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1. President Barack Obama Signs Bill Extending FMAP Enhancement

Supports Medicaid Services, Protects Healthcare and Education Jobs

As reported in [Pipeline Extra! August 4 , 2010](#), The U.S. Senate passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) on August 4, from which Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011. It was then signed into law by President Barack Obama on August 10, as [H.R.1586](#), following its passage in the House.

The legislation contains language to extend the current Medicaid match formula, or 'Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP)', paid for waiver services administered through Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities for a six-months. This continues the funding which would have expired at the end of December 2010. County Boards typically pay 40 cents for every waiver dollar, while the federal Medicaid system pays 60 cents. As part of the stimulus program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal government earlier this year had agreed to pick up 70 cents for every Medicaid dollar for states.

According to the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), the extra 10 cents on the dollar has helped offset a \$94 million budget cut that County Boards of Developmental Disabilities received during the 2009-2011 biennium budget.

According to a statement issued by Governor Ted Strickland, the U.S. Congress' passage of the \$26 billion jobs bill will help support Medicaid services for Ohioans in need, and protect healthcare and education jobs in Ohio and the nation. He noted,

“Across Ohio, I've fought to create Ohio jobs and strengthen Ohio's workforce. I want to thank our Congressional leaders and the members of Ohio's Congressional delegation for returning to Washington to stand with us in that fight. As states are emerging from the recession, this legislation will create and save education and health care jobs throughout the country and right here in Ohio.”

It is important to note that Ohio, unlike many other states, had not included the federal extension of Medicaid funding in its calculations to balance the current fiscal year budget (FY 2011), and therefore provides an infusion of additional needed dollars.

For Ohioans with developmental disabilities in Ohio, positive impacts of this legislation extending eFMAP include access to a range of waiver services that are more fully funded, as well as ensuring continuity of services.

Key constituent leadership in Ohio advocating for passage of this legislation included work by many stakeholders, individuals, and groups within the developmental disabilities community, and focused on the strength of one message. Among the many organized advocacy efforts was the OACB's 'Call2Action' e-mailed requests, asking for support for passage of the legislation during four key timeframes. According to OACB staff, the response was overwhelming. Linda Oda, OACB Director of Advocacy Services, comments,

“Many people e-mailed us at OACB and shared responses they received from Senators Voinovich and Brown, as well as those from members of Congress. Certainly, legislators knew how the folks back home felt before they made their votes. Additionally, professionals at County Boards of Developmental Disabilities across the state spoke to their Congressional delegates about the need for federal assistance, based on Ohio's current financial outlook. It was a strong grassroots effort.”

More information at: [News for hr 1586](#)



2. Governor Ted Strickland Endorses Efforts of Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework* 'Provides Clear Path'

***Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf**

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a

Council established via one of the Governor's first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*. In a letter of support dated August 9, 2010, Governor Strickland noted,

“Safe and affordable housing leads to stable families and increased participation in the workforce. This, in turn, saves taxpayer dollars by assisting the most vulnerable Ohioans to participate successfully in community life.”

The letter continues, “After reviewing the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework and the actions of the Interagency Council over the course of my administration, I believe you have done an excellent job developing an ambitious yet attainable goal, along with a clear path forward to meet that goal.”

The Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing incorporated hundreds of stakeholders in producing an inclusive framework which recognizes that it will take federal, state, and local collaboration to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness and advancing community integration for people with disabilities. More than 275 individuals and organizations, representing interests from around the state, were involved with the vetting process for the Framework document.

According to DODD Director John Martin,

“This united effort to provide housing opportunities for those in need will result in an overall economy of scale, and can provide affordable housing that would otherwise be impossible via a single agency in an economically difficult environment, statewide.”

Governor Strickland's letter of support concluded, “This work is truly important to our state and I look forward to assisting with the implementation of the Council's recommendations.”

ICHAH Mission

“To unite key state agencies to formulate policies and programs that address affordable housing issues and the needs of Ohioans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”



Read more about the Council at:

http://jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/R89218010/Anti-Poverty%20Taskforce-%20ICHAH%20append%20B_1.pdf



From the Office of Provider Standards & Review

3. New Review Process “Hits the Road”

In response to recommendations from the 2008 Futures Committee, and supporting the [DODD Priority Work](#), the Office of Provider Standards & Review (OPSR) has focused on streamlining review processes to develop *a single review process* that measures outcomes for individuals regardless of the setting in which services are provided. According to DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller,

“OPSR staff viewed this as the keystone for all of the recommendations regarding quality of services from the Futures group. It was the most important thing to focus on accomplishing, and upon which the other recommendations would depend.”

The OPSR, a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, is responsible for completing reviews of all entities providing services to Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. This includes waiver-funded services, services provided by County Boards of DD, and services provided in licensed residential facilities including Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Mental Retardation (*ICFsMR*, *legal terminology*).

Five Specific Objectives

Entities scheduled for a Licensure, Accreditation, or Provider Compliance review this year will notice some changes, and according to OPSR Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Miller, “In developing the new process, it was our goal to meet five specific objectives.” They are:

- Decrease the amount of time necessary to complete a review by focusing on key measures;
- Decrease the number of reviewers required to complete a review;
- Decrease the amount of time a provider and their staff must commit to the review process;
- Structure the DODD compliance review process to give providers a comprehensive report that identifies best practices, positive outcomes for individuals, and identifies areas of non-compliance; and,
- Offer DODD resources and assistance to providers who may be struggling to meet standards. (Examples could include sharing best practices, providing technical assistance, and obtaining specific training.)

Also a part of the overall change in the review process, providers will be notified approximately 30 days prior to the review. Providers then are asked to share basic information regarding staff and individuals, which allows OPSR staff to better prepare for and focus the review prior to arriving on-site.

In developing the new *single review process*, the Office of Provider Standards & Review received valuable advice from those involved in directly providing services. Miller notes, “We really appreciate the assistance the provider community has offered in developing this new approach, and believe that it is going to be a significant improvement.” She adds,

“OPSR staff looks forward to implementing the new review process, statewide. It is our sincere hope that the process will be not only less cumbersome for providers and County Boards – but that it affords a continued assurance that individuals receiving services will be positively affected, and receive the best care available, using the best methods possible.”

From the field, comments regarding the new process have been favorable as it begins to roll out across the state. For example, in a feedback questionnaire completed following a recent review, Kris Frye of the Residential Home Association of Marion (RHAM) noted, “The new packet provided to us before the review was very helpful to us when gathering all the information in advance that’s needed for the review. The new tool seems to be working very well.”

*For more information on the Office of Provider Standards & Review:
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/2009OPSRAnnualReport.pdf>*



In Line with DODD Priority Work

4. Agreement Signed, Funding Project to Enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) Processes and Outcomes

Project to examine best practices and training for key staff functions.

Last week an agreement was signed to address a priority area identified within the **DODD Priority Work** plan. Through the agreement, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will fund a \$100,000 project to enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) and Program Management processes and outcomes within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

In early 2008, the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards (OSCB) and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) formed an Improving Relationships Steering Committee to foster better working relationships and improved communications between County Boards and private providers on the local level. Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) also was invited to join the Committee because so much of APSI’s work is done on the local level. Representatives from APSI, OSCB and OPRA have met regularly since then, with Mark Davis from OPRA and Cheryl Phipps from OSCB chairing the group.

According to Mark Davis,

“Our ‘Improving Relationships Steering Committee’ has recognized that one of the most critical relationships in our system is at the local level – between the provider’s Program Manager and the County Board’s Service and Support Administrator. The structure and nature of this relationship impacts many areas, from the quality of services and outcomes for individuals, to the administrative impact on providers and County Boards. We look forward to enhancing outcomes for people with disabilities and sharing efficient business practices through this grant award.”

Several projects have been undertaken by the Steering Committee. Two Collaboration Symposiums were held, mini-grants were awarded to support local efforts to better work

together, and joint priorities were developed and recommended to DODD. The group's philosophy is that Ohio's DD system will be best served by speaking with one collective voice to ensure ongoing support for services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

According to DODD Director John Martin, "As a result of the accomplishments of the Steering Committee, the Department feels strongly that they are uniquely qualified to conduct this project. Identifying best practices in Services and Support Administration and Program Management, recommending enhancements to professional development of staff, and assuring positive outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities is important work that will go a long way toward system improvement."



Preparing to sign the agreement...

(left to right) DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Provider Resource Association Director Mark Davis, and Cheryl Phipps, Ohio Superintendents of County Boards.

The formal agreement sets the project in motion, and in addition to the \$100,000 in funding, project partners also will contribute in-kind resources. As noted by OSCB's Cheryl Phipps,

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Improving Relationships Steering Committee. Relationships between County Boards, residential providers, and APSI have become stronger as a result of our partnering efforts, and we appreciate the vote of confidence from Director Martin in awarding the contract for the SSA-Program Management Project."

The scope of work will include many elements identified since the Steering Committee began meeting in early 2008, including guidelines for significant individual and family engagement.

For more information: Cheryl.Phipps@hamiltondds.org; mdavis@opra.org



5. Ohio HOME Choice Program Earns National Recognition

A unique partnership between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is garnering national acclaim for helping Ohioans move out of nursing facilities and back into the community. The partnering entities

each received an award at a recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Fair Housing Policy conference for their efforts to help people in long-term care facilities move back into their communities and homes.

The partnership between ODJFS and CMHA is part of the statewide HOME Choice program, which helps Ohioans who are elderly or who have disabilities and live in long-term care facilities to locate housing, set up an affordable and accessible new living arrangement, and connect to necessary community services. The partnership already has helped 12 individuals in Cuyahoga County transition to the community, and is currently working with six more individuals.



<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/homechoice.stm>

ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin commented, "Partnerships like this are an integral part of the HOME Choice program, which has given hundreds of Ohioans the opportunity to move out of long-term care facilities and back into the community." In fact, since 2008, HOME Choice has transitioned more than 600 Ohioans out of long-term care facilities and into their own homes.

At the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Mary-Jo Allen, residential services coordinator explains,

"Since 2008, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD has been able to assist almost 50 individuals in accessing the benefits of the HOME Choice Program. Many of these individuals have moved out of nursing facilities, ICFs/MR* and Developmental Centers and are enjoying a new life in one of our many supported living homes located in communities throughout the county. The process for accessing Home Choice has been easy for the case managers and the Home Choice staff have been accessible and wonderful to work with. This continues to be a very beneficial program for the individuals receiving residential services in Cuyahoga County."

The HOME Choice program began in 2008 as part of the federal Money Follows the Person project, and enacted as part of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ohio is one of 29 states participating in the program, funded with a federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This demonstration grant allows states to shift Medicaid long-term care spending away from a facility-based system to a more community-based orientation.

For more information about HOME Choice, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm>.

**ICFMR is the acronym representing 'Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded': A Medicaid-funded residential facility that teaches living skills to help people live in less restrictive environments. The terminology is the current legal description.*



6. Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for September 14th

To register to attend this event, please go to the following link:

<http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration>

Registration Deadline: September 8th



The Ohio Statehouse, Columbus
photo courtesy, Paul Jarvis

Legislative Advocacy Day, September 14, 10:30 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, will be an especially good opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families, including continuing funding for long-term services and supports in the community. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day will include a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward.

Speakers will include Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Event organizers, including lead planner and Franklin County self advocate Carmen Shelton, note that registration for the event is very important. She explains, "I am coordinating the legislative visits, and it is most important that people register so that they can get an opportunity to speak with their legislators – in the legislative offices that serve them." She continues,

"This is a great opportunity to talk to your legislators about the need for increased funding for home and community-based services in preparation for the next state budget – and about why living in the community is important for individuals with disabilities."

Unique organization

Shelton has traveled throughout the state this year, gathering momentum for Legislative Advocacy Day, and working with a group of statewide team captains preparing for the event. Team captains are located in Lancaster, Cleveland, Youngstown, Cincinnati, and the Southeast Ohio region, with headquarters in Columbus - Shelton's home base.

The DD Council grant funding Legislative Advocacy Day provides the resources necessary for what is described as a, "First-ever, stand-alone advocacy day," according to DD Council Legislative Liaison Paul Jarvis. He adds,

"We are really excited about how well the statewide network of team captains is working together. Our goal is to schedule legislative appointments for four individuals representing each one of Ohio's 99 legislative districts. That would be an impressive total of 396 participants speaking with their legislators! The message our self advocates, providers, family members, and others within the DD

community will be taking to the Statehouse is exactly what they're telling us – that long term community-based care is needed, and that needed waivers must be funded and available.”

Because September 14 is expected to be one of only two days that legislators are in session this autumn, carpooling, or making other transportation arrangements to alleviate parking issues in downtown Columbus, is recommended.

As of today's date more than 75 people have registered at
<http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration>
Registration Deadline: September 8th

For more information: Carmen Shelton at c_shelton@ameritech.net or (740)505-8337.



'Call Center' at DODD Central Office

7. New Support Center Manages Phones, Live!

More than 2450 calls were fielded in the first five weeks – since the Support Center began taking calls on June 25.

The phone number is 1-800-617-6733.

The DODD has established a new Support Center to provide improved service to callers. When calling the Support Center, located at the DODD Central Office on the 13th Floor of the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, you will be speaking with DODD staff, instead of receiving a recorded voice mail message.

The Support Center is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on state holidays. (However, you may leave a voice mail if you call after hours. Someone will return your call.)



Kris Renner – on the job at the new DODD Call Center.

When you call the Support Center, you will be given a list of five options. Based on the option you select, a knowledgeable staff person will assist you. The options are:

- Option 1: Reporting Abuse or Neglect -- these calls are routed directly to the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) investigation office;
- Option 2: Claims Services and Billing;

- Option 3: Provider Certification;
- Option 4: Security -- system access, passwords resets, etc.;
- Option 5: All other calls -- examples include Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR), prior authorization, legal, Medicaid policy, Director's Office, etc.)

Speaking on behalf of Support Center staff, Assistant Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Tracy Cloud notes that *all calls* are welcome and important, including callers with frequently-asked questions from County Board staff, providers, families, guardians, and other state agencies, as well as the general public.

The new system has been well received, and according to Cloud, "Sometimes people are very surprised to hear a live voice answering the phone." She adds,

"In fact, we've already had one lady who was so surprised to hear a live voice answering the phone that she forgot her reason for calling!"



8. Videoconference Series Focuses on Dual Diagnosis

A videoconference series on the subject of 'dual diagnosis' – when an individual has a diagnosis of both mental illness and mental retardation as co-existing conditions – is being sponsored and hosted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). The series has been planned by the Mental Illness/ Developmental Disabilities (MIDD) Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE), and is the first time this type of informational series has been planned collaboratively.

The series was started earlier this summer, and continues with:

Upcoming Topics and Presentations

- 9/1 Dr. Betsey Benson, Nisonger Center: "Behavior Supports and MIDD Dual Diagnosis"
- 9/15 Dr. Julie Gentile, M.D., Wright State University: "Bio-Psycho Social Formulation in Addressing Grief and Loss"
- 9/28 Dr. William Klykylo, M.D., Wright State University: "Current Controversies in Autism."

Registration: https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/reg/ViewREG_Mainmod.asp

Hosting locations for the MIDD/CCOE series are all ten DODD Development Centers (see www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm) and ODMH locations noted below:

Ohio Department of Mental Health
30 E Broad, 8th floor library (823)
Columbus, OH 43215
Capacity: 15

Summit Behavioral Health, Auditorium
1101 Summit Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45237
Capacity: 100

Heartland Behavioral Health
3000 Erie St. South, Room 249
Massillon, OH 44646
Capacity: 20

Also on the subject of Dual Diagnosis: A unique conference September 28-29
For more information: www.thenadd.org/pages/conferences/092810/brochure.pdf

*For more information: Lara Palay, LISW-S lara.palay@dodd.ohio.gov
Project Manager, Mental Illness/Developmental Disability Coordinating Center of Excellence*

On a Similar Subject

The following information is provided by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio on the subject of coverage for Ohioans with pre-existing conditions:

The new federal health care reform law requires states to set up a temporary health insurance program – or “high-risk pool” – for uninsured people with pre-existing health conditions, including several mental illnesses. This program will last until 2014, when full federal reforms will take effect. Ohio has designated Medical Mutual of Ohio as the non-profit entity to administer the high risk pool program for the state.

Applications now are available at www.ohiohighriskpool.com or, call 1 (877) 730-1117 to request a written application form and instructions. Paper application packets also are available at One-Stop and Benefit Bank sites across the state.

It is important to note that there are sufficient funds only to cover approximately 5500 Ohioans, and it is estimated that five times as many people may be eligible. Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

*To learn more about the program, the Ohio Department of Insurance Frequently Asked Questions:
www.insurance.ohio.gov/Documents/07-22-10HighRiskPoolFAQs.pdf*



Ticket to Work

9. Helping Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choose Work

**-Helping Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choose Work-
A Ticket to Work Partners Training in Cleveland, August 31 – September 1
Embassy Suites, 5800 Rockside Woods Boulevard, Independence, Ohio**

To register, visit www.cessi.net/ttw and click on the ‘Choose Work’ Tour icon.

The Ticket to Work ('Ticket') program's national, state, and local partners sponsoring the training noted above, report that nearly 475,000 Tickets have been issued to people receiving Social Security Administration disability benefits in Ohio. More than 31,000 of those Ticket holders have a recent work history and are of prime working age. In addition, there are currently 59 Employment Networks working with more than 1000 Ticket holders at 80 locations throughout Ohio, demonstrating that there are many individuals interested in going to work and looking for assistance in doing so.

Who should attend?

Organizations that help Social Security disability beneficiaries connect to work and careers, and current Employment Networks would find the training useful. 'Choose Work' objectives include:

- Expanding the number of Employment Networks serving a community;
- Assisting current Employment Networks to help more Ticket holders, through technical assistance, training, sharing best practices, and Work Incentives training;
- Furthering the development of existing partnerships in the community, and
- Creating new partnerships in the community.

Ohio has been chosen as one of only ten states to host a Social Security Administration 'Ticket to Work' training on this subject.



We Are Pleased to Share this Item from *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 9

City to phase out 'handicapped' signs

"New signs in Cincinnati-owned buildings will no longer include the word "handicapped." Instead, they'll say "accessible" or just show the familiar symbol of a stick figure in a wheelchair. The difference is significant, advocates for the change say, because it helps remove any stigma associated with the word.

Robert Harris, a Cincinnati Human Relations Commission board member who uses a wheelchair, testified before City Council on behalf of the change, as did several other area self advocates.* City Council members voted unanimously last week to make the change. Current signs won't be immediately replaced, but replaced as needed. Hamilton County commissioners approved the same change in the spring.

"We heard from people of the community, about how they felt offended," said Cheryl Meadows, commission director. It's expected, she said, that the first use of the new signs might be facilities at The Banks riverfront development."

*From the Hamilton County Board of DD Services newsletter, 'Reflections'

"Members of the Advocacy Leadership Network, specifically Diana Mairose, were successful in helping to convince the Hamilton County Commissioners to officially resolve to use the word "accessible" in place of the outdated word "handicapped." Diana collected pictures of poor and good examples of signs that she shared with the Commissioners during her presentation. The presentation

opportunity developed when Diana informally talked with Commissioner Todd Portune a week earlier at another community event both attended.”

Now, That's What You Call Advocacy Leadership!



Details on this colorful collage, and
more about the “Posipalooza” Positive Culture event in *Pipeline Quarterly*
-September 2010-

10. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **VSA Ohio launches new, accessible website ...** www.vsao.org was re-launched July 24th and is more accessible and useful than ever. Up-to-date program information, resources, opportunities, and easy to use Arts & Disability in Ohio event calendar are now available.

⇒ **REMINDER: ESDY Award Nominations Deadline, August 30 ...**

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) reminds readers of an opportunity to honor self advocates, family members, and/or professional staff who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of Self Determination. An ESDY Award is presented to those who have played a vital role in advancing self determination for people with developmental disabilities -- including the elements of freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation.

Send your nomination to Sharon Travis at stravis@eriecbdd.org – deadline, August 30!
The ESDY Awards will be presented at this year’s OSDA conference, “Celebrate the Fire Within,”
September 20 and 21, Doubletree Hotel, Worthington
More information at <http://www.ohiosda.org/>.

Nominations should be specific as to how the nominee has supported the principles of Self Determination, and any contributions made toward overall systems change.

For more about Self Determination: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm>

⇒ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is Aug. 31 ...**

All meetings welcome new attendees! Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings are usually hosted at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy we greatly appreciate.

**The August 31 meeting location has changed to the Columbus Developmental Center training room, 1601 W. Broad Street in Columbus, to accommodate attendees in an air conditioned meeting space.
Meetings begin promptly at 10:00 and end at approximately 3:00.**

For more information about the FAC, contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...**

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards – and a growing list of additional organizations, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is planned for September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

**This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!
A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals will include films featuring people with developmental disabilities, and will be educational and entertaining.**

The event will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, many speakers, and comments by Direct Support Professionals. Contact Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772, agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **SAVE THESE DATES, TOO! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ninth Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (“SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

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 comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *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.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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