



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Administration Update: Office of Health Transformation

1. Input Requested from Medicaid Waiver Recipients

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) is seeking input from Medicaid waiver recipients and Medicare/Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries. Ohio Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Aging have prepared draft versions of 'concept papers' that provide a high-level overview of the state's initial proposal to implement a new, more streamlined Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program in January 2013.

To read the concept papers, click on: [Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Benefits and Expand and Streamline Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services](#).

Concept papers are for discussion, input, and testing, and are not finished products. OHT leadership notes *that input from individuals and family caregivers is essential to the process* and will be used to develop the final proposals that Ohio will submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Consumer and Family Caregiver Online Questionnaire

Ohioans receiving both Medicare and Medicaid-funded services, or who are enrolled in a Medicaid HCBS waiver program are invited to [complete this online questionnaire](#). The purpose of the questionnaire is to better understand what services Ohioans are receiving today, how well those services are coordinated, and what additional services are needed to maintain or improve the health and quality of life of individuals served.

Completing the questionnaire is voluntary. No information is being collected that will reveal participants' identity. Responses received on or before February 20 will help inform the initial proposal to be submitted to CMS. Responses collected after February 20 will help inform the next phase of work.

Consumer and Family Caregiver Statewide Conference Call

In addition, the Ohio Olmstead Taskforce is sponsoring a statewide conference call on Friday, February 17, for individuals and family caregivers to learn about and provide input on the concept papers. For more information about participation in the conference call, contact Mary Butler at (440) 864-3495; mbutler@ohiosilc.org or Maria Matzik (937) 341-5202 ext. 20#, maria@acils.com



Pipeline Profile

2. Update on the Department of Residential Resources

As reported in *Pipeline Volume 5 issue 20* September 14, 2011 the DODD Division of Developmental Centers changed its name late last year to *Division of Residential Resources* due to the expanded role of the Division, and to convey a stronger focus for Developmental Centers as a community resource beyond the more traditional Center-based services.

The Division continues to operate and downsize the census at DODD-operated Developmental Centers (DC's) around the state, and has added other key Department initiatives, including: Voluntary conversion of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs); Community and DC Capital projects; Health Policy initiatives; HOME Choice (formerly 'Money Follows the Person' grant); and, the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) initiative.

In announcing the restructuring last year, Whisman commented,

"The expanded role of what has been the DODD Division of Developmental Centers has prompted us to take a good look at what we can do to better identify these critical areas, and streamline overall operations."



Department of Residential Resources leadership
Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director; Troy McCollister, Assistant Deputy Director

Now at the outset of 2012, Whisman explains that efforts toward the voluntary conversion of ICFs, and the gradual downsizing at DODD-operated Developmental Centers are moving forward with stated plans for the biennium, and with the focus on a more holistic approach to individuals' needs in community-based, smaller settings. She comments,

“I think that what the Division of Residential Resources is bringing to the table now, within the state's disability community, is a more integrated approach to services – to ensure that appropriate services are available to individuals according to their needs – in their communities, and in smaller settings. We are looking at all elements of how we operate on a daily basis to assure this approach.”

Whisman continues, “For example, capital funds are being reviewed for possibilities that can re-purpose dollars to develop more housing opportunities for people to live in their communities. And, with the same general outcome in mind, we are working closely with the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) to encourage County Boards of DD to utilize the HOME Choice grant to help transition individuals to smaller community settings.” She adds,

“HOME Choice services fill gaps within Ohio's existing long-term service and support system by wrapping around existing waiver and Medicaid state plan services. This is an option more County Boards are considering, along with the transitional services it can provide for individuals.”
(More about HOME Choice at jfs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89070981/Appendix%20F.pdf)

Noting the Division's Health Policy initiatives, Whisman notes that DODD Health Policy Coordinator Janet Winterstein is currently working with a team of Registered Nurse trainers and other professionals to update the current Medication Administration curriculum. She explains, “For example, we will be updating the Medication Administration curriculum to accommodate emerging technology that was not available even just a couple of years ago. This will be a major step forward in training and educating the field from a more-informed point of view.”

And, regarding the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) initiative, Whisman comments, “We are very excited about the team of approximately 20 trainers who will be assessing individuals who have more intensive needs using the standardized SIS tools, allowing for improved uniformity in services for these individuals across the state. We are very appreciative of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) grant that has helped to support this statewide effort.”
(more about SIS at <http://www.siswebsite.org/>)

Summing up the past several months of activity within the Division of Residential Resources, Whisman observes, “Assistant Deputy Director Troy McCollister and the rest of my team have been very busy overseeing these initiatives and plans, and Developmental Center staff are understandably proud of their work to-date toward meeting our goals in serving the approximately 1100 individuals who currently reside within the DC system. Considering that in 2007 we had approximately 1600 residents living in DCs around the state, we are well on the way toward meeting the benchmarks that we planned to reach at the end of the biennium...

“ The success of individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities is the true measure of all of this. We are working to provide as much technical

assistance and information as possible about options to help individuals succeed in community-based settings."

At Northwest Ohio Developmental Center

For example, as part of its ongoing commitment to offer people choices in living their lives, Northwest Ohio Developmental Center (NODC) in Toledo has been actively engaged in informing individuals and their families/guardians about options for community living. Recently, the facility hosted more than 50 different providers and community agencies, answering questions for many parents, guardians, and individuals regarding options available for interested individuals in Lucas, Wood, and Sandusky County, and beyond. Whisman observed,

"This was a great opportunity for everyone involved to get some fresh ideas and to explore new alternatives. Several individuals have expressed a desire to pursue these options and their teams are actively working with them and the local County Boards to move forward."

Staff teams at DCs are taking time to discuss any barriers to community living with individuals and families, and prepare plans to address any barriers. Parents and guardians also are asked to visit at least one community living option during the year so they can make a more informed decision about whether a community living alternative might meet an individual's needs.

*Contact: Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director; (614) 644-6319; ginnie.whisman@dodd.ohio.gov
More information at: dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Developmental-Centers.aspx*



3. County Boards' Collaboration Spotlighted in Eastern Ohio

Last week in St. Clairsville (Belmont County), a highly successful collaboration between the Belmont, Harrison, and Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, known as the 'BHN Alliance,' was celebrated and recognized by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. *Visionary Leadership Awards* were presented to the three County Board Presidents -- Jay Rodak, Belmont County; Robin Bowdish, Harrison County; and Bryan Chandler, Noble County -- recognizing them for pioneering the concept of shared administrative services between County Boards of DD, and paving the way for other agencies to follow suit..

Shared Services

The BHN Alliance, the first collaboration between two or more County Boards of DD in Ohio, was created to promote financial efficiencies due to decreasing revenue, coupled with increasing needs of people with disabilities. The Belmont and Noble County Boards of DD began sharing a superintendent in 1993. Today, all three agencies in the BHN Alliance share nine administrative functions and personnel -- including superintendent, service and support administration, financial management, and human resources.

Discussing the *Visionary Leadership Awards*, Zach Haughawout, DODD Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs and Communications, underscored the difficulty in being the first to try something as new and different as the tri-county shared services collaboration. He commented,

"The governor always talks about shared services, and holds up Ohio's developmental disabilities field as an example of good stewardship over taxpayer dollars. It takes a certain amount of character and courage to go first ... and we appreciate your willingness to be a leader."

Stephen Williams, Director of Operations for the BHN Alliance, recognized the support given by DODD, the local county commissioners, and the service providers who share the County Boards' vision for people with disabilities. He noted, "When we become more efficient, we can direct more dollars into supports for people with disabilities that will improve their quality of life, and that's the bottom line of what we are here to do."

Also present to participate in recognizing the success of the collaborative arrangement were Belmont County Commissioners Chuck Probst, Ginny Favede, and Matt Coffland, and Noble County Commissioners Bob Nau and Gary Rossiter. In addition, Dan Ohler, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) and Monty Kerr, DODD Deputy Director, Policy and Strategic Direction, participated in presenting the awards.



- Celebrating Collaboration -

(Front Row, L to R) Bryan Chandler, Noble County Board President; Robin Bowdish, Harrison County Board President; and Jay Rodak, Belmont County Board President. (Back Row, L to R) Zach Haughawout, DODD; Dan Ohler, OACB; Monty Kerr, DODD; and, BHN Alliance Director of Operations, Stephen Williams. The three County Board Presidents are holding *Visionary Leadership Awards*.



DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr addresses the group gathered in Belmont County.

For more information contact Monty Kerr at Monty.Kerr@dodd.ohio.gov



4. The Arc of Ohio President John Hannah Participates in White House Briefing

Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) Consumer Advocate, John Hannah – also recently elected as The Arc of Ohio’s President – participated in the White House Community Leaders Briefing on February 9, 2012, a day-long meeting including staff in the Office of President Barack Obama. Gary Tonks, Director of The Arc of Ohio, and Than Johnson, CEO of Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) noted that it was an honor for Hannah to be included among leaders of The Arc chapters from across the country, participating in discussions with Administration officials. Topics included Medicaid, education, community living, and employment for people with developmental disabilities.

The invitation to participate was extended to leaders within The Arc’s national network as a forum for discussing various issues of interest and concern to individuals with developmental disabilities, and included a surprise visit from President Barack Obama. He spoke briefly to the group thanking them for their participation in the community dialogue.*



John Hannah, (right) never one to be shy or reserved ... made the most of the opportunity to shake President Obama's hand, and encouraged a shout-out in the form of "OH - IO!"

"Mr. President, I think you might want to ..."

-John Hannah probably providing advice to President Obama during the handshake



A proud moment in the Nation's Capitol for citizens with disabilities.

(Left to Right) John Hannah, Kathy Rader (CRSI); MaryBeth, Mark, and Sarah Van Winkle (family served by the Summit County Board of DD); LeeAnne Saro, Exec. Director, The Arc of Summit/Portage Counties, and Gary Tonks, The Arc of Ohio Executive Director.

According to Tonks and CRSI support staff member Kathy Rader, the Ohioans at the briefing were very excited about the opportunity for interaction with peers and colleagues on the national scene. "Being heard in this broader venue is important to all of us in the developmental disabilities community -- as is listening to the ideas of others around the nation," noted Tonks.

The brief address is on You Tube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA4Okhk_SqA



5. TechColumbus Recognizes Information Technology Team

DODD Deputy Director Bryant Young recently attended the TechColumbus Awards Dinner* and presentation for the 2011 Innovations Awards on behalf of the Department. As Deputy Director for Information Technology at DODD, Young noted that the Department was a semi-finalist for two categories: Outstanding Technology Team, and Innovation in Non-Profit Service Delivery. The team made the semi-finals for its Virtual Desktop system, and the new DODD Web site launched in October 2011. He acknowledged,

“Being nominated and named a semi-finalist for a second consecutive year is quite an honor – and a confirmation of the good work *Team IT* is accomplishing at DODD.”



DODD team nominated for “Innovation in Non-Profit Service Delivery Team”.

Deputy Director Bryant Young thanks each and every member of the team for their part in the 'virtual desktop' technology deployment within the agency, as well as the new Web site at www.dodd.ohio.gov launched October 31, 2011.



DODD “Outstanding Technology Team”

(L to R) David Biel, Brian Brothers, Robbert Murray, Bob Miller, Mark Clark, and Bryant Young.

**More about the awards at www.techcolumbusinnovationawards.org/.*



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

6. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Plans Ramping Up

Once again this year, driving around the state from now through March, Ohioans will be seeing a lot of the word “*Together*.” In particular, “*Together*” in the colorful format as shown below, on billboards often illustrated with photos of local people who receive developmental disabilities services and their families, co-workers, friends, and other community members.



‘Together’ theme materials are now available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

Ohio Public Images’ statewide 2012 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme, “Our Community is Better *Together*” lends itself well to illustrations of inclusive lives, community involvement, and inter-personal engagement ... the goals, and often the realities, of many Ohioans who have developmental disabilities.

Statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event, March 1

The annual statewide DD Awareness Month Kickoff event in Columbus, March 1, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m. – noon, will provide an exciting venue for self advocates from around the state to share their experiences and thoughts on many subjects, including community employment partnerships, education, and advocacy. The event will spotlight opportunities that are emerging in this spirit around the state, and last year drew more than 400 attendees.

In addition to the program, attendees to this free public event will have an opportunity to visit a variety of sponsored information tables, and network with others in Ohio’s DD community, as well as explore the Statehouse, and meet their legislators. This event, and other 2012 developmental disabilities awareness efforts around the state will focus on understanding and welcoming peoples' differences *and* similarities.

Local events abound during DD Awareness Month, and each year provide opportunities for thousands of people with and without disabilities to learn more about each other’s capabilities and possibilities.

DODD invites you to share information and a photo of your local activities ...

Please send information to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in one of the March issues of *Pipeline* – March 14, and 28.



DODD Director John Martin (left) and Ohio Public Images Executive Director Lon Mitchell invite YOU to the Ohio Statehouse on March 1 for the annual DD Awareness Month Kickoff event, in the Statehouse Atrium from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

Individuals participating in the March 1 event will be actively exercising ‘Right #12’ in the *The Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities*:

Right XII (#12): The right to join in activities and do things that will help you grow to be the best person you can be.



For the complete updated poster: [Download here](#)

The updated *Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities* poster online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org contains 24 plainly-stated rights that serve as a guide for all who are a part of Ohio's developmental disabilities community.



7. Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues on March 6 Ballot

Ballot issues on March 6 ballots affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community include those in the following counties:

- Fulton County: 2 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1 mill, renewal
- Marion County: .5 mill, renewal
- Morrow County: 1.25 mills, additional
- Sandusky County: 2 mills, additional
- Seneca County: .5 mill, renewal

On March 7, *Pipeline Extra* will carry the results of these levies.

According to Brett Harbage, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator with the Ohio Secretary of State's office, 2012 will be a busy election year, and the office is stepping up its efforts to educate people with disabilities about voting and the election process, including two new publications now available online:

Two new publications, [2012 Options for Voting](#) and [2012 Voter Access Guide](#) are available to educate individuals with disabilities about their voting rights and responsibilities.

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information, including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

PostScripts

☞ Applications Available for 'Advocates in Disability' Award

Young leaders with disabilities encouraged to apply!

The Advocates in Disability program, part of the HSC Foundation's National Youth Transitions Initiative, awards and encourages an individual with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26, who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States. The program also supports an innovative project developed by a young person with a disability that serves and empowers individuals with disabilities. The selected recipient is awarded \$3000 in recognition of demonstrated disability advocacy, and up to an additional \$7000 in funding support for the individual's proposed project that focuses on serving and empowering people with disabilities. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. at the time of application submission and recipient selection.

Apply online at: www.hscfoundation.org/2012ADA.php

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. (EST) February 28, 2012.

☞ Autism Spectrum Disorder: Informational Sessions Feb. 23 & March 1

On Thursday, February 23, 2012 (ESC - Valley View, OH - Cleveland area) and Thursday, March 1, 2012 (Crowne Plaza Hotel - Columbus) informational sessions on *Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD): Challenges to Community Participation and Supports to Improve Involvement* will be presented by representatives for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI.) The sessions will discuss the characteristics of ASD in relation to challenges that are encountered in the community, as well as strategies to support individuals. Discussion will include the impact of ASD characteristics on interactions with employers, co-workers, medical personnel, law enforcement, and other community members, and training needs will be identified.

ONLINE REGISTRATION at www.par-ohio.org

Contact PAR (419) 522-6207; Ecmrdd@aol.com

☞ 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 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.

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

☞ 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 fuller 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. Past programs and conference updates, as they become available, 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 Ohio State University 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 feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *The 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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