



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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*Pipeline PostScripts:* News and Information to Update Your Calendar

## **1. Administration Update: Medicaid Reforms, Budget**

As the June 30 deadline for final state budget language draws nearer, the Kasich Administration is continuing to work with legislators on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In addition, members of the General Assembly are looking at the larger state budget picture, to effect progress toward Medicaid reforms. Yesterday's Conference Committee on HB 59 continued discussions aimed at extending Medicaid. The Conference Committee consists of six members, three from the House and three from the Senate.

Last week, Medicaid expansion advocates again urged lawmakers to move forward on the expansion policy before time runs out for Ohio to take full advantage of federal benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) President Mark Davis commented, "We're not sure others feel our anxiety...we are trying to help them understand why we feel anxious." He noted that the state would need at least six months to implement Medicaid expansion, so such a proposal would need to pass the legislature before July 1 to have new eligibility limits in place by the time more federal provisions take effect in January 2014.

In addition, the Healthier Ohio Working Group, convened by the Finance & Appropriations Committee, is studying Medicaid and health care system overhaul, while a number of other related health care amendments to the budget bill include a measure to convene a workgroup of state agency directors to study telemedicine policy measures.

DODD has been in the forefront of telemedicine efforts, and originally launched “Ohio’s Telemedicine Project” in February 2012 with Wright State University, and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). A closer look at specific services needed has prompted the project to be more accurately named “Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project.”

**The goal of the project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/developmental disabilities (MI/DD) who reside in remote areas across the state.**

**[More at Pipeline, December 5, 2012](#)**

The Ohio Hospital Association and other service providers have offered support for language on telemedicine services and the preservation of Medicaid patient care funding for sick and injured children, low-income adults, and Ohioans with disabilities.

**[More about the FY14-15 budget at House Bill 59.](#)**

*For additional budget information go to [www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov)*

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## **2. Health Care Reform Summit Yields Ideas**

### **“Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities”**

In the context of health care reform and overall access to health care options for people with developmental disabilities, a June 10 summit, “*Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities*,” was hosted by The Ohio State University Fawcett Center in Columbus, and the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), the goal was to better understand how potential access issues could be avoided in plans to be offered through a health insurance exchange, or through Ohio’s Medicaid initiatives ... and to gather as many ideas as possible from summit attendees organized into work groups.

As noted by session leader Bill Hayes, a director with the OSU Medical Center, those invited to participate in the summit included self-advocates and their family members, representatives of government entities within Ohio’s DD community, educators, and others in the state’s health care provider system. Work groups were tasked with addressing needs and actions in practical ways, keeping in mind cost-effective and realistic suggestions that could be applied in various scenarios.

One of the questions that particularly interested the work groups was, “What should effective health care coordination look like, or feel like?” Responses included ...

**[“An ADA Standard isn’t necessarily or always the best functional/physical arrangement. That needs to be taken into consideration. So, for example, a consultation room may be OK by ADA Standards, but physically cramped for specific individuals and equipment needed.”](#)**

**[“A managed care ‘navigator’ needs to KNOW the individual seeking care, and needs to have a back-up plan if a first-choice option is not available/not going to work out.”](#)**

**“Use technology to assist people in understanding AND delivering services. There is a lot out there now in medical and dental care that can help a service provider and a service seeker be able to communicate and work together successfully.”**

Wrapping up the interactive summit, Hayes noted that the day’s conversations and ideas had brought home a basic truth -- many of the ways mentioned to “*Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities*” would be helpful to individuals whether or not they had a disability. He commented, “The [Integrated Care Delivery Systems \(ICDS\)](#)\* approach hopes to find ways to better position individuals and families in this process – at the outset. The ICDS project is looking to do this well – and learn how to more easily determine good and appropriate providers of care and services. We want to create an optimal environment for service access and delivery.”

Capitalizing on the collective insight of the summit participants, the input gathered will be considered along with other elements in the overall project, including a recent survey of participants in Ohio’s DD system, and future additional work groups.

*\* ICDS is a state demonstration project to integrate care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees, as proposed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).  
Contact: [William.Hayes@osumc.edu](mailto:William.Hayes@osumc.edu); Visit: <http://grc.osu.edu/>*

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### **3. APSI Ohio Celebrates 30 Years of Service**

The Mission of Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI), is to advocate for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and an enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. On June 6, that Mission was celebrated enthusiastically by a large gathering of individuals served, their family members and caregivers, and other stakeholders in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community at APSI Ohio’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. The [Xenos complex](#) in Columbus hosted the event, and attendees were not at all reluctant to get up to the microphone to share their thoughts about, “What APSI means to me.”

APSI Executive Director Karla Rinto’s opening remarks set the stage by inviting several individuals, APSI staff, family members and others to the podium, stating, “We have a lot to celebrate! And we’re here to tell our stories about what APSI means to us.” She added, “When I ask staff to tell me, ‘Why do you do this work?’ they say things like ...

**“Maybe for me it’s the moment when someone who trusts no one, decides to trust ME!”**

She continued, “And that’s just one really good reason.” APSI has served as guardian to more than 10,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities over the 30-year period, and each individual -- in the words of many APSI staff from around the state -- is one more good reason to work in the developmental disabilities field.

Following Rinto’s comments, Charles Powell, who has been served by APSI since 2002, stated what APSI meant to him in his own well-chosen words. He said, “They help me out. They

come to my meetings.” And when asked by APSI staffer Angie Gerding, “What do you do at your meetings?” he replied with a smile, “We make some changes!”



**APSI representative Angie Gerding has been Charles Powell’s APSI representative since 2004.**

**Angie and Charles share a quick hug at the luncheon before they head to the podium. Charles spoke confidently of his ability to make decisions in his life with the help of APSI, including the selection of a roommate, and different work opportunities.**



The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary attendees had plenty of reasons to smile and reminisce about helping individuals lead successful lives – some of whom have been served by APSI in Ohio’s developmental disabilities system for decades. It is clear that the continuity of guardianship staff and the longevity of individual/staff relationships results in a more stable overall system – yet another good reason to recognize staff with the agency’s *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award*, and the *Russell Kinnebrew Advocacy Award*. This year’s recipients were Nevalyn Nevil, a strong advocate for individuals with DD for more than 35 years (Kozlowski Award), and Jan Bannon, an APSI representative for 19 years (Kinnebrew Award).

Presenting a Certificate of Recognition to APSI for 30 years of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Legal and Oversight Kate Haller noted,

**“From the perspective of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, APSI has been absolutely steadfast in looking out for and caring about individuals served in the system. APSI, its leaders and its representatives, are all held in high regard by our community. We are fortunate to have you.”**



### Celebrating a 30-Year Anniversary

(Left) APSI Ohio Executive Director Karla Rinto welcomes attendees from across the state to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration luncheon. At right, DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller presents a Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition to APSI, accepted by Rinto. The Certificate is signed by Governor John Kasich and DODD Director John Martin, noting the agency’s long-term dedication to individuals served within the state’s developmental disabilities community.

APSI Ohio provides an array of guardianship and protective services to individuals who are age 18 or older, and specializes in serving clients with a high level of needs, primarily through full guardianship. As a full guardian to an individual, APSI has the authority to make all day-to-day decisions on behalf of the individual including medical and dental treatment, behavior support programs, work, residential placement, and quality of life decisions. About 95% of all services APSI provides fall into this category.

*More about APSI at <http://www.apsiohio.org/>*

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## 4. Family Advisory Council: A Full House, A Full Agenda

A revised meeting format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with individuals and families from around the state energized the June 11th Family Advisory Council (FAC) and resulted in lively exchanges on subjects as varied as Medicaid expansion, waiver services, remote monitoring, Medicaid Buy-In, and direct care staffing needs.

The well-attended Council meeting was hosted at Columbus Developmental Center, and DODD Director John Martin was on-hand to be ‘a listener first, and a speaker second.’ FAC coordinator and DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin stated, “John Martin has always shown his sincere interest in the issues that families of people with disabilities face ... and he knows from experience within his own family. We appreciate that he attends these meetings to both *listen* and *answer questions*.” She added,

**“I also appreciate that so many family members from around the state attend Family Advisory Council meetings because it provides a venue for us to hear first-hand about what is happening locally ... and for families to hear and share what others are doing. We want to make certain that FAC input represents all of Ohio.”**

Director Martin participated in a ‘quiz’ regarding Medicaid expansion, and in answer to the question, “*How would it affect the developmental disabilities community in particular?*” answers included, “It would assist the working poor. And many in the direct care field, especially if the family is headed by a single parent, would be newly-eligible for health care services.” Another response was, “It would provide a substantial positive ‘ripple effect’ in our system ... and the benefits of a healthier population cannot be under-estimated.”

### **Direct Care**

Also discussed was the issue of having an adequate pool of qualified direct care staff throughout the state, and the related issue of improving the wages paid to these service professionals. Progress is being made in these areas through the efforts of many stakeholders, including the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). For example, the Kasich Administration has added \$2 million in appropriations for direct care wage increases over the next year.

In addition, Director Martin highlighted a growing interest in the usage of *remote monitoring technology* to help provide needed services, and free-up direct care staff for more other service needs. He stated,

**“Remote monitoring is going to be more and more important in the mix of services available to individuals with disabilities and the elderly, and we are looking closely at where and how this technology can benefit the people served, and the people serving them.”**

**[See Study: Remote health monitoring growing](#)**

Following Director Martin, DODD Deputy Director Patrick Stephan listened to FAC attendees’ queries and comments regarding various waiver services and other Medicaid-related topics. On the subject of **Managed Care**, he noted that people who currently are on DODD Medicaid waivers would not be involved in the ‘first wave’ of Ohio’s Managed Care system, and that the Department has opted to wait and see what could be learned from the initial rollout of the system. He also addressed questions regarding the Transitions (TDD) Waiver, and heard several positive comments on the streamlining of the Prior Authorization process for waiver services, and the Provider Certification portal on the DODD website at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). He observed,

**“We are continuing to look at options – both web-based and otherwise, to better serve individuals in our system. We also are utilizing stakeholder work groups to improve our processes, and review and amend waiver rules.”**



### The Movers & Shakers Share Their Thoughts

Above, left: Parent-advocate Amy Clawson makes a point regarding the need for support for family members who have older children with multiple needs.

Above, right: Barbara Cameron explains a recent experience with service providers.

At left: New FAC members emphasize the need for simplified information about various Medicaid waiver services.



Participants at the June FAC meeting hailed from several counties, including Butler, Belmont, Hocking, Franklin, Stark, Delaware, and Montgomery. Afternoon sessions included information about Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, an update on Managed Care by a representative of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, and information about the [Imagine Project](#).

### Next Family Advisory Council Meeting: August 20.

FAC Meetings are held at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, and are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin at [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov) or call (614) 466-8706.

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## 5. Training and Tracking to Improve Service Delivery

### **New Initial Provider Certification Seminar Aims High on Quality and Consistency**

A new *Initial Provider Certification* seminar through the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has been developed to build a foundation of information and skills that all new providers of Ohio Medicaid Waiver services need in order to provide competent services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

**Every provider of direct services to Ohioans with developmental disabilities must obtain certification from DODD before providing services. The Department salutes and supports the efforts of the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals in offering this training to new providers.**

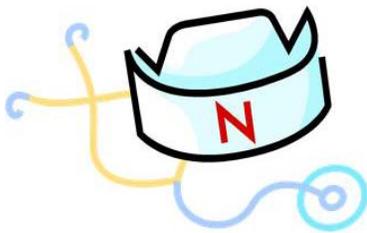
Certification through this training will enable providers to deliver Medicaid Waiver Services under the Level One and Individual Options (I.O.) waivers, as well as to deliver non-Medicaid funded services. All providers of direct services must complete eight hours of training in specific topics prior to applying for certification. The 8-hour *OADSP Initial Provider Certification* seminar is designed to meet all DODD training requirements for new providers in a consistent, comprehensive manner.

For more information regarding training dates (beginning in July), cost, scholarship availability, and registration, go to [www.oadsp.org](http://www.oadsp.org), or contact Katrina Sacay at [oadsp.dspaths@gmail.com](mailto:oadsp.dspaths@gmail.com). This seminar has been approved by DODD for eight hours of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs).

OADSP is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to recruiting, training, and retaining people to support individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

### **RN Training Update! All RN Trainer Certifications will expire August 1, 2013**

DODD Health Improvement Policy Specialist Janet Winterstein, RN, emphasizes that in the continuing effort to maintain high standards in service provision, it is critical to maintain up-to-date credentialing and certifications. All RN Trainer certifications will expire August 1, 2013, and complete recertification instructions and forms have been sent to all RN Trainers.



**Any RN Trainer who has not received the notice and form should contact [MA.Database@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:MA.Database@dodd.ohio.gov) to update the RN Trainer e-mail list.**

Winterstein also notes that when the current DODD Medication Administration system upgrade is completed in a few months, this information will be migrated to a new and more systematic, data-based Medication Administration Information System (MAIS). She adds, “The new MAIS system will support the mission of quality health and safety services, along with better data collection and management that can be more easily accessed by nurses and providers.” More about MAIS in a future issue of *Pipeline*.

## **Important Note for All Medication Administration-Certified Personnel and Their Employers**

All MA-certified personnel and employers of certified personnel should independently validate their certification on the DODD web page *before August 1, 2013*, to assure their certifications are correctly registered. When certification information is moved from the current MA Database to the new system (MAIS), only active and up-to-date personnel certifications will transfer to MAIS. *After August, no late entries or corrections can be made to outdated certifications.*

To check the status of a certificate, visit the DODD Home Page at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) and use the “Health and Safety” drop-down menu at the top to choose the “Medication Administration Verification” -- link <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. If a certification needs to be updated or renewed, contact your RN Trainer. Personnel looking for *initial* or *renewal* classes may wish to contact their employer, Service and Support Administrator (SSA), local Council of Government (COG), or use the [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) “Trainings” link to find classes in their area.  
*For additional information, contact [janet.winterstein@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:janet.winterstein@dodd.ohio.gov).*

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## **6. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks New Members**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), a planning and advocacy council committed to community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, is currently seeking applicants for new membership. Council membership requires that applicants must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Categories include:

- Individual with a developmental disability;
- Parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability;
- An immediate relative or guardian of an adult with an intellectual developmental disability who cannot advocate for himself/herself;
- An immediate relative or guardian of an institutionalized, or previously-institutionalized individual with a developmental disability, or an individual with a developmental disability who resides or previously resided in an institution;
- A representative from a private agency serving persons with developmental disabilities;
- A representative from a private non-profit organization serving persons with developmental disabilities.

To apply for membership visit the DD Council website at [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov) or contact Carla R. Cox at (614) 644-5538, or email [carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov) for more information.

### **Structure & Function**

The DODD Office of Legal & Oversight oversees the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, which consists of 32 members appointed by the Governor. As one of a national network of state Councils, DD Council receives federal funding for innovative advocacy, capacity-building, and ‘systems change’ activities. These efforts are designed to contribute to a coordinated system of services, supports, and other assistance that is centered around and driven by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. More at [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov).

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!  
 Click [HERE](#) for more info.



## PostScripts .....

### Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, Awards Nominations

All nominations are due by July 31.

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is now accepting applications for Annual Awards. These include: Employer of the Year; Public/Non-Profit Best Practices; Advocacy Award; Karla Lortz \$1000 Scholarship; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award; Accessible Parking Award; and, a new Accessible Medical Services Award. *All nominations are due by July 31*, and the Awards ceremony will be held in October, as part of RSC’s DisAbility Jobs Summit. Applications are on the GCPD website at [www.gcpd.ohio.gov](http://www.gcpd.ohio.gov) – Go to the menu on the left, and the nomination form is under “AWARDS.”

### Autism Society National Conference, July 10-13

The Autism Society’s National Conference will be at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA, July 10 – 13.

To register, please click here

More information at <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/conference/>

The National Conference addresses the broad range of issues affecting people with autism, including early intervention, education, employment, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions and more, across the lifespan. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals, and individuals who have autism, attendees can learn how to more effectively advocate for and obtain supports. The Conference goal is to empower family members, individuals on the autism spectrum, and professionals who work with them to make informed decisions.

### SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP’s will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to [www.dspath.org](http://www.dspath.org). Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 [agerowitz@me.com](mailto:agerowitz@me.com) or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 [LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year’s *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

### WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join ‘Autism Speaks’ on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund

research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact [Columbus@autismspeaks.org](mailto:Columbus@autismspeaks.org) or call (216) 524-2842.

### **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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

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