively now with these units in order to provide the best possible customer service to the field.”

For a list of specific contacts, visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/resources.htm>.

Pipeline, September 16, 2009

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week

Ohio's Direct Support Professionals in the Spotlight

As noted in the September 2 issue of *Pipeline*, the week of September 14 is *National Direct Support Professionals Week* -- recognizing the important contribution that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in communities throughout the nation. The designation also provides an opportunity to spotlight the role Direct Support Professionals play, every day, in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, as well as the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

In her role as Deputy Director for Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers, Ginnie Whisman is well aware of the critical role of DSP's the the lives of people with developmental disabilities. She comments,

“Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of our service delivery system. The quality of our services begins and ends with them. Our system could not function without these dedicated and caring professionals, and we are proud to recognize and honor them at our Developmental Centers for their tireless efforts in working with the individuals we are entrusted to serve.”

In the same issue ...

Carolyn Knight Named Executive Director, Developmental Disabilities Council

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (“DD Council”) has named Carolyn Knight Executive Director. She has been serving the organization as Acting Executive Director since late 2008, upon the retirement of Dave Zwyer.

Prior to her appointment as the agency's Acting Director, Carolyn was Executive Director of Ohio Legal Rights Service, and was a DD Council member participating actively on various Council committees, including the Outreach Committee.

Pipeline, September 30, 2009

This is the last issue of *Pipeline* under the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities name. Beginning with the October 14 issue, it will be published under the new Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities name.

Our new acronym is **DODD** (Department of Developmental Disabilities), and is pronounced as the individual letters ‘D-O-D-D’, as was done with MRDD.

First Lady Frances Strickland to Lead Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration, October 8th

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland will lead Ohio's celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday, October 8, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (in case of rain: Statehouse Atrium). The event is free and open to the public. The theme for this year's celebration is,

“Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business.”

The celebration, sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, will include recognition of several American Recovery & Reinvestment Act stimulus projects, and local Pathways Partners that are working to strengthen Ohio's statewide network of disability employment services.



October ...

[Pipeline, October 14, 2009](#)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

State's Celebration Led by First Lady Frances Strickland

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland enthusiastically led Ohio's celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* at the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday, October 8th. The theme for this year's celebration, '*Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business,*' was supported by several organizations and individuals gathered on the west lawn of the Statehouse, with a spirited program including the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band, the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities Bell Choir, the Columbus School for the Deaf, and others who joined in welcoming the First Lady's words of acknowledgement and encouragement. She stated,

“Today we re-dedicate ourselves to fostering a more inclusive work culture, and to filling more employment opportunities in Ohio businesses with people who have disabilities. Through my work with the Ohio Children and Families First Council I have learned so much about the many gifts and talents that people with disabilities bring to the work environment and to their communities, and I acknowledge and applaud their contributions.”

[Pipeline, October 28, 2009](#)

First in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas

The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the first in a series of *Pipeline* articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's state-operated Developmental Centers;
- Create a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.



November ...

[Pipeline EXTRA, November 4, 2009](#)

Results of November 3, 2009 Election – MRDD Levies, Statewide

Nine County Board of MRDD levies were on the ballot, with all passing except for two, in Holmes and Morrow Counties.

[Pipeline, November 10, 2009](#)

November is National Family Caregivers Month

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November as *National Family Caregivers Month*, in support of family caregivers in the workplace who balance work and family caregiving responsibilities. The official proclamation* states, "Families are best able to care for their loved ones when they can take time away from work without fear of losing their job or their income."

An estimated 50 million Americans provide care for family members who live with chronic ailments, disabilities, or issues due to aging conditions. The proclamation "encourages all Americans to pay tribute to and support those who are caring for their family members, friends, and neighbors in need of assistance."

According to *Ascribe*, a public interest newsletter, family caregivers provide more than 80% of all long-term care in America, with services valued at an estimated \$375 billion annually.

The same issue contained ...

Second in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part II – Assuring Quality Services

Part I of this series highlighted the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) described as, “Creating a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide.” The PCI approach is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships, and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.

Part II – The ‘Quality Services’ Priority

Part II of this series now focuses on streamlining processes and assuring quality services. According to Kate Haller, DODD Deputy Director for Legal and Oversight services, this involves developing and implementing a standard method of reviewing service delivery and outcomes, as well as focusing resources on new providers, and providers who may need additional assistance or attention.

She explains, “One of the action steps we will be taking in this area is maximizing the use of our website for users to access more information provided by the Office of Provider Standards and Review and Provider Certification staff. Recently, we improved the information on our DODD Website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/new.htm> and Kelly Miller and her team will be adding other enhancements and interactive capabilities in the near future. Along with this, we plan on standardizing our review tools and processes across providers, residential facilities, and County Boards, and encouraging the use of a self-evaluation tool.”

Pipeline, November 24, 2009

Collaborative Symposium Spotlights Success

The second annual Collaborative Symposium, hosted by the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OSCBDD), the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and APSI brought together nearly one hundred attendees and presenters at the Westin Hotel in downtown Columbus, spotlighting successful collaboration activities from across the state. Topics included:

- Creating a self advocacy leadership network;
- A prevention program with community police;
- A partnership between Franklin County Board of DD and Columbus Goodwill Industries;
- A mutually-enhancing partnership in Greene County;
- Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in tough economic times; and,
- System efficiencies – what synergies can happen when providers, county board and advocates work together.

In the same issue ...

Giving Thanks – Thoughts from Across the State

Director Martin’s Observations on Generosity, Caring

by John Martin, DODD Director

Last week I toured Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) in southern Ohio. A couple of things especially made an impression on me from that trip. First was a large photograph of all of the staff and residents who lived and worked at the Center, taken in 1929, and the admission logs from that time period, in a rather remarkable historical display. Gallipolis was, originally, a place for persons with epilepsy, and the logs documented the admission of children 11 and 12

years old, who had perhaps a single seizure, and for that reason were placed at Gallipolis for many, many years.

The photograph documented these children, dressed in their suits and dresses for the group picture. I wondered as I looked at the picture and read the records – in 80 years, when someone looks back at what we are doing today, what will they think?

Year end is a time for reflection. I just received the National Core Indicators (NCI) annual report with the 2007-2008 data, and was taken by the five-year trend in one of the measurements. On the subject of Loneliness, 45% of the individuals in this national survey reported feeling lonely either ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ -- a number that has remained fairly consistent since 2003-2004 when they started tracking this kind of data. And I wondered, thinking about the picture from Gallipolis taken in 1929, which of the staff in the picture reached out to the 11 year-old boy taken from his community of brothers and sisters, parents and friends – who stepped up to be his friend and help him not feel lonely?



December ...

[Pipeline, December 9, 2009](#)

Third in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part III – Upgrade and Integrate DODD Information Systems

The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the third in a series of Pipeline articles highlighting these top priority areas.

Priority Area: Information Systems

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. Upgrading and integrating our information systems infrastructure is one of the ten priority areas, and is underway in terms of strategy and development of specific action steps.

During the biennial budget process, the DODD worked with stakeholders to identify specific service areas that would benefit from improved online access to information, as well as provide simpler and more frequently updated databases. As part of an overall DODD Information Systems upgrade during 2009-2011, these elements include:

- Implementation of the Individual Data System (IDS);
- Implementation of the Cost Projection Tool (CPT);
- Development of the online Individual Service Plan (ISP), including a summary page;
- Re-development of a Provider Search tool that includes a provider ‘report card’;
- Modification/replacement of the Provider Certification System database to support the new Provider Certification Rule; and,
- Expansion/improvement of the capacity for monitoring performance and outcome data.

Pipeline, Thursday, December 23, 2009

Thank you for reading this!
- END 2009 Year in Review -

All issues of *Pipeline* are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Pipeline PostScripts will return in the January 6, 2010 issue.

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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.

To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**