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2010 – Year in Review

The *Year in Review* issue will take a quick look through 2010 from the *Pipeline* perspective and highlight some recurring themes in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Ohio Association of County Boards

1. OACB Winter Conference Looks to 2011, Sharpens Focus

"We must always be ready to change ... to evolve. We need to find new efficiencies. And, we need to plan beyond funding and day-to-day operations to determine how we can continuously improve the lives of the more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities."

–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

At the 27th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference last week at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, the three-day agenda focused on information that would help attendees find ways to do the things that OACB Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments, above – ways to change, to evolve, find new efficiencies, and continuously improve. And there was plenty of interest from across the state ... as OACB Event Manager Ann Neu reported that the total number of people attending the three-day conference topped 850!

Presentations on dozens of topics ranging from national healthcare reform ... to self-administered waivers ... to how Ohio families creatively use resources to help their children build skills ... were attended by staff members from County Boards and other service providers, DODD staff, and others with an interest in learning more about the outlook for system change in 2011, both in Ohio and across the nation.

Setting the stage for the conference were speakers including DODD Director John Martin, and Dr. Ron Manderscheid, one of the nation's foremost experts on national healthcare reform from the Washington, D.C. area. In particular, he noted various aspects of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act and provided an overview of this historic bill and its primary components. Dr. Manderscheid also is the Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors. The presentation and other related information is posted online at www.nacbhdd.org:

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THIS PRESENTATION](#)

DODD Director John Martin noted several points in his presentation, under the general umbrella of 'change,' and indicated that to prepare for change is to act constructively. He cited a quote from Robert Greenleaf,* a proponent of servant leadership:

"To live well is to have changed often."
<http://www.greenleaf.org/>

Director Martin also addressed general areas of concern within the developmental disabilities community, including 'money is tight,' and, 'families waiting for services need support.' He noted that while these are very important and compelling issues, the key thing to remember is the core of what Ohio's disability services community is all about. He stated,

"Interactions of compassion, gentleness, and kindness toward individuals with developmental disabilities are really what our system is all about. The daily interactions with people provided by families and support staff – that's what it's all about. The harshness of funding issues is always there, yet the reality of care – good care – is what's most important."

OACB Board President Dean Fadel echoed this theme in his welcoming comments, stating that his brother, Jeff, who receives adult services in Franklin County - and who always has been a guiding light in his life – illustrates every day the importance of relationships and experiences being most important. He explains, "He'll look over at me in the car when we're ready to go somewhere, and simply say,

"Brother, I'm happy. I love my life!"

Awards and Honors

OACB recognized numerous individuals during the conference, including three members of County Boards across the state who have provided exemplary leadership. Distinguished Service Award recipients were: *Bill Ginter*, with the County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board; *Bill Heidlebaugh*, with the Hancock County Board of DD; and, *DeEtte Zimmerman*, with the Huron County Board of DD.

In addition, the Betty Macintosh Award was presented to DODD Director *John Martin*. The award is presented annually to a professional in the DD service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities. And the Kenneth J. Legats Award was presented to *Robert Morgan*, Superintendent of the Delaware County Board of DD. This award is presented annually to an executive who has

been nominated by the OACB Board of Trustees and who, during a career of more than 20 years, has demonstrated high ideals, vision, and moral leadership in the administration of programs for people with developmental disabilities.

The Partners In Excellence Award -- presented annually to County Board of DD staff members who demonstrate exemplary service in offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the County Board system as a whole -- was presented to *Bill Angel*, Director of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations at the Montgomery County Board of DD, and *Bob Davis*, Personnel Director for the Miami County Board of DD.

Legislators of the Year

Awards also were presented to the 2010 Legislators of the Year -- Senator Shannon Jones, and Representative Debbie Phillips. Jones was chosen for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and accessibility to people who have developmental disabilities. She served four years in the Ohio House of Representatives before being appointed to the Ohio Senate in 2009. During that time, she has supported numerous legislative issues on behalf of constituents with developmental disabilities.



Senator Shannon Jones



Representative Debbie Phillips

State Representative Debbie Phillips also was honored for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and accessibility to people who have developmental disabilities. Representative Phillips is completing her first term in the Ohio House of Representatives. Among her accomplishments during that time, she co-sponsored legislation that ultimately removed the words “mental retardation” from the name of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and from all Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. (See [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 14](#), July 8, 2009, Governor Strickland Signs Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill.’)

Variety of Informative Tracks

Discussion regarding new Individual Options (IO) waiver services including remote monitoring, adult family living, and respite; recent changes to the DODD’s County Board accreditation process; and, a Disability Housing Network session on the subject of the 2011-12 Capital Budget, were among the sessions that brought services often seen on-paper and on-screen into the sharper focus of individual real life situations.

On that subject, comments heard during the course of the conference included,

“ What is the word for unlonely? How about ‘Friendly’? Yes, I’d like to feel Friendly! ”
- A boy with Asperger’s syndrome muses during the movie, “The Boy Inside,” shared by the Sprout Film Festival conference session.

“We can have a profound impact on the the quality of life of the people in our communities. As a Board Member, that is both exciting and compelling.”
- Summit County Board Member, Bill Ginter

“Think about what you already have going on in your life and how you can make it work for your family member. Find a way to make it work. Sometimes it’s that simple.”
-Dr. Audrey Todd, parent advocate in the ‘Beyond Input’ conference session, presenting her family bakery business concept, and how it became a successful employment opportunity.

“The dreaded ‘Transition IEP’ was upon us, and Alex and I did not feel good about the prospects or outlook for the future. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is hard enough to put together, and at the high school transition age, it’s especially difficult. We wanted more for Alex – and Alex wanted more for Alex! So this is what we did ...”
-Greg Short, on deciding to start a company that employs his son, Alex. (See photos below)



Alex Short (left) and his Dad, Greg, discuss earning a paycheck.

The duo shared their experiences in starting up a small business, "Alex Industries." The company was formed for its Chairman, Alex Short, as an alternative to participation in a sheltered workshop. The company makes and distributes a range of products for landscaping and other related uses (See www.alexindustries.org).



Alex at work.

Photo courtesy, www.alexindustries.org

Looking back at the 27th Annual OACB conference, it was stated by one participant that, "Hundreds of people representing *thousands* of people attended to learn new things, share ideas, and leave better-informed." Gatherings such as these continue to prepare us to greet 2011 with a little more knowledge ... a little more empowerment ... and a sharper focus on the future.

"You cannot create experience. You must undergo it."

– Albert Camus, writer and philosopher

For more information:

**<http://www.greenleaf.org/>; www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org; OACB conference, www.oacbdd.org*



2. SODC Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community

“Take care of those entrusted to you. Watch over them – not because you must, but because you are willing and eager to serve.”

- Dr Samuel Gridley Howe, physician and philanthropist

On December 1, 2010, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary as a residential rehabilitation facility. SODC borders the village of Batavia, near Cincinnati. The Center serves approximately 117 residents, ranging in age from 18 to 75 years. The majority of individuals who reside at SODC receive extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development.

SODC serves the following eight counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren.

According to SODC Superintendent James Krumer, “We have been honored to serve more than 300 adults with disabilities during the past 25 years. Our staff is dedicated to effectively serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom have challenging health issues, and many of whom have been with us for many years.” He adds,

“Empowering the residents to participate in choices that affect all aspects of their lives is something we work diligently to do. We are proud of the strides our residents have made over these 25 years, and appreciate the support of the local community in that process.”



At the SODC Anniversary celebration, Don and Bev, two of the nineteen ‘25-year’ employees.

Krumer also notes that SODC opened on December 1, 1985 as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) to provide services to individuals in need of a broad range of medical, behavioral, and psychiatric treatment. He adds, “Over the years, we have provided physical therapy, individual and family services, recreational activities, language development, and more. We have established an array of services necessary to meet the needs of the people we serve.”

A variety of opportunities are available to residents of SODC, many of which are made possible through partnering with local county boards of developmental disabilities and other community relationships. These opportunities include community job placement and work crews, workshop and other adult learning that may emphasize work readiness, and various creative activities. SODC also provides a full range of health services for residents.

Jared Weeks, one of the 19 employees who have been at the Center since 1985, commented at the anniversary event, “I have come to call SODC my second family – and that includes fellow employees and residents. This Center has been a big part of my life for the past 25 years, and I have enjoyed every minute.”

The DODD Division of Developmental Centers provides quality services and choice-driven opportunities to approximately 1300 Ohioans with varying levels of developmental disabilities. Ohio’s Developmental Centers are integrated into their respective communities, and located in regional service areas across the state. (See www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm)

More about SODC at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/sodc.htm>

More about the SODC 25th year anniversary in DODD’s quarterly feature magazine, [Pipeline Quarterly](#), Autumn 2010 issue, publishing electronically later this month.



From the Ohio Department of Aging

3. An Invitation to Caregivers to Share Stories

Help to empower others! The Ohio Department of Aging, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and other human services agencies, is asking Ohio residents of all ages to, “... submit their stories of caregivers’ love and devotion” to the *Family Caregiving Story Project*. Caregivers, and those who receive such assistance from family and friends, are encouraged to submit their personal accounts of the challenges and triumphs that are a part of all caregiving relationships.

The project marks the kickoff of the state's observance of the 2011 'National Year of the Family Caregiver' and is a follow-up to the Department of Aging's former 'Great Depression Story Project.'
(See www.celebratingfamilycaregivers.org)

Stories must be received by Dec. 31, 2010, to be part of the project.

Submissions should be approximately 500 words in length and include the author's name, location, and current age. The Ohio Department of Aging will include the submissions in its publications and public outreach materials throughout the year, and a collection of excerpts will be posted on the agency's website at <http://aging.ohio.gov/home/> in the spring of 2011.

Stories may be e-mailed to: caregivingstories@age.state.oh.us

Or, mail stories to: Ohio Department of Aging
Attn: Communications Division
50 W. Broad St., 9th Floor
Columbus OH, 43215-3363

DODD Family Advisory Council members encourage families in Ohio's developmental disabilities community to share their stories from the unique perspective of older family members providing care to adult children. The Department of Aging has noted that it will welcome this perspective and insight, and adds the following:

"More than 90% of family caregivers become more proactive about seeking the resources and skills they need to assist their care recipient after they have self-identified as caregivers."

— National Family Caregivers Association, Survey of Self-Identified Family Caregivers, 2001



4. Ohio Public Images 2010 Campaign Theme, 'Together ...'

Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* (March) *Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 3, 2011, from 10 a.m. – noon.

"*Together ...*" the statewide theme for 2011, focuses this event and other awareness efforts on peoples' similarities rather than differences. OPI will employ various media to depict the many ways in which people with developmental disabilities are participating, together with all people, in their communities. The awareness event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit around the state, and is expected to draw more than 300 attendees.



Sample art, 2011 poster.

"Life is Great" is just one of several concepts that the 'Together' theme will employ in 2011. Others include, "Learning is Better" and, "The Future is Brighter." Photo courtesy, OPI.

Theme materials soon will be available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

In 2011, self advocates again will be a major part of the program and share their individual and unique experiences. Lon Mitchell, OPI Executive Director, noted this about the annual Statehouse event and kickoff to March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month:

"The camaraderie exhibited by the various presenters – together with the individuals and families who attend this event – is always very energizing. And there, I've said 'together' without even thinking about it!"

Contact for the Statehouse event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date draws nearer.

'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 7, 2011

Also looking ahead to March, the OPI annual Media and Awareness Awards entry deadline is January 7, 2011. The awards will be presented on March 21, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon.

**Complete 'Call for Entries' Information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>
Click on 'Call for Entries'**

The awards program will honor individuals and organizations across Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2010. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates and elected officials who champion efforts that assist people with developmental disabilities.

New in 2011, OPI also will spotlight employers who have made unique and exceptional efforts in training and/or employing individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Public Images Network and parent organization Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. For more information, contact Mary Pat Riker at (419) 380-4049, or e-mail: MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org



***Pipeline PostScripts***



Solidarity 2011! A leading Ohio conference for and by people with disabilities

Mark your calendars for April 26-28 to attend one of Ohio's Leading Conferences for and by People with Disabilities, *Solidarity!* Registration materials will be available via U.S. Mail and on the DNOS website after January 1, 2011. A limited number of scholarships will be available to eligible participants. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street in Columbus, and will include:

- Employment Information
- A Job Fair
- A Statehouse Visit

Visit www.dnos.org for more information, or contact: SOLIDARITY 2011 at (800) 863-0344; email: DNOS@the-meeting-connection.com; Website: www.dnos.org.

The updated DHN website is now live at www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) has developed a more user-friendly website that makes it easier to access resources, find contact information, and view materials.

Visit www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org and see many new features including:

- Enhanced [membership information and map](#);
- Expanded [resource page](#);
- Comprehensive [overview of all DHN conferences](#);
- List of [conversations from the DHN listserv](#), with opportunities to contribute comments, directly on the website;
- A special needs housing version of ‘Angie’s List’, named [Steve’s List](#), providing members an opportunity to make recommendations about vendors, contractors, and other specialists; and,
- An easy-to-use, [Google-powered search function](#) at the top left of each page.

Registration Deadline, December 22

Project STIR Training, January 24 – 27, 2011

Steps To Independence & Responsibility – “Project STIR” – announces the first training opportunity for 2011, January 24 – 27, at Mohican State Park Lodge, in Loudonville, OH. Project STIR is training for self advocates designed to provide helpful tools to advocate for oneself, connect with others in a spirit of advocacy, and gain leadership experience. The training is sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA). For details and cost information about the January training go to www.ohiosda.org/ or contact Dana Charlton at dcharlto@columbus.rr.com, phone (614) 563-0788.

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**. 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone Sherry Steinman at (614) 644-0262.

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