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**January 30, 2013**  
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## Administration Update

### **1. State of the State, ADEP Expansion, and More**



Governor John Kasich last week announced plans to deliver the *State of the State* address in Lima, on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, pending the approval of the General Assembly. Lima is in Allen County.

In 2012 Governor Kasich changed a tradition and took the *State of the State* address ‘on the road,’ moving the annual speech from the Statehouse chambers of the House of Representatives to a school in Steubenville. According to the Governor’s Office, the location of the 2013 *State of the State* address – Lima – was selected due to Allen County’s strong economic improvement, including an increase of 2000 jobs in the Lima area since January 2011. The county also has seen its unemployment rate decline in the last year from 10.8% to 6.7%.\*

In describing the desire to take the *State of the State* address ‘on the road’, Governor Kasich noted, “...bringing all 132 members of the General Assembly, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet to communities across Ohio *brings government to the people*, and showcases the diversity of our great state with little or no extra expense.”

The February 19 speech will be two weeks after submission of the state’s budget proposal (February 4), including a new school funding formula. The timing will allow the Governor to

cover various aspects of the budget proposal more specifically in the address. *\*See more at [State of State to be in Lima, Lima News](#).*

## **DODD and ODH Announce ADEP Expansion**

Last week, DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo together announced that plans are underway for an expansion of the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP), statewide. Begun as a pilot project, (see [OCALI newsletter archive](#)) and supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. These teams brought together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Several positive outcomes resulted from the Diagnostic Partnership teams – most significantly the lag time was reduced between the initial suspicion of autism to the actual diagnosis.**

The expansion is funded through the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Innovation Fund. The funds support key Administration initiatives including, ‘A Whole Child Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)’ that build upon existing programs targeting early identification and intervention for Ohio’s youngest children with ASD, and advance ASD research. The Autism Diagnostic Education Pilot Project will be expanded to provide training to pediatricians and early interventionists to better coordinate efforts for diagnostic evaluations for ASD. Specialized early intervention training also will be expanded to include best practice interventions that nurture the parent/child relationship. Funding also will assist in the support of a research study that will explore the impact of nutrition and wellness for children with ASD. More information online at [Health Transformation Innovation Fund](#).

Free training and learning opportunities will be planned for March, April, and May to build new Diagnostic Partnership Teams, and support existing ones. For more information on these trainings, contact Courtney Yantes at [Courtney\\_yantes@ocali.org](mailto:Courtney_yantes@ocali.org) or Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt at [mespeshe@kent.edu](mailto:mespeshe@kent.edu). For information about upcoming specialized early intervention trainings, contact Molly Kurtz at [Molly.Kurtz@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Molly.Kurtz@dodd.ohio.gov).

## **On the National Scene**

*For the first time, federal officials are communicating to school districts across the nation that they must offer students with disabilities equal access to school sports.*

In a memo of [guidance](#) issued January 25 to school districts nationwide, the U.S. Department of Education’s *Office for Civil Rights* stated that children with disabilities have the right to participate in their school’s extracurricular activities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The agency said that students with intellectual, developmental, physical, and other types of disabilities should be afforded opportunities to play for their school teams with modifications, aids, and services as needed.

When such accommodations could ‘fundamentally alter’ the game or create an unfair advantage, federal officials noted that schools are obligated to create *separate but equally supported*

opportunities for youth with disabilities to participate. Examples could include a wheelchair basketball league, or unified teams in which students with and without disabilities compete together.

**The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) recommended that the U.S. Department of Education clarify and communicate schools' responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding the provision of extracurricular athletics.**

**Click on: [SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT](#)**

The Department of Education made it clear that, while students with disabilities have a right to participate in school sports, they may have to meet certain standards of skill or ability in order to join a team, so long as the criteria are not discriminatory. The guidance spoke specifically to the responsibilities of elementary and high schools, but the Education Department said that colleges have a similar obligation to offer access.



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## **2. Technology Offers Access to Independence**

**Freedom – Interaction – Expression ... Things EVERYONE Wants in Their Lives!**

Examples of technology assisting individuals with developmental disabilities are becoming more numerous and widespread around the state and the nation, and it is clear that efforts in 2013 will pale in comparison to what is likely just around the corner in the field of technology and adaptive devices. An article on Remote Monitoring in *Pipeline Quarterly*, [Spring 2011, page 4](#) illustrated one example of technology's hand in greater independence for individuals with DD, and in [Pipeline January 16, 2013](#) and [Pipeline December 5, 2012](#) we shared information about Ohio's Telepsychiatry Project, connecting individuals to needed services electronically.

Here are a few more examples of technology enabling greater freedom, new ways to interact with others, and more ways to express oneself.

### **In Franklin County**

The Franklin County Adult Services Adapted Computer Program at Franklin County's Bixby Living Skills Center, has had an impressive start with the Center receiving six updated computers last spring, complete with Internet access and technical support. Several engaging PowerPoint activities have been created, which many participants access through the use of adaptive switches. For example, these computers have allowed participants to view picture montage videos complete with music, and re-experience in-house events including ...Karaoke!

Creating their own programs allows for customization of activities to meet individual and group needs and to increase independence, while learning and enjoying computer use.



**“I love my iPad!”**

**Naquan Davis shows his enthusiasm for the iPad and what it allows him to do.**

**Naquan, who dreams of someday performing as a rap artist, is now using the iPad and computer to work on his many music projects.**



**<photo courtesy, Martin Kersher, FCBDD Dateline.**

*Acknowledgements to FCBDD Dateline, January 2013, [www.fcbsd.org](http://www.fcbsd.org)*

### **In Champaign County**

According to Linda Smith, Public Relations Director at provider CRSI in Champaign County, some of the older technology ‘communication boards’ and other more cumbersome devices are now gradually being replaced with smart phone apps that do the same things but in a much less expensive and ‘hand-held’ way.



**During summer 2012 CRSI’s Adult Day Services program began exploring the use of iPads by several participants.**

**CRSI staff note that ‘new age technology’ plays an important role in providing direct care services by offering a way to communicate more effectively with individuals.**



**<photo courtesy, Linda Smith, CRSI**

Each participant involved in CRSI’s Adult Day Services activities has begun using customized icons or apps developed specifically for the individual’s needs and interests, and level of ability. Individuals can make choices using their iPads for communication – indicating what they want to do (or eat!) -- all by touch and recognition. Kate Harris, CRSI habilitation specialist comments,

**“Staff are working with individuals at the ‘exploration level’ now, with the expectation that the technology will eventually be integrated more fully into their daily lives.”**

Under the umbrella of communication, apps developed for people with developmental disabilities include *MyTalk*, and *Tap to Talk*, offering many prompts for daily choices. For

purposes of learning and exploration, apps developed for autism such as *Going Places* and *AutismXpress* have been helpful. For more information, contact *Linda Smith at CRSI*, [www.crsi-oh.com](http://www.crsi-oh.com).

### On the Web – Blog Time!

*Note: A blog is a discussion or informational site published on the Internet and consisting of discrete entries or ‘posts.’*

Shari Cooper -- self advocate and a true force to be reckoned with when something excites her interest -- invites her blog readers to, “*Check out my latest, as I share how my iPhone is enhancing my independence! Stay tuned for next week’s post as I share my perspective on turning 40 years old.*” Shari’s blog (a discussion or informational site published on the [World Wide Web](#) and consisting of discrete entries or ‘posts’) speaks for itself with its individuality and enthusiasm, and is indicative of what many individuals with DD are finding – that even with manual dexterity issues such as those sometimes involved with cerebral palsy, it is quite possible to succeed in using the new tools afforded by today’s smart phones.

**Read Shari’s blog at:**

<http://blog.gesmv.org/index.cfm/make-things-happen-shari/the-i-in-iphone-means-independence-for-me/>



**Shari Cooper at a recent DD Council Outreach Committee meeting, taking a break from blogging.**

**Shari’s comments via her iPhone share her experiences with technology she wasn’t so sure she could master. But, of course, she could!**



Contact her online, or at [S.Cooper@gesmv.org](mailto:S.Cooper@gesmv.org)  
Shari Cooper is a Community & Staff Relations Associate  
at Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley

**“My iPhone is enhancing my independence.”**



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### [The Changing Role of Developmental Centers](#)

## **3. MVDC Marks Milestone in Downsizing Process**

### **Last Residents Leave Rian Hall**

*Excerpted from a January 24 letter to MVDC staff, written by Ernie Fischer, MVDC Superintendent.* As Ohio’s Developmental Centers move forward in a planned downsizing process, the role of the Centers continues as a community resource, as well as a home to individuals with developmental disabilities who may need specialized care, or a short-term stay for a variety of issues. At a budget symposium in early December, DODD Director John Martin provided an overview of

progress regarding Ohio's reduction in the number of individuals residing in state-operated Developmental Centers, including information supporting the overall philosophy of transitioning individuals into appropriate community-based settings. He observed,

**“We feel good about this direction, and about how this process has been managed - with the health and safety of these individuals in mind - as well as the funding involved.”**

On January 24, the last three residents of Rian Hall at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) moved to new living quarters in Snyder Cottage on the MVDC campus, marking the end of an era encompassing 65 years. During its history, Rian Hall has been home to thousands of people – many of whom were the Center’s most medically-fragile. It also has been a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of employees.

### **A Little History**

As the last three residents leave Rian Hall, MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer notes this history: “Construction on a new hospital building began in 1945, as Ohio was transitioning the Ohio State Sanatorium, serving persons with tuberculosis (TB), to the Mount Vernon State Hospital (MVSH). MVSH became the state facility where people with TB who lived in mental health institutions would live. The building was completed in September, 1948. At the time it was a ‘state-of-the-art’ hospital, and MVSH was Ohio’s largest single institution devoted to the care of people with tuberculosis and mental illness.

Over the next several years, the focus of services continued to evolve. By 1965, there were no patients with TB living at MVSH. In 1966, the transition to a facility exclusively serving people with mental retardation (sic) was complete, with 477 residents living on the campus. MVSH was renamed Mount Vernon State Institute in 1969, and late that year, Dr. Irville S. Rian retired, following 28 years as Superintendent. The hospital building was renamed Rian Hall in his honor. In 1979 Mount Vernon State Institute was renamed Mount Vernon Developmental Center. During the past 20 years, the number of individuals living in Rian Hall has been gradually reduced, ending today, January 24, 2013, with the departure of its last three residents.”

**During its 65-year history, Rian Hall has been home to thousands of people – many of whom were the Center’s most medically-fragile. And it was a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of dedicated employees. Although the building will no longer be used as a residence, the experiences and memories of the people who lived and worked there always will be an important part of the MVDC community.**

A formal ‘decommissioning’ of Rian Hall will be held later this year. Plans for the building following the decommissioning have not yet been determined.

*Mount Vernon Developmental Center is located on 310 acres in Knox County. Approximately 125 residents live in six different living areas on the campus. Most of these residents need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The Center serves the following counties in Ohio Region 5: Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.*

*More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/>*



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## Health & Safety

### **4. Prescription Assistance Program for All Ohio Residents**

The Ohio Drug Card is a statewide Prescription Assistance Program that offers free drug cards to all Ohio residents. The program provides discounts on brand and generic medications with an average savings of around 30%. The program has no restrictions to membership, no income requirements, no age limitations, and there are no applications to fill out. Everyone is eligible to receive savings.

**The Ohio Drug Card was launched to help uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescription medications. The program also may be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in some Health Savings Accounts and high deductible health plans.**

**Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use the program to get discounts on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance.**



There are currently more than 56,000 pharmacy locations across the country participating in the program, including all major pharmacy chains. To sign up, locate participating pharmacies, and search medication pricing, go to [www.ohiodrugcard.com](http://www.ohiodrugcard.com). Once online, no personal information is required to print a card, and prescriptions processed through the program are confidential. A new smart phone app, *Free Rx iCard*, provides another way to obtain a card.

*For more information, contact Michelle Ruble, Program Director for Ohio Drug Card, at [mruble@ohiodrugcard.com](mailto:mruble@ohiodrugcard.com).*

### **Health & Safety Reminder – Severe Cold**

*The Division of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit, offers this reminder during the extreme cold temperatures we have experienced across Ohio this winter. Service providers, families, and other care givers are urged to be alert to these issues.*

When exposed to very cold temperatures, the body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures will eventually deplete a body's stored energy. The result is *hypothermia*, or abnormally low body temperature. A low body temperature (96 degrees or under) affects the brain, making the person unable to think clearly or move well. So, hypothermia, is also dangerous because a person may not know it is happening to them.

#### **Who is at risk of hypothermia, and how can it be prevented?**

Infants younger than one year are at risk and should wear layers of warm clothing or a snug-fitting sleeper to prevent loss of body heat. Remember to pre-warm vehicles before taking infants out into extreme cold weather. Children also lose heat faster than adults. They have a larger head-to-body ratio than adults, accelerating heat loss through the head. Make sure children playing outside cover their heads with hats or hoods and come inside periodically to warm up.

People with serious mental illnesses, cognitive disabilities, or other developmental disabilities may not be able to hear or pay close attention to weather advisory warnings on TV or radio, and may not fully realize the significance of cold weather warnings. In addition, some medications can increase the risk of accidental hypothermia, including drugs used to treat anxiety, depression, or nausea. Some over-the-counter cold remedies can also cause problems. Consult a physician regarding an individual's increased susceptibility to severe cold due to their medications.

**[More Information to Review at: DODD Winter Weather Alert, click on #52-11-11](#)**

If you think someone might have hypothermia, take the person's temperature. If it does not rise above 96 degrees, call for help. The person should be seen by a physician. While waiting for help to arrive, keep the person warm and dry. Wrap the person in extra blankets, coats, or towels. Use whatever is available.

### **Public Safety – The Annual ShakeOut**

*Seismic activity can and does happen in Ohio! Last year, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Seismic Network recorded four earthquakes.*

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Emergency Management Agency will conduct its third annual 'Great Central U.S. ShakeOut' earthquake safety event on February 7 at 10:15 a.m.. During the drill, participants will practice the recommended response to earthquake tremors:

**DROP to the ground...Take COVER under a sturdy table or desk, HOLD ON until the shaking stops.**

Across Ohio, many businesses, organizations, schools, and emergency management offices will participate in the annual Shakeout event, organized by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, as well as Ohio. To participate in the 2013 ShakeOut and learn more about earthquake safety and preparedness, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus).

*For more on winter health and safety, visit:*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/>*

*Ohio Department of Health <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/winterweather.aspx>*

*Ohio Department of Aging <http://www.aging.ohio.gov/information/emergencypreparedness/>*



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### **[Plan to Attend - March 5, 2013](#)**

## **5. DD Awareness & Advocacy Event Plans Move Forward**

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 blending the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. The combined *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy* event will be March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ohio Statehouse, celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme "*Look Beyond.*" Join advocates, family members, and professionals from across Ohio in celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, learning more about services and programs, and sharing personal stories with Ohio policymakers.

# LookBeyond

The Awareness event program will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, and participation is open to everyone, however, people who wish to meet with their legislators must register in advance so that Advocacy meetings can be scheduled and coordinated.

Online registration is now available. [Click Here](#) to register now.

Deadline to apply online for appointments with legislators is Friday, February 15.



The “Look Beyond” theme developed by Ohio Public Images\* invites people to see the potential in everyone, encouraging all to look beyond a first glance or a pre-conceived notion.



< \*One of 4 posters available: [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org)

The event planning team notes that speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, self advocates, state legislators, and providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance is pending availability.

In addition to the Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by various stakeholders in Ohio’s DD community, participants will also be invited to participate in the “Look Beyond” Video Diary, where they’ll be able to share their personal story on camera for others to see and hear.

The Awareness program will be in the Atrium as always, and headquarters for individuals meeting with legislators will be nearby in the Statehouse ‘Museum Gallery’ area, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

**Register before February 15 to ensure a meeting with your legislator! [Click Here](#)**

*Contacts for the event:*

*DD Awareness activities in the Statehouse Atrium: Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov).*

*Legislative Advocacy appointments and registration: Linda Martens at [lmartens@ohiosibs.com](mailto:lmartens@ohiosibs.com)*

*The “Look Beyond Video Diary”: David Lewis at [dlewis@rrcol.com](mailto:dlewis@rrcol.com).*



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## ***PostScripts*** .....

### **☞ Attn. County Boards with Schools! - Grants Available to Retrofit Buses**

The Clean Diesel School Bus Fund is accepting applications through March 1st for grants to retrofit school buses with emission control equipment or pre-heaters to help reduce idling and save fuel. Application information is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef> on the "Clean School Bus Grants" tab. Congratulations to the Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Allen, Carroll, Guernsey, Highland, Holmes, Jefferson, Portage, Richland, and Tuscarawas Counties, who already have received a combined \$283,861 in grants and retrofitted 55 buses with pollution controls and 43 with 'idle reduction' equipment. These grants are a way to reduce the exposure of students, drivers, and maintenance personnel to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. Contact [Carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:Carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us). More information at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/schoolbus.aspx>

### **☞ Project STIR - Next Training, Feb. 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park**

The Ohio Self Determination Association is again sponsoring training for Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) ... an interactive training for self advocates who want to gain or strengthen their leadership skills, and learn effective advocacy tools. The training is February 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park. For more information and registration go to [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org). and click on "Project STIR."

### **☞ 'Different Needz' Foundation Now Accepting Grant Applications**

The Different Needz Foundation announces that its 2013 grant application period is now open until March 15. The Foundation is accepting applications for monetary grants for individuals with disabilities, their families, and related organizations that are in need of medical services or equipment. Qualifying applications must be received no later than March 15. Grant applications are available from at [www.differentneedzfoundation.org](http://www.differentneedzfoundation.org), or call (216) 904-5151. The grant awards will be announced in May 2013. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

### **☞ Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat, April 5-7**

Ohio SIBS announces a "Looking Forward Weekend Retreat," April 5-7, 2013 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, OH. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The retreat is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and the accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* For more information and registration, go to <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at [Thomas.fish@osumc.edu](mailto:Thomas.fish@osumc.edu).

### **☞ SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point,' May 22**

Details for this annual event will be available soon, but The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! Our ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. We had close to 10,000 people attending in 2012. Let's make this year even bigger!"

### **☞ Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18**

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held July 15-18 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, and *deadline for application is March 31.* Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently

applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at [YLF application](#) or contact [donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov)

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### **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 ...***

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

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