
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline
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Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Upcoming Events and Opportunities

-Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month-

We hope you will share information and a photo of your local activities!

Please send information about your Awareness Month activities for possible inclusion the March 28 issue of *Pipeline*. Send to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov.



**Our
Community
is Better
together**

See article #2 in this issue.



Administration Update

1. Mid-Biennium Budget Review Proposal Presented

Governor John Kasich presented a Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR) proposal today, which includes a plan to cut the state income tax, overhaul energy policy, and help urban schools, as well as affect state agencies' policy language. Provisions regarding policy language have been requested by the Office of Health Transformation, DODD, and the Department of Taxation.

The proposed MBR also includes minor budget cuts for fiscal year 2013, as Governor Kasich has asked department leaders to identify opportunities to reduce an amount equal to about 1% of current appropriations. Proposals by the Office of Health Transformation are designed to further the Administration's Medicaid-related reforms contained in the biennium budget, including language to continue consolidation of Medicaid administration, and tying quality measures to in-patient hospital rates. Following are a few of many notable items:

- *Workforce efforts* include a codification of the workforce board, a new focus on employing veterans and training for shale jobs, and an important step forward for Ohioans with disabilities by changing our mindset from, “they can’t work” to, “they can.”
- *Management improvements* include the “Management Efficiency Plan,” which makes adjustments to agency spending, and a range of statutory tweaks designed to help agencies work more effectively, free of outdated or unnecessary barriers.
- *Managing state government* to do a better job of providing Ohioans with the services they need while offering taxpayers a better value. The MBR project reduces spending where possible, increases it where absolutely necessary, streamline and consolidate where justified, and tears down barriers to more effective service delivery.
- *Do a better job preparing Ohioans for job success* by training adults more effectively. Currently there is too much red tape. By simplifying the process for workers and companies to get training benefits, more Ohioans can get the training they need so they and their employers can succeed. In particular:

Special efforts are also proposed for veterans, and Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Governor Kasich recently explained,

"This is the first time that there has been a serious effort to do a budget in a non-budget year. I just think we ought to always be working to make government more efficient."

No actual legislation has been introduced, and the House Finance & Appropriations Committee have its first look at the concepts tomorrow, with a presentation from the Office of Budget and Management. *More information on the MBR will be posted at: <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/> and at www.dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom.*

Other Administration News: DODD Rolls Out Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Project

In line with policies developed at the outset of the Kasich administration to streamline and improve services to individuals with developmental disabilities, DODD recently began scheduling assessments with individuals consenting to participate in the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) project.

The project is designed to provide information needed to make data-driven decisions to use resources most efficiently, and serve more people effectively by focusing on supports needed for full participation in community life.

DODD is identifying 700 individuals who have significant support needs, including people on an Individual Options (IO) waiver with annual support costs of \$130,000 or more; new admissions to Developmental Centers; and, residents of mental health hospitals. In addition, DODD will assess a random sample of another 700 individuals for comparison profiles across varying levels of support needs. Project duration will be approximately three years.

For additional information on the SIS visit our department's website at:
<https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/INF/finditfast/publications/Documents/SIS.LargeBrochure.pdf>



Celebrating DD Awareness, Statewide

2. Event Draws 600 People, Representing 35 Counties

The Ohio Statehouse Atrium hosted the annual kickoff celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month on March 1, uniting hundreds of attendees under a statewide theme for this year's activities, "*Our Community is Better Together.*" The event spotlighted many opportunities emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and raised public awareness of the many talents that people with disabilities bring to a community. Sponsored by DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), a statewide information and advocacy organization, the two organizations collaborated with stakeholders to provide a unique, public venue for advocates and self advocates to participate. DODD Director John Martin addressed the crowd of approximately 600, noting,

" I am excited about what I see here today – the sheer number of people in Ohio's developmental disabilities community gathering here at the Statehouse ... together. For, as the DD Awareness theme for this year says ... 'Our community is better together,' and looking around this room I think we all can see and feel that."

Also taking the podium during the program was Scott Osterfeld, representing the Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), who lost no time in energizing the crowd with his interactive demonstration of a motivational acronym ... DANCE. The crowd learned quickly from Osterfeld that ...

"To really live, we have to DANCE!"

More specifically, the message was to:

- Discover your purpose in life;
- Ask how you can make a difference;
- Notice the gaps in your life and others';
- Commit to making a difference; and,
- Expect great things to happen.

His uplifting message set the stage for several presentations that followed, spotlighting businesses and organizations around the state that provide employment, community service, recreation, and learning opportunities – and featuring several individuals who, obviously, had learned to DANCE long before they got there! (See complete [2012 Statehouse Event Program](#))

Among them was a group of Summit County Champions – self advocates who actively worked on the County Board’s levy campaign last November, and were instrumental in its successful passage. Their presentation included a few pointers on using social media to tell a story and spread a consistent message ...as well as using good old fashioned face-to-face and door-to-door communications. At one point, the Champions encouraged the crowd to collectively shout the ‘Our Community is Better Together’ theme, and the resulting enthusiastic cheer filled the room.



Champions All!

The Summit County Champions were right on target with their advice on community involvement, and being persistent to achieve goals. (L. to R.) Summit DD Champions shown are: Karen Dudock, People First of Summit County Vice President; Jack Carroll, People First of Summit County President; Willard Boggs, Summit DD Volunteer; and, Brian Monroe, People First of Summit County Treasurer.

Moving through the crowd, snippets of conversation could be overheard, including these comments by event participants ...

"I need to get out more!
I've heard about things other people are doing that I want to do."



"I saw you here last year. Are you on Facebook? I'll friend you, OK?"



"I like my job, but need more hours. How can I get a job like yours?"

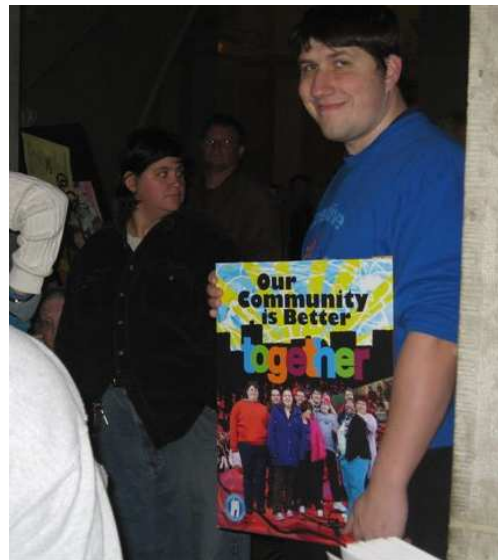


"I'm going to find out about joining some clubs."





"I studied hard and got help from my mother and my friends at Lifebuilders."
 -Destiny Hawkins, above, presenter, and proud graduate of the PATHS credentialling program



The Ohio Statehouse Atrium, pleasantly crowded and overflowing to the catwalks.
 (Left) Clark County's TAC Choir reseats themselves after leading the crowd in the *Pledge of Allegiance* and *America the Beautiful*; (Right) Paul Day, member of People First of Ohio and president of People First Chapter #54 in Delaware County, welcomes visitors at the Atrium's entrance.

Following the program, individuals enjoyed networking with a variety of agencies and others with an interest in Ohio's disability services community. As the crowd cleared out of the Statehouse Atrium, another comment heard brought a smile to the listener ...

"I'm going to register to vote as soon as I get back home."

Apparently, the Secretary of State's voting information table had provided the reminder needed!



The Ohio Secretary of State's Office display stresses rights and options for ALL voters. Micah Hetrick, center, checks out the timely information provided by SOS staffer Joy West (right).



See you next year!

This group from Franklin County includes interpreter, Tim Hendren, (center) who made the event a lot more 'listenable' for individuals with hearing challenges.

More about DD Awareness Month in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*.

Winter 2011-2012 ... publishing in late March.

Pipeline Quarterly is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx



Local Cuyahoga County Board of DD participants illustrate the Awareness theme perfectly.



3. Developmental Centers Clearly Illustrate March Theme

Maxwell's Experience Illustrates 'Our Community is Better Together'

At Columbus Developmental Center

In January 2011, Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) was contacted by Delaware County regarding a gentleman named Maxwell. He had been living in a Medicaid waiver-funded setting and was struggling. There were reports of physical aggression and unsafe behavior that prompted the county to contact CDC for assistance. Team meetings were arranged for Maxwell in his home county, with his provider and representatives from the County Board, along with CDC staff. It was determined that a short stay at the Center would allow for a new plan to be developed that might better serve him once he returned home.

Maxwell arrived at CDC later that month for a 90-day stay. There were initial concerns about how he would adjust, as he had lived in his own apartment before coming to the Center, and as with anyone involved in a lifestyle change, challenges may be expected. Maxwell proved, however, that he was equal to any challenges and quickly adjusted to life at CDC, making many friends during his stay, and taking full advantage of activities at the Center, including the indoor swimming pool.

CDC staff thoroughly enjoyed working with Maxwell. The activities that were available, and the work of the Center's staff to provide a good daily structure, made for an overall positive experience.

In a short amount of time he had made tremendous strides in the area of interpersonal communication, and in dealing with issues that may have caused him frustration in the past.



Maxwell's family is very involved in his life, and frequently visited him at CDC, and spent time with 'all the guys.' CDC staff enjoyed working with them to help Maxwell become more successful in day-to-day interactions.

In April 2011, Maxwell returned to Delaware County and has enjoyed great success back home. Occasionally, he returns to the CDC coffee shop for visits and joins in the action at the recreation center for Open Gym. Maxwell shows that he is very happy, and his parents report that - as they see it - his stay at CDC was the primary reason for his turnaround and current success.

According to DODD Division of Residential Resources Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman,

"As our Developmental Centers continue to become broader resources to their communities, progress such as Maxwell's will be the true definition of 'positive outcome.'"



CDC Residents Also Feel at Home at the Ohio Statehouse

Participating at Statehouse Event, Practicing Photography Skills



The People's House

This photo, noted at the outset of this *Pipeline*, shows CDC residents and staff totally 'at home' in the Rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse – illustrating that it is, indeed, 'The People's House' as it is often labeled. Individuals shown are: (back row, L. to R.) Steve Hopkins, Levi Bevens, and Duane Perrine; (front row, L. to R.) Wuby Fischer, Shawnda Oswald, and Darryl Duprae.



"We are proud, Columbus!"

Captured on the steps of the Statehouse, Shawnda and Duane shout out, "We are proud, Columbus!" following the DD Awareness event. Terry Gorman (left) and Jackie Abbington, descend the steps. Thanks to Levi B. at CDC for this great photo and others submitted – evidence of his growing photography skills.



Gallipolis Developmental Center Brings Sportsmanship to Statehouse

GDC Soccer Team and University of Rio Grande Team Up for Presentation

Gallipolis Developmental Center exemplifies the theme “Our Community is Better Together” via good sportsmanship, as evidenced by a University of Rio Grande/ GDC soccer match back in the fall of 2011 (see [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 22](#) October 12, 2011.) And they brought that feeling with them to the Ohio Statehouse on March 1, at the DD Awareness Month Kickoff (*see preceding article*), including the event’s first-ever international presenter, Callum Morriss, who hails originally from Redcar England.

Addressing the crowd with enthusiasm, Morriss stated that when for one night, GDC residents who participate in the facility's fledgling soccer program had the opportunity to play alongside young men and women on the University of Rio Grande (URG) men’s and women’s soccer teams, it was an historic game - hosted at GDC, and named the ‘First Annual Superstar Soccer Classic.’ Morriss noted,

“Everyone went home a winner.”

Rio Grande men’s soccer assistant coach Tony Daniels, and Matt Easter - Mayor of Rio Grande and also a 19-year employee at GDC - collaborated and organized the game. To say that the community turned out to support the game is an understatement, and the best measure of that success was shown by George, the GDC team goalie, who stood proudly at the Statehouse podium. He was ready for a re-match, strutting confidently to the microphone and stating, “I’m ready to play again!”



Showing Good Sportsmanship, and Kickin’ It Up A Notch.

(L. to R.) Callum Morriss, University of Rio Grande (URG) international student from Redcar England and assistant URG women’s soccer coach; DODD Director John Martin; Matt Easter, GDC residential care supervisor; and Tony Daniels, URG Director of Campus Sports and Recreation and men’s assistant soccer coach. Daniels noted,

“The primary thing about this match is that the GDC players and the kids from our university had a great time playing together. We all need to stand behind community-oriented things like this.”



Mount Vernon DC's Annual Luncheon

Luncheon Highlights the Super-Heroes in Every Community

The 'Great Room' at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) hosted representatives of the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities (KCBDD), MVDC staff and residents, caregivers, community partners, and local officials to kick off DD Awareness Month.

MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer welcomed nearly 130 attendees, noting that this year's theme, "Our Community is Better Together," is underscored by many collaborative efforts in Knox County. Professional speaker, Dave Leedy, entertained and motivated the gathering, introducing himself as a Super-Hero character, complete with costume.



Super Heroes in Knox County

(L to R) Matt Beckley; speaker, Dave Leedy (demonstrating a hero's handshake); and Daniel Chenevey.

Leedy relayed positive messages as he spoke of inspiring those around us to become the best they can be, reminding everyone that they are *all* super-heroes in someone's life, and should strive to be. A highlight, according to MVDC staff, was when Leedy asked for Superintendent Fischer, KCBDD Superintendent Steve Oster, and several county officials to join him in a line dance that immediately had the audience clapping and grooving along with them.

Oster also distributed awards for Volunteer of the Year, Support Professional of the Year, Distinguished Service, and Individual Achievement -- and Mount Vernon Mayor Dick Mavis presented a Proclamation noting the accomplishments and important roles that people with disabilities play in each community.

Special thanks to Robert Capaldi and Dorreetha Irby, CDC; and Debbie Hawk, MVDC, for information contained in this article.

More about Developmental Centers: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Developmental-Centers.aspx>



4. Family Advisory Council Learns About Work, P.L.A.Y.

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) continues its commitment to providing families an open forum for the information they need to make good decisions for family members who have developmental disabilities, and improve the service system, statewide. In that ongoing effort, topics suggested by this important stakeholder group were on the agenda at the March 13 meeting, including the following:

- ‘Director’s Chat’ with John Martin
- Provider Certification Information and Updates
- Feedback and Q & A on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov
- The Positive Culture Initiative progress around the state
- Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (the P.L.A.Y.* Project)

Director Martin, who is always asked lots of great questions at these meetings, turned the tables on FAC attendees this time around and asked them to ponder and respond to a question. His question to them was,

“How was it explained to you when you first heard that your child had a developmental disability? And, what would you have liked to have heard, or how would you have liked to have been told on that first occasion?”

Fourteen different parents or other family members responded to that question, sharing just as many different and interesting answers. Whether it was at birth, or at some other point during the developmental years, each of the parents would have liked to have been given more information immediately about the disability and not just ‘a word.’ As one mother put it,

“Don’t send us home with a word! ‘Down syndrome’ or ‘brain damage’ doesn’t tell me what to do for my child. Give us some information right away. Connect us with others, educate us. That’s how I felt then, and how I feel now.”

Several family members noted that educating the medical profession on how to approach families that first time and immediately thereafter is something the DD community needs to work, and also to work with hospital staff -- some of whom are excellent at understanding what families need at that critical point in time, and some of whom are not well-prepared to do so.

In addition several FAC members spoke of “...not putting limitations on your child, no matter what the early diagnosis is” ... and emphasized the importance of “...talking to other families who are going through similar situations.”

Director Martin was grateful for the excellent input, and noted that one of the things the Department believes is critical to serving families better is seeing to it that families receive better information early on. He explained, “Early intervention services are so important, and we need to be sure that E.I. Specialists are having positive conversations with families.” He continued,

"Is it a conversation of hope and expectations, or one of negativity? This can make such a difference for families -- to have some hope, and some helpful information."

Following Director Martin was a great deal of information on subjects of interest to service providers, via an online system now available to update and apply for provider certification online at www.dodd.ohio.gov -- and the availability of training for using that system. DODD staff discussed the new 'Provider Certification Wizard,' and the many system improvements, driven by stakeholder input and experience. "We are light years ahead of where we were two years ago on this – it was just too complex. And we are working toward further improvements to provide valid, meaningful data that families can use. The Department's efficiency in processing applications has risen dramatically," noted DODD presenter, Angel Morgan.

Rounding out the packed agenda was a discussion of progress being made via the statewide Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#), presented by Willie Jones of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), and a description of the Play and Language for Autistic Youth "P.L.A.Y." program, which is reaching more and more families across the state. DODD presenter, Molly Kurtz, noted, "The results we see when P.L.A.Y. techniques are used consistently with a child are just dramatic. We are very excited about what we have seen families be able to do with this approach for their children." **More about PLAY at <http://www.playproject.org/> and at Pipeline Volume 5 issue 17 August 3, 2011 'In Support of Young Children with Autism and Their Families.'*

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

To be a great advocate, stay informed! Join the FAC listserv at joinfamilyadvisory@list.dodd.ohio.gov FAC contact is [Peggy Martin](#). She may be reached via email at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov ; or by phone at (614) 466-8706.



5. Statewide Efforts Highlight Community Engagement

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness activities and events around the state this month.

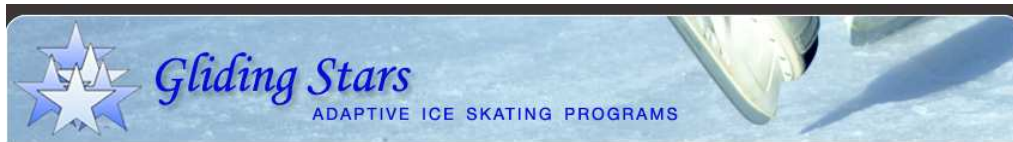
More in the March 28 issue of Pipeline.

Hancock County

The *Gliding Stars of Findlay* will be hosting their 11th annual ice show, "Gliding Stars of Findlay Salute Findlay's Bicentennial" on March 18, 2012 at 2:30 p.m., at the "Cube" in Findlay. *Gliding Stars* is an adaptive ice skating program, and first came to Findlay in November 2000. The program uses adaptive equipment such as walkers and skates to provide individuals with disabilities - the 'Stars' - the opportunity to skate. The Stars participate in weekly lessons and are paired with trained volunteers under the direction of skilled skating instructors. Tickets may be purchased in advance, or at the door the day of the event.

[Click here for information](#)

[The show includes 53 Stars from Hancock County and the surrounding area.](#)



[Richland County](#)

Richland County is one of several that have localized Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month billboards with local personalities, including people participating in services and their community friends and co-workers. Driving around Richland County is a lot more interesting and colorful during the month of March!



In the Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) March 2012 Awareness Month billboard, local resident Ben Studer (seated) connects with a personal trainer at the Mansfield YMCA.



[Belmont County](#)

This year four Belmont County young ladies and their youth group are in the spotlight delivering the awareness message. Kelsi Weaver, Joy Berka, Kati Hans and Haylee Zinn, members of the American Heritage Girls, appear prominently on the posters (below) promoting the 2012 theme "Our Community is Better Together."



This poster and other DD Awareness materials at www.publicimagesnetwork.org



[Lawrence County](#)

On March 27, the Lawrence County Board of DD will host its annual *March Madness* basketball event, where the men and women of Tri-State Industries, Inc. play against members of the media and other community notables. This year there will be an extra twist and a challenge — Lawrence County elected officials will field a team that will include commissioners, the sheriff, a judge or two, and more. They will face a team from *The Tribune*. The losing team will donate \$500 to the County Board for its programs, and the winning team will donate \$250. For more information: www.lawrencedd.org.



Jackson County

In Jackson County, the First Annual Provider Fair - sponsored by Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) – will be held March 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the James Rhodes Community Center, in Coalton. The event is free and open to adults and children with disabilities and their families and caregivers, as well as the general public. Services for individuals with disabilities will be spotlighted by many exhibitors, and there will be an art contest, snacks, and door prizes. For more information contact SOCOG at (740) 775-5030 or visit www.socog.org.



HOME Choice

6. Consumer Advisory Council Seeks New Members

The Ohio HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council is seeking new members. Comprised of up to 15 members from across the State, the Council typically meets at least four times per year in Columbus. Attendance by phone is an option.

Persons who are elderly and/or have disabilities and receive services and supports, regardless of the payer source for such services, are eligible. The Council cannot accept applications for membership from individuals who are advocates for, or providers of, services to persons who are elderly and/or have disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities may apply, and one does not need to be a participant of the HOME Choice Transition Program in order to apply.

The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council represents the older adult population and all disability populations. Its purpose is to provide direction on policy and implementation of the Ohio HOME Choice program and to advise state agencies, the state legislature, and other interested parties on policy initiatives that affect the long-term service and support system in Ohio.



The Advisory Council also addresses issues of access and entry into the broader service delivery system, and provides leadership supporting advocacy efforts across diverse disability groups. Council members work closely with the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, and last November the two organizations joined with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to sponsor the well-received "*Keys to Housing Options*" conference in Columbus.

To obtain a membership application for the HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council, contact Shelley Papenfuse, Ohio Olmstead Taskforce, at shelley@abilitycenter.org by March 26.

More about HOME Choice at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/HOMEChoice.stm>

PostScripts

☞ Civic Engagement Initiative Kickoff Event, Tomorrow

The Ohio Department of Aging will be hosting a statewide kickoff event for the state's new *Civic Engagement Initiative* on March 15, from 9:30am-noon. Attend in person at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, 30 West Spring Street, 2nd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215. More information about the event is available at:

<http://www.aging.ohio.gov/services/civicengagementinitiative/>

The Kickoff event is broad in scope and seeks to engage anybody with an interest in improving employment, volunteer, and lifelong learning opportunities for Ohioans age 50 and older. Interested parties can participate in Columbus or at one of 11 satellite locations (Bureau of Workers' Compensation field offices). It would be especially beneficial for advocates to attend the afternoon discussions in the local community to encourage retirees to volunteer to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Contact: Tiffany Dixon tdixon@age.state.oh.us or John Ratliff, Ohio Department of Aging (614-466-9614) jratliff@age.state.oh.us.

☞ SAVE THE DATE! September 12 Direct Support Professionals Event

The third annual Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) recognition event will be hosted at the Xenos Complex in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free, fun, interactive, and motivational -- this event is not to be missed for celebrating the workers who care for and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Details available soon at www.OADSP.org, or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at (800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

☞ People First of Ohio, "Blazing New Trails" Conference, March 22-24

Mark your calendar for the *People First of Ohio* Conference, "Blazing New Trails," March 22-24, at Roberts Convention Centre, Wilmington, Ohio. Sessions will include information about voting, employment, leadership, Medicaid Buy-In, and more. Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, is a featured speaker. *Who should attend?* SSA's, providers and other professionals, families, County Board staff, and self advocates. CEU's will be awarded for trainings.

Registration is now open! Click here> [People First Conference Registration Form](#)

Registration materials available via U.S. Mail and on the *People First* website at www.peoplefirstohio.org or by calling (740) 397-6100; email Carrie Swingle at carrie@peoplefirstohio.org.

☞ Goodwill Columbus Workshop: Look to the Future, March 24

March 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a "Look to the Future" workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road, Columbus. *Families & Friends Network* of Goodwill Columbus is presenting the annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Financial: Government & Private Pay (discussion of Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, housing, and other programs) with panelists Tanya Chiles, Jennifer Goodwin, Anne Russell, and Al Simmons;
- Jobs & Employment (how to help persons with special needs train for, locate and keep a job) with panelists Meg Griffing, Lutrell Jolly, and Evette Simmons-Reed; and,
- Retaining Benefits & Funds, with speaker David Zwyrer, JD

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available) Contact Pat Karshner, (614) 885-2291; pkarshner@columbus.rr.com to register.

⌘ APSI Requests Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award Nominations

The APSI Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in 2010, in recognition of the agency's former Executive Director's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award is given annually to a person or entity outside of APSI who has *demonstrated a lifetime achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities*, and has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system.

APSI is accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through March 30.

Access the nomination form at www.apsiohio.org

The award will be presented at the APSI's All Staff Training and Luncheon in June. Contact Cindy Ison, cison@apsiohio.org for more information.

⌘ Twelfth Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference April 24-25

The theme for the Twelfth Annual *Multiple Perspectives Conference*, "Experience Understood in Image, Poetry, Narrative, and Research," reaches across disciplines and professions for a greater understanding of disability. The April 24-25 event on the OSU Columbus campus offers a twelve-year exploration of disability as a reflection of the human condition, seen through various lenses of understanding. Conference updates, as they become available, are at ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm. The Multiple Perspectives Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation Endowment Fund and ongoing support from The OSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

To be on the mailing list for the conference, e-mail ADA-OSU@osu.edu

Contact: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

⌘ SAVE THE DATE! DD Council Legislative Advocacy Day, May 8th

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has scheduled their annual Legislative Advocacy Day for Tuesday, May 8, in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. Registration begins at 10:00 am; Program at 10:30. For more information contact: AXIS Center, axiscenter@columbus.rr.com.

⌘ Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, July 2012

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is inviting high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to apply to attend its annual Youth Leadership Forum, to be held in Columbus this year, July 16th - 19th. Forty students will be selected. All their expenses will be paid. To be eligible, students must have a disability, be in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2011, have demonstrated leadership potential, and reside in Ohio. This year's forum in Columbus is geared to prepare students to take advantage of new and different community-based opportunities, and develop as constructive, contributing members of society. To learn more about the program, go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614) 438.1394 or 1.800.282.4536 ext.1394.

⌘ DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed 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

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