

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Pipeline PostScripts: Update your 2013 Calendar



Welcome 2013 - Happy New Year!

Administration Update

1. Office of Health Transformation Looks Ahead

"It's clear that Ohio is in a period of transformation. When you're in the middle of transformation, you can't slow down. You gain as much ground as you can. And frankly, we have a lot more transformation to do in this state."

–Governor John Kasich, December 2012

Governor John Kasich commented during a year-in-review event late last month that collective efforts to stabilize the state's finances, shrink the size of government, and encourage business growth have begun to show real progress, with more expected in 2013.

Among many *2012 accomplishments* Gov. Kasich noted a savings of \$500 million in Medicaid expenditures, well beyond previously projected savings; integrating benefits for Ohioans eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid; and, the *Employment First* initiative. The initiative was signed in March 2012, making it *a priority* for people with developmental disabilities to work in community-based jobs, rather than in the system's more traditional 'sheltered workshop' environment.

In describing the Administration's approach to human services, Governor Kasich stated that it was a "...Combination of some discipline, combined with some passion to help people get back on their feet again."

Autism Services Announcement

In line with the Administration's human services approach, Governor Kasich announced on December 21 (see [Governor Kasich announces autism services are an essential benefit](#)) that Ohio children with autism and their families now will have access to needed services with changes that will affect state employee health insurance and health insurance sold in the private market, as well as health insurance sold through the upcoming federally-managed health insurance exchange.

Ohio already provides access to autism-related services for approximately 40% of Ohio's children through its Medicaid program. Governor Kasich made the decision to expand availability of services for children with autism after consulting with legislative leaders and members of both chambers.

He stated, "We're doing the right thing today. Helping kids with autism get the services they need, and helping their parents get the financial lifeline of insurance coverage, that's something I support—for state employees and other families as well. With early intervention services, kids with autism do better in school, find employment, and become more independent adults."

Under the new policy, insurance must cover professional assessment and treatment plans for children with autism, including specified amounts of 'non-specific evidence-based therapy' and mental/behavioral health outpatient services. It also requires coverage for specified amounts of speech and occupational therapy for children with autism. DODD Director John Martin commented regarding the announcement:

"All of those services blend together to provide a very comprehensive package for kids and families with autism."

And, Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy stated that the agency works with health plans on issues surrounding autism services. He noted, "The issue that has come up ... is when we try to deny some of those services, or try to cap some of those services. We are working with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and with DODD, because some children are autistic and have (other) developmental disabilities." The three agencies – Ohio Medicaid, ODMH, and DODD – are working together on how to reform the system to ensure children get the services they need, while the state pays the correct amount for those services.

Grant Increases Enrollment of Children in Medicaid

Ohio will again receive bonus funds from the federal government for enrolling and keeping more children in the Medicaid program, with a grant totaling \$17.9 million. The awarding of funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) grant is the third the state has received in as many years. Commenting on the award, Medicaid Director John McCarthy stated, "We have been able to use previous awards to launch innovative programs that will improve health care for children and adults, allowing more Ohioans to lead healthy lives."

Since 2011, Ohio has invested \$15.5 million in CHIPRA grant funds in stakeholder-proposed initiatives. Funded projects include efforts to expand presumptive eligibility for pregnant women; improve the early identification of autism spectrum disorders; and, provide better access to patient-centered medical homes, among other initiatives.

On the National Scene, 'Ticket to Work' Website Redesigned

Visit: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/>

The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) has introduced a new *Ticket to Work* website. In the December 2012 issue of *Federal Perspectives* noted that the **new portal** provides an updated entry point to program information, resources, and news about SSA's employment support programs. Many new resources are available at the redesigned site, including:

- “Real Success Stories” from people who used their ‘Ticket’ to go to work and improve their lives;
- A “Find Help” tool to search for service providers who can help beneficiaries explore employment and earnings options.
- Easy access to the *Ticket to Work* Help Line, social media, and email updates.

*Social Security disability beneficiaries and others can find the information they need via the new portal or by calling the **Ticket to Work program Help Line** at 1-866-968-7842 (V) /866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD).*

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2. When Helps is Most Needed, Providers are on the Job

-Weather-Related Emergencies Bring Out the Best in Caregiving-

Four Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) in the Belmont County area spent several days working 12-hour shifts as part of a special disaster unit created by *ResCare*, the nation's largest private provider of services to people with disabilities and senior citizens. In a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *ResCare* responds with employees who are trained to assist people with disabilities or the elderly at FEMA-designated shelters, and these Ohio ladies proudly stepped-up to help when most needed.

Gloria Llewellyn of Steubenville, Angela Fulst of Martins Ferry, Kelly Jackson of Cambridge, and Dawn Myers of St. Clairsville all traveled to New York to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.



These Ladies Care!
ResCare DSPs (l. to r.) Angela Fulst, Dawn Myers, Kelly Jackson, and Gloria Llewellyn traveled to New York to provide relief to Hurricane Sandy victims.

As volunteers in the ResCare On-Call team, members must be 'ready to roll' within 24-hours' notice. While all members receive special training, the most important skill is compassionate care-giving in difficult situations.

Following Hurricane Sandy, ResCare sent more than 150 employees to New York to provide aid to individuals with disabilities and seniors forced from nursing care or their own homes and into shelters. These employee-volunteers are recruited from ResCare locations across the country and also provide help to ResCare operations during emergencies.

Stephen L. Williams, Superintendent of the BHN Alliance (Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of DD) spoke of their work from experience:

"We have partnered with ResCare for many years, and know their staff is always there whenever someone with a disability has a need. This latest act of service demonstrates their willingness to do absolutely whatever it takes to provide care in difficult situations, both near and far."

And, Regional Director for ResCare Tonya Mangerie noted, "ResCare's volunteers pack their bags with little notice, travel long distances, sleep on cots, and don't always know when they will get their next meal. They do this to provide supports and services to people with special needs who are displaced from their homes in a disaster. They represent the heart of our company with the compassion and care they offer."

DODD salutes the 'above-and-beyond' work of these Direct Support Professionals throughout the year, and especially in times of emergencies.

*Acknowledgements to the Daily Jeffersonian, December 2, 2012 issue.
For information about ResCare, visit www.ResCare.com*

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[Health & Safety](#)

[3. Winter Weather Safety – Technology Tips and Reminders](#)

As Ohio 'weathers' winter weather, the DODD Office of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit reminds everyone to keep Health & Safety *Priority #1*. It is important to exercise extra caution when transporting individuals outdoors in the cold, and providing cold weather care in general. *Preparation* and *planning* helps keep people safe, and new technologies can help to assure that plans are followed and more options are available.

[Click here> Winter Weather Alert Information](#)

For outdoor activities and trips, bring along extra clothing, blankets, and warm liquids. Also, chemical pouch hand-warmers, such as those used for hunting and camping, provide instant warmth when needed. And, don't forget to keep a portable phone charger in your vehicle, along with your cellphone, when traveling any distance – even just a few blocks. Anything can happen!



“I'm only two blocks from the house!”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the 2013 'Ready' campaign emphasizes integrating technology into individual, family, and business preparedness plans.

FEMA's annual *'Ready' campaign* this year asks all SmartPhone users to, “... Turn the technology in their purses and pockets into a life-saving tool to use during and after an emergency.”

Building technology into emergency plans can include:

- Learning how to send updates via text and Internet from your cell phone to your contacts and social channels, in case voice communications are not available;
- Storing important electronic documents such as personal and financial records on a 'flash' or 'jump' drive that can be readily available and accessed anywhere;
- Creating an Emergency Information Document using *Ready's Family Emergency Plan template in Google Docs* or by downloading the *Ready Family Emergency Plan*;
- Downloading the *Resolve 2B Ready 2013 Toolkit* for tips you can use and practice.

The [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness](#) encourages all Ohioans to *prepare* their homes and *practice* their safety plans during cold months, and offers these suggestions:

- *Prepare your home for winter.* Remove dead tree branches. Ice, snow, and strong winds can cause tree limbs to break and fall. Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Review your homeowner's insurance policy.
- *Prepare winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle.* Refresh food and bottled water stored in your winter emergency kits. They should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, a battery-operated or hand-crank radio, First Aid kit, and enough water and nonperishable food to sustain each person for at least three days. Maintain at least a tank half-full of fuel in vehicles.

- *Update disaster preparedness plans.* Every home, school, business, and organization should have written plans for disasters. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, flood, or fire. Practice drills that require sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Update emergency contact lists, and be sure any new phone numbers are entered into your cell phone contacts directory.

By taking a few simple steps in advance, Ohioans can minimize the impact of an emergency on their families, homes, and businesses.

For additional information, visit www.ready.gov or www.ready.ohio.gov

And Speaking of Assuring Health & Safety ...



SODC friends receive Good Samaritan Awards

(L. to R.) Melissa Rowe, Sarah Garner, Demetrius Smith, Jeff Sergent, and Vicki Putman (seated).

By early December, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) Superintendent Scott McVey already had planned a December 18th breakfast meeting for all staff, but following some heroic actions the day before, the agenda was quickly and happily expanded. The actions of two of SODC residents turned the breakfast into a celebration of heroism. The ‘first responders’ of SODC were Demetrius Smith and Melissa Rowe -- helping their friend, Vickie Putman. Here’s what happened...

On December 17, Demetrius, Melissa, and Vicki sat together as they do every morning, discussing activities and events. During their usual banter, Vicki suddenly started convulsing. Melissa quickly moved into position to support Vicki and keep her from falling to the floor. After she had Vicki secured, Melissa asked Demetrius to “Go for help!” He quickly summoned staff who came to assist and called for additional medical assistance.

When a medical call was placed and nurses quickly arrived, they found Vicki well-supported by Melissa, who was taking care to protect Vicki's head and keep her from crashing to the floor. She said, "I wasn't scared! I was just worried about what was happening to my friend." SODC nurses made sure that Vicki was seen that morning by the facility physician and treated for the seizure activity.

The three great friends continue to enjoy 'morning time' together. Smith, Rowe, and Putman have all expressed interest in attending training classes that may help them learn more about preparing for and responding to emergencies.

The duo was deservedly recognized by Superintendent McVey, and presented the *SODC Good Samaritan Award* at the All Staff Breakfast Meeting. *Kudos to all for assuring the health and safety of others!*

More about SODC at Residential Resources: Southwest Ohio Developmental Center

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4. 'Access Together' Celebrates Year of Greater Accessibility

Access Together, a searchable database where one can learn if restaurants, grocery stores, movies, gyms, and other places in a community are accessible to users of mobility devices is now celebrating one year of information-gathering. When users of *Access Together* contribute information to the database about places in one's neighborhood, that information is saved and becomes a part of the dataset. Users also may download an APP for iPhone, Android, and other SmartPhones.

The mission of *Access Together* is to provide tools for citizens to collect, share, and act on accessibility information in their community. Go to <http://www.accesstogether.org/>

Improved accessibility for Ohio communities directly impacts who we will pass on the street ... who is included in local conversations ... and who we consider to be our neighbors. Inclusive access to community information, and access to buildings, events, and transportation, ensures equal rights for all.

Users open *Access Together* on their mobile phone's web browser, find their location, and supply answers to accessibility questions. For example, "Is the entrance wheelchair accessible?" or, "Are the counters too low or too high for someone using a wheelchair?" This helps individuals make informed decisions about visiting public facilities or touring communities, in a conversational way, using real-time experience.

For more information: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, Office Of Diversity And Inclusion; (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

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Meet Georgia Metzler
Her story of success in Scioto County
via Early Intervention techniques
is one of many features
in *Pipeline Quarterly*
Coming Soon to your Inbox!



Early Intervention services through County
Boards of DD are invaluable to a child's
development, and to the sustainability of the
long-term service system.

Mark Your Calendars!

5. Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5th

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately.

Attendance at the 2013 DD Awareness and Advocacy Day is open to all. Participants wishing to meet with their legislators will be required to register in advance. Details coming soon!

The Ohio Statehouse will host the Awareness program in the Atrium as always, and registration for individuals meeting with legislators will be headquartered nearby in the Statehouse, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

Contacts for the event include Sherry Steinman at DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov (Awareness program); Linda Martens at Ohio SIBS lmartens@ohiosibs.com (Advocacy efforts); and David Lewis at The Arc of Ohio, dlewis@arcohio.org (Story-sharing videos).

SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013.

The Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event at the Ohio Statehouse.

More information in the next Pipeline.



^The 2013 Awareness & Advocacy theme.

More information on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

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PostScripts

☞ **Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver – Webinar, January 23, 2013**

Have you been looking for refresher training on the key points of the SELF waiver? If so, then this might be the perfect opportunity for you! DODD will be conducting a one-day webinar on *Wednesday, January 23rd from 10 am – 3 pm* that reviews the main components of the SELF waiver. We have condensed the information provided during the two-day SELF Waiver sessions and will be providing information on Eligibility Criteria, Service Definitions and Limitations, Participant-Direction within this waiver, as well as walking attendees through the changes that have been made to the applicable DODD online IT systems. Click on this link <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/398116824> to sign up for the webinar.

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**. 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, remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

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