
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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In This Issue ...

- 1. We ‘Looked Beyond’ on Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day
- 2. New Guardianship Information: Decision-Making in the DD System
- 3. Administration Update – Testimony, Budget Impact on DD Services
- 4. Awareness and Advocacy Around the State – DD Awareness Month Celebrations
- 5. The Movers & Shakers – Family Advisory Council, A Forum for New Information
- 6. DODD *Health & Safety Alerts* ... Easier to Read, More Information

Pipeline PostScripts: New Items & Events to Update Your Calendar

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

We invite you to share information and a photo of your local activities!

Please send information to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in the March 27 Pipeline.

1. We ‘Looked Beyond’ on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day



Franklin County self advocate Christine Brown was among the nearly 600 people who attended the March 5 event at the Statehouse.

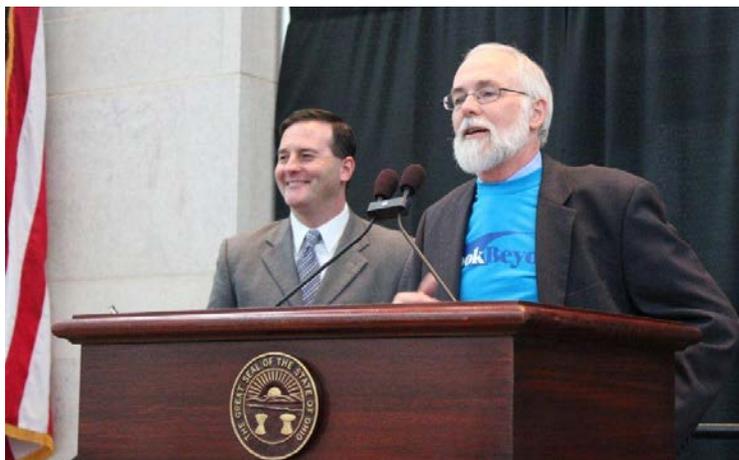
“The SELF Waiver gives me service options that I need, and saves money for the system. Self-directed services are what’s needed – let’s speak up!” –Christine Brown, self advocate

Like the Statehouse website says, “The Ohio Statehouse is more than a monument to our past, it’s where history happens!” *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day* March 5th at the Ohio Statehouse represented a new partnership blending the annual March *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and the statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. Indeed, history was made at this year’s event when Awareness and Advocacy venues overflowed *The People’s House* – with Awareness in the Atrium flowing over to the Vern Riffe Center for Advocacy meetings with legislators.

Celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme, “*Look Beyond*,” the program was organized by DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders.

Approximately 600 people attended the event, representing at least 35 counties.
[Click here for: A Video from the event](#)

Speakers included DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, several self advocates, state legislators, and service providers. Here are a few glimpses and some words of wisdom from a day of Awareness & Advocacy ...



DODD Director John Martin at the podium, addresses some 600 attendees on the subject of positive outcomes arising from successful advocacy efforts.

“Today’s program underscores for me the many accomplishments that strong self advocates have helped to bring about in communities across the state. I applaud each of you.”



Shown stepping up next is Kevin Miller, Executive Director of the Rehabilitation Services Commission. He noted,

**“The main reason employers hire people with disabilities is because they come to work.
They come to work – to work!”**





Renee Wood (and husband, Floris) carefully set the stage for what it takes to be a successful advocate, commenting that persistence - and a strong desire to succeed - are what has helped her rise to the key role of Ohio DD Council Chair. She explains,

“I never thought I could be an officer in an important organization like DD Council. I wanted to be involved and help make things happen, but did not think that would be possible with my disability. I found out that if I kept trying and speaking up, I could be a part of making things happen – and if I can, so can YOU!”



Courtney Jordan is a self advocate and the first individual to enroll in Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) in Medina County. She spoke to the benefits of MBI, and encouraged others in attendance to look into it for themselves:

“MBI has allowed me to save more of the money I earn in my job in the SSA Department with the Medina County Board of DD. It has given me much more independence. In fact, it was the ticket to independence for me. Maybe it can work for you, too.”



Mark Kayes, an employee of LaRosa's Pizza in Cincinnati, stepped up to the podium to share his enthusiasm for more than seven years at LaRosa's. Mark manages customer orders with enthusiasm, and keeps his feet busy in the process, as he was born without arms. LaRosa's officials Michele McMahon and Steve Browne noted,

“What makes us a great team at LaRosa's is hiring people with capabilities – and that means people like Mark!”



Franklin DD Board President Dean Fadel (left) and brother, Jeff, speak to the importance of siblings in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Dean acknowledges,

“My brother is just as much an advocate for me as I am for him. He’s my best advocate, actually, and I’ve learned a lot from him.”

Jeff responded, **“Yes, you have!”**

<Deaf Services Center sign language interpreter Tina Shifflett is at far left.



State Representative Barbara Sears makes a strong point ...

“We’re learning more and more to take a practical approach to accessibility – Improving Ohio means trying to improve the lives of ALL Ohioans!”



Ray Goodman, a Wood County self advocate, is pleased to have received Senator Randy Gardner’s business card following a legislative visit on March 5. Senator Gardner took time to speak to several self advocates and answer their questions regarding Medicaid-funded services, and Visitability* in their geographic area.

Ray is an activist in his own right – as secretary of the local *People First* chapter, he has the meetings videotaped. He takes the video home where he and his home staff review it, and then Ray tells staff what he feels should be in the minutes.

*‘Visitability’ takes accessibility a step further, including both physical and social barriers in a community.

The ‘Look Beyond’ Video Diary

Along with the March 5 Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by stakeholders, several attendees also participated in the “Look Beyond Video Diary,” where they shared their personal stories on-camera for others to see and

hear. The Arc of Ohio spearheaded this new video project, and the Arc's Dave Lewis noted, "I did about 12 interviews that day, and now I have appointments to travel around the state for more. Once I get them all on tape I plan on having a friend of mine help me put it all together."

DODD Smart Phone Application Launched

A DODD mobile application (app) for smart phones was introduced at the event – a fitting tribute to *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, allowing anyone with an interest in adding the app to their smart phone to keep up easily with Department news and updates.



Greater awareness of DODD programs and other information is at your fingertips!

The new DODD Mobile Application is now available to download from App Store and Google Play.

If you have any questions, or experience any technical issues with the new DODD mobile application, contact Venu Edupuganti at mobile.app@dodd.ohio.gov.

[Return to top](#)

DODD Division of Legal & Oversight

2. Decision-Making in the Developmental Disabilities System

Updated information on the subject of Guardianship has been 'on the radar' for the staff of the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight and the Ohio DD Council for quite a while, working to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to participate in decision-making with clear guidelines. Changes in the law [Ohio Revised Code 5126.043](#) were made effective September 10, 2012 and provide options that allow individuals to *participate in decisions* that affect their lives, and to *have their needs, desires and preferences considered*.

On the [Ohio DD Council website](#) there is a [brochure](#) explaining the new law and a revised booklet on *Guardianship and Alternatives in Ohio*. On the [DODD website](#) there are two PowerPoint presentations, "2012 Law: Changes to Decision-Making in the DD System", and "Decision-Making in the DD System" explaining the changes in the law and guardianship, as well as other information, emphasizing that decision-making is a learned skill:

**"We ALL need opportunities, experience and support to learn to make good decisions.
Growth occurs through the dignity of risk.**

**The lack of an opportunity to make decisions may result in a person never learning that skill."
-Excerpted from new PowerPoint presentations**

DODD Deputy Director for Legal & Oversight Kate Haller notes,

"Advocates and self advocates came together to make this new law a reality. It's not new that people are making decisions for themselves. What's new is that the law now recognizes and supports that."

[↻ Return to top](#)

[Administration Update](#)

3. Budget Impact on Services to Individuals with DD

Stakeholder testimony last week to members of the House Finance & Appropriations Health & Human Services Subcommittee by service providers and others in Ohio's developmental disabilities community expressed support for the Administration's proposed Medicaid expansion, and recommended increases to waiver rates paid to providers in Governor Kasich's [biennial budget proposal](#), along with other issues.

Among the stakeholders was Gary Tonks, Executive Director of [The Arc of Ohio](#), who stated that expanding Medicaid coverage would provide thousands of Ohioans with disabilities with 'critical supports.' Specifically, he said expansion would benefit individuals who have graduated from Special Education programs, but who do not function at a level requiring County Board of DD services. He also noted that it would benefit individuals with disabilities who are unemployed or underemployed.

[Employment First Initiative](#)

Touching on the budget's proposed *Employment First* initiative line item, Tonks added that it is a "good first step in realizing the full potential of Ohioans with developmental disabilities to be wage-earning, tax-paying citizens." And, Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) president Blaine Brockman, praised the *Employment First* initiative and supported additional funding, noting that many counties need 'strategic investments' for their respective employment programs. He stated,

["Some counties need more resources to hire the job developers and job coaches that are essential to accomplishing our goal of integrating more people with developmental disabilities into the state's workforce."](#)

[Service Providers](#)

Testimony from service providers pertaining to budget language included concerns over a lack of funding to adequately maintain quality support staff, noting that overall rates paid to providers have not been increased since 2005. For example, witnesses said the limit of the Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver rate has left some agencies unable to pay competitive wages to support staff. Testimony also noted that the inherent necessity and importance of quality staff is magnified as waiver services are designed to be in smaller, integrated settings.

Testimony can be found on the *Health Finance & Appropriation's Health and Human Services Subcommittee* [website](#) under the heading, 'March 7.'

[↻ Return to top](#)

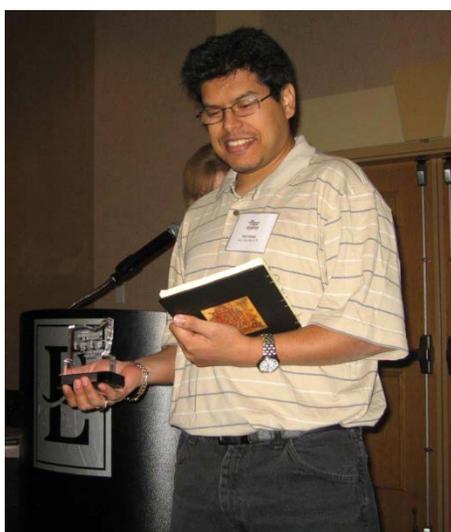
'Looking Beyond' Columbus...

4. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information and photos of local activities!

Superintendents Conference Hosts Annual Awards Event

The Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards (OASCB) Winter Conference in Columbus on March 11, also hosted the Ohio Public Images Annual Awards, conferring on more than 50 individuals and organizations various awards recognizing *excellence in promoting awareness and understanding* of people who have disabilities, and their participation as full citizens in communities throughout the state. Awards honored such efforts during 2012. Conference attendees also heard updates on budget information and specific programs.



Andy Leinbaugh (left) was presented the Self Advocate of the Year award by OASCBDD President Rick Marriott. Andy is an Athens County resident who has been extremely active in the DD community statewide, and has mentored others in the process. His acceptance remarks included many thank you's to Athens County Board of DD staff and to PersonnelPlus, the community employment organization affiliated with the Board. He noted,

"I have had a lot of help and support along the way, and I will treasure this award. Thank you!"



See the OPI Video at:

<http://publicimagesnetwork.org/awardsluncheon.htm>

Crawford County Looks Beyond

Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities sponsored a Disability Awareness event earlier this month featuring activities employing simulated disabilities that 'turned the tables' on local officials and other participants. For Mark Burke, Director of Student Services at Bucyrus Secondary School, the activity prompted the idea of repeating the exercise at the school. Burke noted, "Many staff members and students came up to me and said they wanted to learn more about this, too. I think it's something we'll try to do in the future to give the students and staff a better understanding of what it's like for a person with a disability." Burke experienced the (simulated) congenital disability of arthrogyrosis, which causes joints in the body to become stuck in one position. *Contact: Chuck Frobose, CCBDD Superintendent, (419) 562-3321.*

Lawrence County Looks Beyond – and Up!

The Lawrence County Board of DD views the Balloon Launch as their annual DD Awareness Month kick-off event. Says LCBDD Public Relations Director Tim Nunnery,

"It's something simple that the kids enjoy, and it doesn't restrict the awareness to just our county. Our balloons can travel several miles before they are found with their card attached, telling

someone in a different town - or even a different state - about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.”

The County’s March events continue with an Annual 5K Run/Walk for DD, a Chili-Fest and Craft Show that includes approximately 25 businesses and individuals – and a basketball game with local media and county commissioners participating.



Photos, Ironton Tribune and Tim Nunnery, LCBDD

Look Beyond – Look Up!

Students, faculty, and staff of Open Door School, a part of the Lawrence County Board of DD, released dozens of balloons into the air to celebrate the start of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Ironton. Everyone got into the act this year - including family dogs!

Hocking County Makes It Official

The Hocking County Board of DD kicked off its recognition of March as DD Awareness Month with a blood drive and continues through March with the eighth annual ‘Can Do Creations’ Art Show, and the Hocking Valley Industries’ Open House on March 27.



We Hereby Proclaim...

Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent David Couch (left) receives a Proclamation declaring March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, signed by Hocking County Commissioners Sandra Ogle, John Walker, and Clark Sheets Jr.



Henry County Billboard Looks Beyond – and Looks Great!

There are many great billboards gracing Ohio's outdoors during DD Awareness Month, employing the 2013 'Look Beyond' theme and other themes recognizing the potential of individuals with developmental disabilities. Below is just one such example clearly telling that story in Henry County.



Personality and Hard Work, Personified

Terri Jo Stover (left) and Jenny Hartford have been best friends for as long as they can remember. They are both very active in their community participating in bowling, cheerleading, job club, and many other recreational activities. Jenny has worked at McDonald's for 18 years. Yes, 18! Terri Jo works five days a week at Future View Document Services and has a cleaning job two evenings a week. Yes, two jobs! Terri Jo and Jenny personify positive outcomes in their community, and are remarkable women!

Submitted by Kathy Bishop, kbishop@henrydd.org

[Return to top](#)

The Movers & Shakers

5. Family Advisory Council - A Forum for New Information

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting yesterday at the Columbus Developmental Center Training Room offered family members and professionals in the DD community an opportunity to exchange ideas, gather new information, and pose questions to Director John Martin regarding the 2014-'15 proposed budget ([Read Testimony](#)). As always, he provided an up-to-date look at the dollars involved and the initiatives affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Touching on several key areas, he emphasized the need for opportunities to help individuals realize their potential in the least-restrictive community-based settings, and leveraging dollars that may be available to Ohioans through Medicaid expansion. He explained,

"The importance to the working poor cannot be over-stated. Medicaid expansion would help many people to access preventive care, rather than wait for an emergency situation before taking action. We will work with stakeholders regarding the best ways to use any new dollars."

Questions posed to Director Martin included, “What is the state doing to get employers ready for the influx of folks with disabilities into the workforce, considering the *Employment First* initiative?” To which he responded, “We have formed an advisory group that is looking at ways to remove any barriers to community-based employment that may be a result of our own systems ... in effect, getting out of the way for employers to make that decision to hire.”

Also discussed was how families and guardians can make good/better choices in direct service providers -- keeping quality providers for their family members despite pay scales that have not kept up with the demands of the work involved. While there is no one easy answer within this discussion, certain points were made: Improving the direct care provider pay rate, and incentives to do so over the next couple of years; the need for family members to and take more initiative to learn more about providers’ services; and the availability and access to information to help them make good choices via technology including online efforts such as the DODD [Data Warehouse](#) and [Provider Search](#).

Also included in yesterday’s meeting agenda was information on how to find a provider; an update on the Transitions Waiver; and an introduction to ‘Imagine’ – a pilot effort defining new ways to look at serving individuals in a more self-directed way.

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

Next meeting is May 7.

-Contact Peggy Martin, Family Advocate, peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov, or call (614) 466-8706.

[↻ Return to top](#)

6. Health & Safety Alerts Improved, Re-Formatted

The first DODD *Health & Safety Alert* in a revised, easier-to-read format is # 56-02-13, ‘Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting.’

The purpose of this Alert is to remind those involved in providing care, managing programs, investigating - or overseeing the investigation of alleged sexual abuse cases - about the importance of recognizing the signs of sexual abuse, implementing immediate actions, and timely reporting.

In this Alert, the Department has identified several ‘red flags’ through a review of alleged sexual abuse cases -- and although they are not seen frequently, it is important to take steps to avoid them entirely. The health and safety of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities continues to be priority number one.

Health & Safety Alerts are developed and updated by the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. Division staff members are excited about the new look and feel of the Health & Safety Alerts. Health & Safety Alerts are required to be reviewed by all employees* annually through the receipt of MUI Rule training.

**Includes County Boards of DD and other service providers. There are different requirements for direct service staff versus administrative staff, however all employees require basic MUI training.*

Click here for: [All DODD Health & Safety Alerts](#)

[↻ Return to top](#)

PostScripts

☞ Nominations Now Being Accepted for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award

In 2010, the Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI) Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of his lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and have a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system. The award is now presented annually to a person or entity outside of APSI.

APSI is now accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through April 19, 2013. The award will be presented at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June, in conjunction with APSI's 30th year Celebration.

The nomination form is at www.apsohio.org

There is a link on the homepage for the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award.

Questions? Contact: Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scan and email to cison@apsohio.org.

☞ "I Have a Voice!" – The Arc of Ohio Announces Training, March 20

The Arc of Ohio invites Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, support professionals, and educators to a day of training, education, and legislative information at the Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, March 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. A legislative reception follows the program.

[Click Here to Register: EventBrite Registration](#)

[Lunch, Reception, and Materials included in Registration cost.](#)

The program will include presentations by DODD Director John Martin with information about Governor Kasich's proposed budget and how it relates to Ohioans with DD and their families, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Office of Medical Assistance on the subject of Managed Care -- as well as sessions on advocating for yourself and others with developmental disabilities. In addition, Disability Rights Ohio (formerly 'Ohio Legal Rights') and The Arc of Ohio will provide information on a variety of other subjects of interest.

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

Ohio SIBS announces a "*Looking Forward Weekend Retreat*," April 5-7, at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine.. 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 weekend 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 accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* Registration is at <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

☞ OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University's annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change, and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

[Multiple Perspectives 2013: Intersections & Independence](#)

[Click Here for information and registration](http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm)> <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Two days of sessions include subjects such as, 'Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio'; and 'Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.' *Contact L. Scott Lissner, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free Conference, April 12

A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at Vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The free conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for Ohio's *People First* organization. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point' – May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon. The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! The ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. Nearly 10,000 people attended in 2012!"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 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, 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

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, or 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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 [Return to top](#)



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