



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 <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>
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December 21, 2011
Volume 5, Issue 27

In This Issue ...

- 1. SELF Waiver Approved – Offers Independence, Choices

Special Feature: 2011 – The Year in Review, Month to Month ... & Bonus 'Christmas Spirit'

Wishing You Safe & Happy Holidays



Photo courtesy, Mary Holley, GDC

Dwayne G. at Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) swept into the holidays as Frosty the Snowman during the GDC Holiday Party this month. Frosty's feet did not get in the photo, but rest assured he did not have to scoot along without their benefit!

1. SELF Waiver Approved – Offers Independence, Choices

On December 13, DODD announced that Ohioans with developmental disabilities soon will have a new option that allows them freedom to control how they receive support services. Under the recently federally-approved Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, individuals direct how their approved support dollars are allocated, and how they receive waiver services such as

remote monitoring, and health equipment or supplies. They also can utilize new designated services such as Community Inclusion and Integrated Employment to help live more inclusive lives within their communities.

DODD Director John Martin stated, “Waivers were developed more than twenty years ago to give individuals with developmental disabilities options beyond institutionalization, providing them funding support to receive care and support where they choose to live — in home and community-based settings.” He added,

“The new SELF waiver is the next evolution in understanding how to support individuals to direct how they live, not just where they live.”

The state anticipates enrolling up to 2000 individuals in the SELF waiver over the next three years. Within those numbers, up to 100 children with intensive behavioral needs will receive a state-funded waiver—which offers flexible service options for families of children with autism and other behavioral support needs.

Waivers are approved under federal guidelines by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and then operated by DODD. Ohio’s 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities administer waiver services, and work directly with individuals to enroll in and comply with waiver requirements.

Enrollment for the new SELF waiver will begin in July 2012, following program development and County Board administrative training.

Individuals must meet eligibility requirements for the waiver, including meeting required ‘level of care’ needs, and be willing and able to perform responsibilities associated with self-directing their care. The SELF waiver has an overall annual cost cap of \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults. The cap offers predictability for counties and the state in projecting funding needs for the community, while the structure of the waiver offers participants the flexibility to tailor services for their particular needs.

DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Administration Patrick Stephan noted, “This is a much-awaited service waiver for many in the developmental disabilities community because it recognizes individuals’ capabilities and desires to live more independently, and to take responsibility for directing their own lives.” He continued,

“It goes to the heart of our state’s vision of creating a healthcare environment that is person-centered and driven by quality of care.”

For more information: [http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-\(SELF\)-waiver.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-(SELF)-waiver.aspx).



Special Feature **2011 Year in Review**

The *2011 Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals and key issues within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD. Take a look at the progress and challenges that have marked 2011 via these shortened versions of selected articles, representing each month.

The complete version of each issue is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

- January -

Pipeline, January 5, 2011

DODD Priority Work – Informative Series Online

Throughout 2011, DODD will continue to report on progress and results of the Priority Work Plan, developed in 2009, which guides and focuses our efforts in collaboration with stakeholders, to improve the quality of life for all Ohioans with developmental disabilities. So that we may provide as much information as possible on our Priority Work, the DODD *Office of Policy and Constituent Support* recently updated our website to reflect the Work Plan series of articles in *Pipeline* describing these efforts, and spanning the timeframe from October 2009 through 2010. (Editor's Note: Go to <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx> and see "Priority Work" articles throughout this time period.)

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. The Plan is a basic framework designed to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints.

Health & Safety Toolkit

After several months of reviewing and organizing information to provide a more comprehensive and easier to navigate Health & Safety section at www.dodd.ohio.gov, a new Toolkit has been added to the site. Click on the words "Health & Safety Toolkit" on the left side of the homepage screen to see information grouped specifically for Families, for Providers, and for County Boards, including helpful forms and fact sheets.

In the same issue ...

CMS Expands Health Care Provider Directory, Adds "Physician Compare" Feature

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released an upgrade of its Physician Directory at www.medicare.gov, including new information about physicians and other health care workers in their communities, and the services they provide. The new feature is named "Physician Compare," and expands and updates CMS' Healthcare Provider Directory, which has helped identify Medicare-participating doctors online for several years. The new tool expands the "doctor-specific" information, and, according to Dr. Donald Berwick, CMS administrator,

"This will help pave the way for individuals to have similar information about their physicians as they have for nursing homes, home health agencies, and health and drug plans."

Pipeline EXTRA, January 6, 2011

Governor-elect Kasich Re-appoints John Martin to Lead Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Today, Governor-elect John Kasich reappointed John L. Martin as Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Martin has led the agency, responsible for overseeing a system of supports and services for more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities, since 2007. Noting Director Martin's background, Governor-elect Kasich stated,

"John's record of accomplishment is highly impressive. He understands many of the challenges faced by Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. John is a man of great character, and I look forward to him serving in my Cabinet."

Pipeline EXTRA, January 13, 2011

Governor Kasich Announces Key Cabinet Members Today

Governor John Kasich announced today that Theodore Wymyslo, M.D. will head the Ohio Department of Health (ODH); Dr. Bonnie Kantor-Burman will head the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA); and John McCarthy will lead the Ohio Office of Health Plans (Medicaid). In addition, he signed an Executive Order creating the Office of Health Transformation, which will be led by Greg Moody. Governor Kasich also named John McCarthy, currently the Medicaid director for the District of Columbia, to serve as Ohio's Medicaid director.

Pipeline, January 19, 2011

Kasich Administration Begins

Setting the Stage for 2011

**"Getting people to be in a position where they can see a better tomorrow.
That's what we need to be doing."**

- Governor John Kasich

On January 10, 2011, John Kasich was sworn-in as Ohio's 69th Governor. Appointing members to his Cabinet and assessing the many issues facing the state at this time has been the priority for the newly-elected governor during the past few weeks. Among the members of Governor Kasich's Cabinet are DODD Director John Martin, re-appointed to the post on January 6, 2011 [Pipeline Extra! January 6, 2011](#). On board with the new Administration, Director Martin is prepared to continue the Department's Priority Work Plan, developed in late 2009, and focusing on key areas that will help to fulfill our mission in serving Ohio's more than 80,000 citizens with developmental disabilities.

The Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

Director Martin stated in an email to all DODD staff last week, that he looks forward to supporting the vision and direction Governor Kasich is providing for our State at this important time in our history.

In the same issue ...

New Resources for the Disability Services Community

The following is excerpted from a potpourri of information from various sources on subjects of broad interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

[Advancing Integrated Employment Outcomes through HCBS Waiver Services: Briefing Document on Section 1915\(c\) Medicaid Waiver Service Definitions](#)

Service definitions that focus on employment outcomes are an important component in communicating expectations and building system capacity to increase opportunities for people receiving Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers to participate in the general workforce. This document contains the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on service definitions and related issues that reflect current practice in reinforcing a strong focus on integrated employment.

- February -

[Pipeline, February 2, 2011](#)

[Office of Health Transformation](#)

Governor Kasich Outlines Guiding Principles

On January 13, Governor John R. Kasich signed an Executive Order that created the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT). The purpose of OHT is to plan for the long-term efficient administration of the Ohio Medicaid program and act to improve overall health system performance in Ohio. OHT will be led by Greg Moody, a veteran public and private health system consultant who was on the staff of the U.S. House Budget Committee during John Kasich's Congressional tenure.

In a recent meeting with the Directors and key staff of the state agencies that serve people through the Medicaid funding stream, Governor Kasich outlined the principles guiding OHT in its work. Remarking on the discussion, DODD Director John Martin stated,

"These guiding principles will steer the work we are doing to implement modernization and cost-containment priorities."

In the same issue ...

Miller Appointed Administrator of Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

Among the final Cabinet-level staff appointments recently made by Governor Kasich was the naming of Kevin L. Miller as the Administrator for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), effective January 18. Miller had been Executive Director of the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology since 2005, and served in a number of other positions including Chief of Staff at the Department of Youth Services from 1993 to 2005.

Miller commented following the appointment, "I'm grateful to Governor Kasich for this opportunity that allows me to continue serving Ohioans. I look forward to applying these experiences to partner with individuals who have disabilities so they can get the workforce training necessary to lead productive lives -- while bolstering Ohio's economy."

In the same issue ...

Health Improvement Policy Staff Sharpens Focus

Joining the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support last October, Janet Winterstein, R.N., filled a newly-created Health Improvement Policy Staff position. This position was created and filled in response to a critical need identified by system stakeholders. Winterstein has more than 30 years of experience working in the developmental disabilities field in both residential and County Board settings, and will focus on key areas such as:

- Promoting health and wellness initiatives;
- Developing policies and protocols related to the health care needs of individuals with developmental disabilities;
- Providing technical assistance related to health care issues; and,
- Coordinating the Medication Administration program.

In the same issue ...

DODD Awarded 2011 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Funds

- Supports Employment Opportunities, Statewide -

For the third consecutive year, DODD has applied for and received targeted funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG). In 2011, this will mean more than \$600,000 in funding, which became available and effective as of January 1st.

According to DODD Manager of Economic and Employment Development, Leslie Paull, the federal funding will allow for continuation of several MIG projects which were started last year, as well as explore new avenues to employment for individuals with disabilities throughout the state. She explains,

“In order improve outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities, funding will continue for a school-to-work transition project using customized employment and cross-agency collaborative funding. A model has been developed for replication that will provide a seamless flow of transition services from the educational system into either a job ... the support to acquire a job ... or the skills to produce income.”

Pipeline, February 16, 2010

Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Begins Work

On January 13, Governor John Kasich signed an Executive Order that created the Office of Health Transformation (OHT: www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov) to modernize the fragmented system of Medicaid in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available, and to provide the best value to taxpayers. OHT's first priority is to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges. According to the website,

“If we do nothing, the Ohio Medicaid program will grow 8.5% next year. However, because the federal share of the program will shrink in 2012, the state share of general funds to support the program – money provided by Ohio taxpayers – will increase 49%.”

The website at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov will serve as a portal for information regarding Ohio's health transformation initiatives, and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to sign up for email updates and share ideas about how to modernize Medicaid. The work also may be followed on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OHTohio.

In the same issue ...

New Staff, Structural Changes at DODD Central Office

At the outset of the Kasich Administration, DODD has been actively reviewing the functions of the Director's Office of Policy and Constituent Support (OPCS), with an eye toward better coordination and alignment with the [Governor's Office of Health Transformation](#). As DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth prepares to retire effective March 1, filling that key position ultimately engendered other functional and organizational changes within OPCS, including a reorganization of some staff functions into a Division of Legislative Affairs and Communications.

Leading the functions of Legislation and Communications, Zachary Haughawout (pronounced 'HOW-out') began February 14 in a position which includes the work of the Legislative Liaison, soon-to-be-vacated by the retiring Mark Seifarth, and overseeing the Communications function. As *Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs and Communications*, the new designation also will include overseeing the work of existing DODD Communications and support staff.

In the same issue ...

Family Advisory Council Members Ask, "What's Ahead?"

First Meeting of 2011 -- Family and Civic Engagement are Key

The Columbus Developmental Center training room welcomed nearly 60 Family Advisory Council (FAC) participants on February 8, including family members and professionals from across the state, kicking off the first meeting of 2011. Considering the wintery Ohio weather, the packed meeting room was a testament to the members' dedication, as well as to the value of in-person conversations and personal engagement ... a hallmark of these meetings.

Following DODD Director John Martin's opening observations addressing re-organization under Governor John Kasich, and the Department's role in the overall Cabinet structure, he noted that human services agencies are currently tightly focused on budget preparation for the upcoming biennium, and on ways to best move forward with available resources. He remarked,

"We have had a number of good conversations at this early stage of budget preparation, and a great willingness has been demonstrated among all parties in bringing new ideas to the table, and bringing leadership to areas of concern."

In the same issue ...

Disability Housing Network (DHN) Selects Jacalyn Slemmer

DHN is a nonprofit organization assisting housing corporations serving individuals with developmental disabilities throughout Ohio.

The Board of the Disability Housing Network (DHN) has announced that Jacalyn Slemmer has been selected as Executive Director, effective March 7, replacing Steve Farrell who has accepted a position in his hometown of Boston. Steve McPeake, Chairman of the DHN Board, had this to say about the announcement:

"We are particularly pleased to have someone with Jacalyn's strong skill-set join DHN. Her experience as both a professional in the developmental disabilities field, and her work with statewide low income housing developers, will be invaluable now and in the years ahead."

- March -

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Pipeline, March 2, 2011

Governor's 'State of the State'; Confirmation Hearings

Governor John Kasich's first 'State of the State' Address is set for Tuesday, March 8, at noon. The address will be presented before a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly, and will be streamed live online for real-time viewing (<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>). The Governor's budget is due within a week of that date, on March 15, and it is expected there will be some budgetary issues addressed regarding planning underway for the biennium.

According to several news service reports, the March 15 budget will not include a restructuring of Ohio's various health and human services agencies. Among the charges given to the Office of Health Transformation (OHT -- www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov) in the Executive Order creating it was a requirement to recommend a permanent structure for the state's health and human services agencies that supports OHT's overall goal of improving care and reducing costs. Such a proposal would not be seen in the March 15 budget, said OHT Director Greg Moody, but changes on a smaller scale will be.

In the same issue ...

DD Awareness Month Activities Planned Across the State

Tomorrow's statewide *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 3, 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. Sponsored by Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the free annual event is expected to draw more than 350 participants again this year, from communities throughout Ohio.

Pipeline EXTRA, March 15, 2011

DODD Budget Challenges 2012-13, A Summary

"I strongly support the work being done by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, helping to assure the health and safety of some of the state's most vulnerable citizens. The Department has been making the most of available resources, and is working to assure quality services in these difficult economic times."

-Governor John Kasich, January 2011

Today, Governor John Kasich's Executive Budget proposal was unveiled. Once the budget bill is reviewed and passed by both houses of the General Assembly, it will become the state's biennial budget. This *Pipeline EXTRA* provides a brief overview of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) budget. As more information becomes available we will distribute it via *Pipeline*, and on our website at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

Briefly -- DODD will reduce General Revenue Fund spending by approximately \$27 million in FY 2012, and \$26 million in FY 2013. In so doing, the agency's approach to the reduction is intended to minimize service reductions and disruptions for individuals and families served throughout the state. It is important to note that this proposed budget had the potential to represent only 85% of the current budget, and that due to the Kasich Administration's support of and commitment to the DODD mission of service to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, the Department's budget has been funded at 92%.

Pipeline, March 16, 2011

Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Ohio's Statewide DD Awareness Month Kickoff, and More

It was a record-setting crowd!

More than 500 participants representing at least 28 counties gathered in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on the morning of March 3, to celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, hosted by Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Traveling from all corners of the state, groups of individuals, families, caregivers and other direct service providers, as well as other professionals in Ohio's developmental disabilities community arrived in downtown Columbus to join the annual kickoff celebration.

Individuals with disabilities, employers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community enthusiastically participated in the kickoff program, and it was the most diverse and geographically-representative group ever to attend the event, according to OPI Board members. OPI Executive Director Lon Mitchell welcomed all with a nod to the 2011 DD Awareness Month theme, "*Together*," observing,

[“It would be difficult to imagine a more impressive place for us to gather together – the beautiful Ohio Statehouse. You know, as ‘The People’s House,’ it belongs to all of us.”](#)

[In the same issue ...](#)

Governor Kasich and the Office of Health Transformation Move Forward on Agenda

A new state law takes effect this month that will help more older adults stay in their homes and out of nursing facilities. According to a news release from the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, “Starting March 12, older adults who are discharged from hospitals, live in unsafe conditions, or have depleted their assets for assisted living will have immediate access to home care, eliminating any wait lists for PASSPORT and other services if they should occur.”

The release continues, “The law expands Ohio’s *Home First* policy and overcomes a major barrier to receiving home and community care by doing away with government-imposed wait lists that controlled enrollment in these programs in the past. Many older adults are placed needlessly in expensive nursing facilities for services they could easily receive at home and at less cost, including personal care and assistance with meals.”

[Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee, Director Confirmation Hearings](#)

On March 9, the Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee heard presentations from three Department Directors: Orman Hall, of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS); John Martin, of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD); and Tracy Plouck, of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH). Confirmation hearings for all Cabinet-level Directors within the purview of the Committee now have been held.

[Pipeline, March 30, 2011](#)

Governor Kasich and the Office of Health Transformation Continue to Move Forward

Following up on information contained in [Pipeline Extra! March 15, 2011](#), and [Pipeline March 16, 2011](#) the budget continues to be a subject of great interest and concern to all Ohioans, including those in the developmental disabilities community. Information and insights below represent activity during the latter part of March.

[Excerpted from the Columbus Dispatch: “Kasich’s Medicaid plan isn’t only cuts”](#)

“We know the cuts could have been a whole lot worse,” said Dan Ohler, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB). He had prepared members to expect a 50% cut in funding. “You will see County Boards looking for opportunities to share services,” Ohler said. The article also noted, “The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) expects to save money during the next two years by moving about 180 people out of state-run Developmental Centers, which are more costly than community care.” The cost savings also will be a result of other efficiencies, including increasing community-based services for individuals served. *Dispatch article: “Kasich’s Medicaid plan isn’t only cuts”*

[House Finance Committee Hears Explanation of Proposed Medicaid Changes](#)

Ohio's House Finance and Appropriations Committee has delved into the particulars of Governor Kasich's budget proposal transforming the state's Medicaid program, including information gathered during hearings from the Health Transformation Team headed by Office of Health Transformation Director Greg Moody.

In the same issue ...

[A Month of Greater Awareness Across Ohio](#)

We are pleased to share a final sampling (at [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 8](#)) of the many activities and events that celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month across Ohio this year.

Thanks to all who provided information to share! For example...

[Superintendent's Conference Hosts Annual Awards Event](#)

The Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards (OASCB) Winter Conference in Columbus, March 21, also hosted the Ohio Public Images Annual Awards, conferring upon more than 50 individuals and organizations various awards recognizing excellence in promoting *awareness and understanding* of people who have disabilities, and their participation as full citizens in communities throughout the state. Awards honored efforts during 2010.



We Inspire Possibilities



Belmont County's local people brightened up these outdoor ads.

In the same issue ...

[Developmental Centers as Community Resources](#)

[The Positive Culture Initiative Continues to Grow](#)

The Positive Culture Initiative, introduced to Ohio's developmental disabilities community in 2008, and growing by leaps and bounds over the past few years ([Read More](#)) is designed to work toward the reduction and eventual elimination of aversive interventions, especially timeout and restraint, except where there is imminent risk to health and safety.

In April, The Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) will partner with Turning Point Residential, a local provider, to host a training on the Positive Culture Initiative. The six-hour training, "*Positive Culture and Working Effectively with Families*" will feature presenters including DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, and Willie Jones, consultant with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD.

- April -

☞ April is Autism Awareness Month ☞

Note! Beginning this month, on www.dodd.ohio.gov you can hear an audio version of Pipeline.
(Now at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/audio/Pages/default.aspx>)

Pipeline, April 13, 2011

Health and Human Services Agencies Provide Testimony

Excerpted from the Ohio House Health and Human Services Subcommittee Testimony

Read all agencies' testimony at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

On April 6, discussion of HB153 (Biennial Budget) – making operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, included a great deal of testimony from agencies and individuals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, including the following excerpts:

Ohio Self Determination Association

Noting efforts to continue to support quality of life for people with disabilities, Stephanie Barber, Treasurer of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), added, "We hope that you recognize the unmet needs that exist in the disability system." She continued,

"It is estimated that more than 27,000 Ohioans with disabilities are on a waiting list for a Home and Community-Based Services waiver."

Ohio Provider Resource Association

Also providing testimony was Mark Davis, President of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). Davis and a panel of OPRA's community providers addressed the issue of Medicaid services provided by the Association's members, and other issues that impact Ohioans with developmental disabilities, including both the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) program and home and community-based waivers.

In the same issue ...

During Autism Awareness Month

Participants Energized for Rally, Legislative Advocacy

Organized by the Autism Society of Ohio and representing the efforts of many state and national organizations, the seventh annual Autism Rally today on the south lawn of the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 200 individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators who gathered to encourage awareness and support of Ohio's autism community. The rally provided a forum for individual stories, and information on specific issues of interest, including legislation.

Spokesperson Doug Krinsky, a rally organizer, brought to the podium many new faces and new voices ... including Jacob Peck, a student at Haugland Learning Center. Jacob stated enthusiastically,

"At Haugland, I can relate to the students and they can relate to me. It gave me an alternative to the bullying I was experiencing in school before. My compliments to Dr. Morten Haugland!"

In the same issue ...

Issues on May 3, Across the State

Five County Boards of Developmental Disabilities will have levies on the May 3 ballot. Three are replacement levies and two are renewals. They are:

- Delaware County, 2.1 mills, replacement
- Holmes County, 1.8 mills, renewal
- Mercer County, 2.42 mills, renewal
- Miami County, 2.5 mills, replacement
- Sandusky County, 2.0 mills, replacement

For more information about these ballot issues visit the *Ohio Secretary of State* website, www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/elections/2011/pri/tax.pdf.

In the same issue ...

Family Advisory Council is Forum for Ideas and Information

The DODD Family Advisory Council met April 12, at the Ohio Centers for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) headquarters in Columbus. The meeting began with comments by DODD Director John Martin, discussing the biennial budget proposal as it stands now, and answering several questions from meeting participants. Director Martin approached the subject of the budget from a basic standpoint, as ‘pieces of the budget pie’ were divided into three main areas. He noted, “One-half of the pie goes to waiver match, one fourth goes to operating Developmental Centers, and one fourth of the pie is allocated to County Board of DD subsidies.”

He added that the Department also will be looking into ways that the utilization of services can be voluntarily reduced, as families learn more about available options, including shared services and assistive or adaptive technology. County Board Superintendents in attendance noted that they are looking at ways to make the most of their shrinking allocation of state dollars.

Pipeline, April 27, 2011

Administration Update, The First 100 Days

Taking Steps Toward Transformational Change

An Overview: Better Care for Vulnerable Ohioans

Excerpted from, “The First 100 Days in Office,” a fact sheet from the Office of the Governor

Creating the Office of Health Transformation: On January 13, Gov. Kasich created the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) by Executive Order. OHT is charged with leading an initiative to address Medicaid spending, plan for the long-term efficient administration of the Ohio Medicaid program, and improve overall health system performance. OHT is coordinating the activities and policies of the six state agencies involved in Medicaid and is working closely with other key state agencies, families, consumers, and other stakeholders to advance Medicaid modernization and cost-containment priorities. In addition, OHT will initiate and guide insurance market exchange planning, engage private sector partners to set clear expectations for overall health system performance, recommend permanent health and human services organization structure, and oversee transition to that structure.

Excerpted from the Ohio House Health and Human Services Subcommittee Testimony, OACB
Read all agencies' testimony at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

Also during the first 100 days of the administration, testimony on the Biennial Budget (HB153) for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, included comments provided by agencies and individuals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Among them was Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Executive Director Dan Ohler. He noted, "Greg Moody, Director of the *Governor's Office of Health Transformation*, has introduced the administration's new vision for Medicaid and other health and human service systems. Mr. Moody stated that the developmental disabilities service system had 'already been through transformation' and was a model that could be followed by other health and human services agencies."

In the same issue ...

Wall-to-Wall Enthusiasm Marks Legislative Advocacy Day

An estimated 400 advocates from throughout Ohio packed the Statehouse Atrium on Legislative Advocacy Day, April 14. Co-sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the event welcomed several speakers to the podium, including Senator Peggy Lehner; Representative Ted Celeste; DODD Director John Martin; Ohio DD Council Executive Director Carolyn Knight; Ohio DD Council member Bob Milliken; and, self advocate John Hannah.

DODD Director John Martin stated during his presentation, "I feel very good about the support we are getting from the Governor's Office, and the Office of Health Transformation – and there are several initiatives in the works that are going to provide more flexibility and freedoms to individuals who have developmental disabilities." He continued,

"In these difficult economic times we are looking for ways to increase service options in the community, and work as best we can with the financial resources available. In this process we thank you for your creative input and ask you to continue to provide your valuable feedback."

In the same issue ...

Monty Kerr to Head Office of Policy & Strategic Direction

This introductory story is in advance of Monty Kerr's arrival in Columbus.

Pipeline will sit down with Monty for a more in-depth article at a later date.

DODD Director John Martin has announced that Monty Kerr has accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction. According to Director Martin, "Under his leadership will be a number of initiatives that are extremely important to the Department: early intervention/children's programs; services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); the Positive Culture Initiative; National Core Indicators (NCI); dual diagnosis; employment initiatives, and other collaborative projects." He continued,

"Monty comes to the Department from the eastern part of the State where he has been the County Board Superintendent for three counties: Belmont, Harrison, and Noble. His experience, management skills, vision, and values will add much to our agency."

Kerr fills the position previously held by Patrick Lanahan, and will begin his duties in June.

In the same issue ...

From Northeast to Southwest Ohio

Positive Culture Initiative Travels the State

The Positive Culture Initiative is steadily working its way across the state -- training by training, and person by person. This month, Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) partnered with Turning Point Residential, a local provider, to host a six-hour training titled, "*Positive Culture and Working Effectively with Families.*" It featured several presenters, including DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, and Willie Jones, consultant with the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The free training opportunity was hosted at YDC's Central Training Building in Mineral Ridge, Ohio. More than 100 people attended from several counties, representing 15 different agencies and organizations, including private providers, school districts, social service professionals, and County Board employees.

- May -

Pipeline EXTRA, May 4, 2011

Results of the May 3, 2011 Election, County Boards of DD Levies

All six County Boards of Developmental Disabilities with issues on the May 3 ballot passed their levy issues. Congratulations to all!

Pipeline, May 11, 2011

Reaching Out to Constituents Helps Drive Decisions

Budget Testimony

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee version of the state's budget, Sub HB153, was issued on April 28, and testimony on the bill began immediately. While some budget proposals from the earlier proposed bill were clarified, other proposals continue to be 'works in progress.' Areas of Sub HB153 affecting Human Services include:

- Increases PASSPORT funding by \$5 million in FY12 and \$10 million in FY13;
- Rules for Medicaid reimbursement to go through the Chapter 119 rulemaking process;
- Requires Ohio Department of Health to apply for federal abstinence education funding;
- Increases appropriations for children's hospitals by \$2 million/year;
- Eliminates prior authorization for anti-psychotic antidepressants; and,
- Increases the break in eligibility from six weeks to three months for the 'grandfathered' children in child care, in families with incomes between 125% and 200% of the federal poverty level.

OHT Director Addresses *Solidarity!*

Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody provided keynote comments at the *Solidarity!* conference in Columbus last month, addressing several aspects of Medicaid reform in a presentation highlighting the over-arching goals of rebalancing a currently fragmented and costly system of care, and focusing on the desire for care coordination.

In the same issue ...

CMS Approves Individual Options Waiver Amendment

On May 6, DODD received notification that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the most recent amendment to the DODD-operated Individual Options (IO) waiver. In accordance with the approved amendment, the following changes will be in effect as of *July 15, 2011*: County Boards of DD no longer will be required to send the *Freedom of Choice form* (indicating that an individual wishes to be on a waiver instead of residing in an institution) to DODD's Medicaid Waiver Unit as part of the Initial and Re-Determination Waiver Packets. County Boards must continue to maintain copies of the signed Freedom of Choice form in the individual's file at the local level, however. And, *four new services* will be available under the IO waiver pending approval of corresponding Administrative Rules, currently being reviewed by JCARR: *Remote Monitoring*; *Community Respite*; *Adult Family Living*; and *Respite*.

In the same issue ...

Intermediate Care Facilities Initiative Part of Rebalancing

Part of DODD's rebalancing plan with the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) is a voluntary reduction in the number of people served in ICF's, by 5%.

As part of an overall effort to rebalance long-term care, DODD is launching a new initiative that will help increase opportunities for people living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) to access home and community-based waivers. The initiative supports voluntary reduction of the numbers of people living in ICFs, and affording individuals increased independence and self-direction by moving to home and community-based waivers, where appropriate. "This is a voluntary initiative, and so we are starting to gather information from providers who may be interested," explained Ginnie Whisman, DODD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers. She adds, "We soon will be sending feedback requests to providers so that we can determine the level of interest and expectations for moving people to community-based waivers."

In the same issue ...

Summertime Health & Safety Updates and Alerts

The health and safety of individuals served in Ohio's developmental disabilities system is of primary concern to all service providers, and ever more so when individuals are medically fragile, or may have conditions that make them especially vulnerable to emergency situations or specific 'triggers' such as bee stings. The DODD Office of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations has re-issued two Health & Safety Alerts (#02-05-11 – *Keeping Safe in the Summer Part I*, and #02-05-11 – *Keeping Safe in the Summer Part II*) in the interest of spotlighting certain dangers and appropriate care procedures.

All DODD Health & Safety Alerts are listed at www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm

Pipeline, May 25, 2011

OACB Spring Conference Spotlights Progress, Change

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) *Spring Conference*, May 19-20, at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, presented a wealth of useful information for attendees. Setting the stage for the two-day agenda, the opening session included news and views from Office of Health

Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody, DODD Director John Martin, and OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler. Speaking to conference attendees on the subject of Medicaid reform and the impact of the proposed budget on Ohio's developmental disabilities system, Moody noted, "The overall vision is for better care coordination, and a person-centered care management approach - not a provider, program, or payee approach." He added,

"Ohio's developmental disabilities system has already worked through major transformational change, and that turmoil changed the system. It is now constructively focused, and the challenges now are to see what partnerships are possible that have not been formed yet, and how home and community-based services can continue to evolve and improve quality of life."

Moody's presentation also highlighted the importance of OHT's priorities to replace system fragmentation with coordination, and to focus on quality care, rewarding person-centered results by providing quality incentives and performance measures within Ohio's Medicaid system.

DODD Director John Martin's remarks included updates on the budget process as it evolves within the framework of OHT partners' discussions. He stated, "One of the advantages I have seen already to the OHT partnership among Ohio's human services agencies is that I am learning from my colleagues by following other agencies' initiatives, and watching how they can and will affect the work that we do."

In the same issue ...

Budget Testimony and Discussion Continues

DODD Director John Martin presented testimony this month to the Ohio Senate, focusing on sustainability in waiver programs, rebalancing long-term care, and subsidy support for County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, among other topics. He also noted that DODD had just received CMS approval for proposed IO waiver changes (see [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 11](#), May 11, 2011). In addition, ongoing conversations with partner agencies within the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) have spurred discussion as to innovative ways to provide needed services more efficiently, within budgetary constraints.

See the Office of Health Transformation's [video page](#) for testimonials on the subject of plans to rebalance long-term care, improve care coordination, integrate behavioral and physical health care, and modernize reimbursements.

In the same issue ...

PATHS Mid-east Region Announces Program Graduates

The Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) Credentialing Program Mid-east Region recently celebrated the graduation of twelve Direct Support Professionals from five counties – Athens, Fairfield, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry. The PATHS Mid-east Regional Council consists of 'Region V' County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and provider agencies. This is the third group to graduate in Ohio's Mid-east Region.

The twelve graduates earned a Certificate of Initial Proficiency, the curriculum for which includes 60 hours of classroom instruction on a variety of topics including: community living skills and supports; service facilitation; self-determination; documentation; advocacy; and,

personal ethics. Course participants complete an extensive portfolio comprised of a collection of work samples that demonstrate their skills. The PATHS curriculum is designed to improve skills and opportunities for direct service professionals, and positively affect the individuals with developmental disabilities whom they serve.

In the same issue ...

Union County Breaks Ground for Long-Awaited Home

See Pipeline Quarterly, Spring 2009,: "They're Building a Home in U-Co's Workshop." Pipeline planned a follow-up story whenever the structure was ready to be moved out of the workshop and into the community...

The Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony this morning for a unique new home that will become the primary residence for two individuals receiving services via UCBDD. What is unique about this home and its arrival in the local community? Pretty much everything, according to the project partners.

The project began in January 2009, as a partnership between UCBDD and its U-CO Industries; Ohio Hi-Point Career Center in Bellefontaine; and, Delaware Creative Housing in Delaware County, which served as the project manager. Ohio Hi-Point supplied student labor, U-CO supplied the controlled work environment, and UCBDD is the home owner. Comments throughout the ceremony supported the fact that a true synergy developed as the house was being built, and throughout the process of locating the community-based residential site. The natural residential neighborhood already has reached out to welcome the soon-to-be neighbors, Chelsea and Elaine, who will move in this summer.

PipelineQuarterly sneak preview

Exciting Opportunities in Seneca, Sandusky Counties

In Seneca County, the Roppe Corporation has opened their doors to 100+ individuals who work in the Sampling Division. They ARE the Sampling Division.

The Roppe Corporation in Fostoria, manufacturers of rubber and vinyl flooring products sold worldwide, has within its production complex a group of approximately 100 individuals with disabilities who last year turned out more than 42 million pieces of sample product and related promotional sample materials. The individuals are a totally integrated part of the organization, and thanks to a strong working relationship with the Seneca County Board of DD, this effort has been successful for more than 25 years. *Read more in the Spring 2011 Pipeline Quarterly, publishing in June. (Now at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx>)*

- June -

Pipeline, June 8, 2011

DODD Family Forums Seek and Share Information to Improve Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Service System

Six 'Family Forums' including a presentation by DODD Director John Martin on Ohio's current proposed budget, are being hosted around the state this month. At these forums, County Board of DD Superintendents, service providers, and family members are sharing ideas about how we can

best manage available funding and ‘do more with less.’ Stakeholder suggestions will help DODD to move forward more effectively in planning and continue to build good stewardship of the system, while increasing individual choices and independence.

Areas of discussion also have included the subject of how individuals and families can *use services differently*, to broaden choices and improve independence, while continuing to help build good stewardship of the system. As the forums began in Dayton and Cincinnati, the topics of *Adult Foster Care* and *Remote Monitoring* services drew the interest of many. *Adult Foster Care* is defined as personal care and support provided in a private home by an unrelated caregiver who lives in the home, and *Remote Monitoring* involves using technology, such as live video feeds, to improve an individual’s security, safety, and independence at their residence.

The DODD Family Forums encourage the sharing of ideas and potential strategies that may help increase peoples' independence while reducing costs.

Host organizations for the forums include: DODD; Ohio Association of County Boards; The ARC of Ohio; Ohio Provider Resource Association; Autism Society of Ohio; Autism Speaks; Brain Injury Association of Ohio; and, The Ohio League.

In the same issue ...

Administration Update

Proposed Budget Moves Toward Final Version

The Ohio Senate is voting on the state budget bill this week. After that, the bill will head to a Conference Committee of House and Senate members to hash out final details before the June 30 deadline for approving the budget. As reported in prior issues of *Pipeline*, DODD’s portion of the budget includes additional services within the Individual Options waiver, funding for a new self-directed (SELF) waiver, and provisions to move all services for individuals with developmental disabilities to DODD.

Other elements of the budget that are of particular interest to the developmental disabilities community include: Creation of a special education scholarship program to provide scholarships to children with disabilities in grades K-12 to attend alternative public or private special education programs; and, language allowing that individuals diagnosed with autism be included in the state’s definition of ‘mobility impaired person’ for the purposes of laws governing the use of assistance dogs.

In the same issue ...

Equal Access to Justice

New Video Aids Courts in Helping People Who Are Deaf

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Grant Helps to Fund Project

The Supreme Court of Ohio released a new video on June 3 that will help ensure access to justice for people who are hearing-impaired (deaf, hard of hearing.) *Misconceptions about Deaf People and the Challenge for the Courts* - see online [here](#) - was produced by the Court’s Interpreter

Services Program, in collaboration with the Ohio Channel and other partners, and with a \$25,000 grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC).

The video was produced as a training and educational tool for judges and court personnel who, by law, must provide reasonable accommodation in the court system for constituents who are hearing-impaired.

In the same issue ...

It's Graduation Time ...

Ohio Self Advocates Applaud *Project STIR*

- Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility -

Thirty individuals who receive services from Huron County's Christie Lane Industries recently participated in a graduation ceremony for *Project STIR - Steps Towards Independence and Responsibility* -- which provides opportunities to learn advocacy and leadership skills, as well as tools to motivate others. *Project STIR* training is organized and supported by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and others with whom they partner. The thirty individuals earned certificates of completion, and in the process learned a great deal about themselves, according to Project participants.

In the same issue ...

Office of Provider Standards & Review Reports Progress

See the full report at: [2010 OPSR Annual Report](#)

According to the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), 2010 was a year of excitement and change within the division, including further implementation of recommendations initially made by the 2008 Futures Committee -- as well as more recent stakeholder recommendations - affecting ongoing agency processes and practices. Introducing the 2010 Annual Report, OPSR leadership noted, "It has been our goal to implement a single review process for all providers, regardless of setting, that focuses on outcomes for individuals. We now have incorporated major changes into our processes which include the creation of a single review tool ... a change in the notification process which allows providers the opportunity for a self-review of their systems ... and the implementation of a plan of compliance verification for all providers."

Pipeline, June 22, 2011

NOTICE: On June 14, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved DODD's application for the renewal of the Level One waiver.

The renewal will go into effect on July 1, 2011, and remains effective for a period of 5 years.

No significant changes were made to the Level One waiver as part of this renewal.

DODD Family Forum Partners Wrap Up and Look Ahead

Six DODD Family Forums around the state this month have encouraged the sharing of ideas and potential strategies that may help increase peoples' independence while reducing costs. Because Ohio is a diverse state both geographically and demographically, host organizations for the Forums are hopeful about the prospects for positive system change and improvement through this open process. Host organizations are: DODD; Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB); The ARC of Ohio; Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Autism Society of Ohio (OAS); Autism Speaks; Brain Injury Association of Ohio; and, The Ohio League.

On behalf of the host organizations, DODD sincerely thanks the several hundred individuals, families, and others with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community who attended the June 2011 Family Forums and provided input and ideas on many subjects. We are encouraged to see the level of interest in finding ways that services can be used differently or more economically, and the ways that new services and supports may be able to 'fill the bill' in terms of services, while reducing staffing and other related costs. As input from these forums is assessed, and as budget realities for 2012-13 become more well-defined, information will continue to be shared in future issues of *Pipeline*, as well as online at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

In the same issue ...

Administration Update

Budget Continues on Path to Final Version

Legislative Services Commission Provides Overview

An overview of the major provisions in Ohio's current budget bill, now being reviewed by a Conference Committee comprised of House and Senate members, is posted online at <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/fiscal/budgetinbrief129/budgetinbrief-hb153-in.pdf>.

In the same issue ...

OPRA President Mark Davis Named to ANCOR Board

Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) President Mark Davis has been selected to serve as Chairperson for the State Executives Council for the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) and to serve on the ANCOR Board of Directors. His term will begin this autumn. A statewide association of service providers, OPRA is a leader in efforts to collaboratively build a service system that will meet the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. OPRA's membership includes more than 150 organizations that provide services to more than 15,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities, representing approximately 70% of the state's community-based providers. ANCOR is a national trade association representing more than 800 private providers of community living and employment supports, and serves more than 400,000 individuals with disabilities.

In the same issue ...

Knox County Collaborative Partnerships Explored

New Hope Early Education Center in Knox County hosted DODD Director John Martin at a roundtable discussion in early June, discussing the efforts of partnering community agencies, and making the most of collaborations involving the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities (KCBDD). The County Board's Superintendent, Steve Oster, explained, "We wanted to share with the Director some resources that we have found to be especially helpful. The Department is always interested in what is working, where, and why. We wanted to provide our perspective, and most importantly, share the very good results we have had with collaborative efforts serving children with special needs – voluntary efforts with a team focus."

In the same issue ...

[Update and Reminder](#)

Rental Housing Locator Simplifies Finding Affordable Housing

Finding a good place to live – one that meets your individual needs - can be difficult. But the search can be made simpler with a free, online database, OhioHousingLocator.org. The Ohio Housing Locator is a searchable, statewide directory of rental housing. Home-seekers can search by city, county, or zip code, as well as by cost and unit size. Listings also offer information on supportive services and accessibility features that are important to people with disabilities.

- July -

[Pipeline, July 6, 2011](#)

Ohio's 2012-13 Biennial Budget Now A Reality

On June 29, the Ohio House of Representatives sent the Conference Committee report on HB153, the proposed FY2012-13 budget, to Governor John Kasich following a vote of 59-40. Governor Kasich signed it into law on June 30, and HB153 became effective July 1. The new \$55.8 billion budget contains language effecting considerable change for local governments, schools, Medicaid, and the state's prison system, among other far-reaching reforms.

[DODD budget reforms include a continuation of transformations already underway, and initiatives to better manage resources for long-term fiscal sustainability.](#)

The budget maintains funding levels for waivers, transfers the ICF/DD program and Transitions waiver from ODJFS to DODD, adds new choices to the Individual Options (IO) waiver, and provides funding for the new SELF waiver.

Major changes the Conference Committee report made to the House-passed version of HB153 included increasing funding for the PASSPORT program; increasing funding for mental health programs; and increasing funding for programs affecting the more than 80,000 Ohioans who have developmental disabilities and their families. Outside of Medicaid-funded programs, most other areas of the budget saw funding decreases.

Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody noted that the budget increases total Medicaid spending on long-term care by about \$166 million over the next two years, but that most of the additional dollars are targeted for home and community-based services.

See www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov for the [Final Budget Overview](#)

In the same issue ...

Conference Highlights Budget Focus, Key Issues

["We're all here to learn more about things that can help our kids and our families."](#)

[- Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio](#)

On July 1, Ohioans began a new budget year with several challenges and opportunities. An informative June 29 conference titled, "*A New State Budget – How Will It Affect Me?*," at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus explored how the new budget will directly affect Ohioans with disabilities. Leaders and policymakers in Ohio's developmental disabilities community

provided information and fielded questions regarding the budget, and offered input regarding specific service enhancements and changes. Sponsored by The Arc of Ohio, the program included presentations by Office of Health Transformation; Director Greg Moody; DODD Director John Martin; Department of Education Office of Exceptional Children Associate Director Thomas Lather; and, DODD Deputy Director Patrick Stephan.

In the same issue ...

DHN Issues Self-Assessment Project Report

The Self-Assessment Tool and Technical Assistance Project is funded through a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

Ohio's Disability Housing network (DHN) has issued a report* publishing findings via the 2011 Self-Assessment Tool for the state's non-profit housing corporations. The self-assessment project was designed to be a 'master checklist' of legal requirements and recommended 'best practices' that non-profit housing corporations should have in place for maximum organizational capacity. The project's purpose is to help Ohio's housing corporations become even more effective in pursuing their collective mission to provide quality community-based housing for people with disabilities.

*See the full report at: <http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>

In the same issue ...

Updated Information About Individuals' Rights

The Department of Justice has released a new technical assistance document describing public entities' obligations and individuals' rights under the integration mandate of Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) and the 1999 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Olmstead v. L.C.* In a similar vein, Ohio Public Images (OPI) has designed an updated Bill of Rights poster. The *Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities* poster includes easier-to-understand and respectful language, and updated graphics. To order, click on *catalog* information at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

Pipeline, July 20, 2011

July 26th will be the 21st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The U.S. Department of Justice provides free ADA materials. Printed materials may be ordered by calling the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (Voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD). The publications are available in standard print, as well as large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disk.

Visit <http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>

Budget Update Highlights Value of Quality Resources

DODD Director John Martin presented "*A New State Budget – Where Do We Go From Here?*" to the Family Advisory Council on July 12 in Columbus. Highlights of his remarks included an overview of how services are funded, and how *needs* and *data* drive decisions for services and programs. Director Martin also noted that in several budget areas DODD, along with its partner agencies in the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), has been affected by fewer available dollars, although support for core services and flexible options has been maintained.

He noted, "Our work within the OHT team in rebalancing resources, including efforts within our Developmental Center system, has resulted in a more well-defined approach to providing and

managing waiver dollars, and improving availability of services for individuals in their communities. We also are now into the third year of gathering data through the National Core Indicators initiative (NCI – <http://dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx>) which has helped us to see where we stand, nationally, on how our services are perceived by those who receive them.”

In the same issue ...

New Individual Options Waiver Services

DODD supports opportunities for flexibility and increased independence where possible for those receiving services within the DD system. Now, as of July 15, there are new services available in the Individual Options (IO) waiver to offer more choices in the way services are received. See: *IO Waiver Handbook* . The statewide developmental disabilities community was highly collaborative in providing input during the *rules* and *services development* processes, which helped DODD identify the most needed and practical services to add. Those new services include Adult Family Living, Respite Care, and Remote Monitoring. View the new rules language at: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/Pages/default.aspx>

In the same issue ...

DODD Spotlight on ‘Host Homes’

Director Martin’s focus on relationships at a recent Family Advisory Council meeting provides a perfect introduction to one of the waiver-funded services that takes a little different approach to supporting individuals to live in the community. The federal government calls it ‘adult foster care’ and others may call it ‘home-sharing,’ -- we’ll be referring to such services as being provided in ‘Host Homes.’

The recent Family Advisory Council gathering also heard representatives from a statewide Foster Care Work Group and their experiences in defining and providing Host Home services. Comprised of participation from DODD, the Clearwater COG (‘Council of Government’), and providers including REM Ohio, Resident Home Corporation (RHC), Dungarvin, and the Cuyahoga County Board of DD, they noted that approximately 800 individuals are served in Host Homes in Ohio, through slightly more than 90 agency providers and 200 families, representing about 5% of all waiver service dollars.

Family Host Homes representative Chris Wolfe noted that *a relationship built on trust* is key in successful Host Homes. He explained, “Consistency is always what makes the plan work. Consistency can be reinforced in the Host Home environment, and can be planned for as the Individual Service Plan (ISP) is prepared. Low caregiver turnover is also a positive aspect, and can be helpful with any behavioral concerns.”

In the same issue ...

Pipeline Profile

Monty Kerr, Office of Policy & Strategic Direction

In Pipeline Volume 5 issue 10 April 27, 2011 DODD introduced Monty Kerr, noting that he would join the organization in June, and that we would follow up with him again soon.

Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, joined the DODD Central Office in June, coming to us from Belmont County, where he most recently served as Superintendent for Belmont, Harrison, and Noble counties. Kerr has logged about 35 years in the developmental disabilities field, and with this solid foundation of experience he maintains the perspective that,

"It's all about what's going on at the county level. We need to stay tuned-in to that, and listen to individuals and families. Looking at it from the state's oversight and policy leadership viewpoint, we cannot lose sight of that."

Under Kerr's leadership are a number of key initiatives that are important to the Department's overall mission and vision: Early Intervention/children's programs; services for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); the Positive Culture Initiative; National Core Indicators (NCI); dual diagnosis; employment initiatives, and other collaborative projects. He observes that within the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, employment initiatives are a particularly strong focus, and the Positive Culture Initiative (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/pci/Pages/default.aspx>) will continue to be a pervasive, foundational concept helping to drive overall planning.

In the same issue ...

Collaborative Report Offers a Look at the Future of Ohio's Early Intervention Services

As recommended by a group of state agency partners studying Ohio's early intervention services, a comprehensive report has been completed by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Greater Chicago, in accordance with contract specifications set by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). The report was made possible through an inter-agency agreement between DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Read the entire report online at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

ODH is the lead agency for "Part C" of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The report makes five main recommendations for how Ohio should implement evidence-based early intervention services. According to Katrina Bush, DODD Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, "The UCP report is lengthy, but the five recommendations with accompanying rationales are all included within the first 25 pages." She adds,

"It is also important to note that the Ohio Association of County Board Superintendents was quite instrumental in beginning the conversation about using some of these dollars for 'Part C infrastructure' development. Their interest in helping to make this happen is most gratifying."

- August -

Pipeline, August 3, 2011

Budget Symposium Provides Overview

DODD Director John Martin presented an overview and snapshot of the FY2012-'13 budget as it pertains to the Department and its Office of Health Transformation (OHT) stakeholder partners, at an Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) budget symposium on July 27 at the Xenos complex in Columbus.

Citing the highly collaborative nature of budget preparation and post-budget work, Director Martin spotlighted several areas of importance to the state's developmental disabilities community, including: Waiting lists; Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) 'conversion to waiver' services; Ongoing census reduction within Ohio's Developmental Center system; and, various employment initiatives including less emphasis and reliance upon traditional 'sheltered workshop' settings.

Director Martin also referred to the June 2011 series of six statewide Family Forums around the state (*See [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 13](#) June 8, 2011*) highlighting common themes that developed at Forum meetings. They centered on three areas of interest: *Remote Monitoring* services; *Adult Foster Care* services (*Host Homes*); and, *the need to raise awareness about available services*.

In the same issue ...

Staff and Families Look to Relationship-Based Models

– Support Success in Working with Infants and Toddlers –

Reinforcing DODD core values, Director John Martin recently emphasized during a presentation to Family Advisory Council, "We've talked about funding and budgets here today, but in our work at the Department we know that,

"... at the end of the day, our work is about people and relationships."

Along this line, the Department has created new opportunities for the training and certification of County Board staff in what are referred to as 'relationship-based early interventions' -- including the Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters ("P.L.A.Y.") Project, and 'Responsive Teaching.' While some of Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities have specific programs such as these available to support very young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families, many do not. The Department saw this as an opportunity to create active partnerships around the state, supporting each other in this effort.

Relationship-based models equip parents to be informed 'primary providers.' A growing body of research suggests that such evidence-based approaches are successful and cost-effective. They also fit well with the early intervention training provided by County Boards of DD and the Ohio DD Council.

Due to some restructuring within the DODD Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, the Department was able create a part-time position to manage this work, which began early this year. Molly Kurtz, formerly Director of Education for the Licking County Board of DD, joined DODD Central Office for this purpose. She identified areas where relationship-based programs for early childhood were already in place, and identified County Boards interested in receiving training to serve families with young children affected by developmental disabilities, including ASD. Director Martin stated in an email to County Board Superintendents earlier this year,

"DODD supports interventions that are positive, evidence-based, and family-focused. We are excited about this opportunity to assist local communities in forging new solutions through this special training and certification."

Kurtz explains that over the course of a year, a key relationship-based training goal is to develop an Ohio-based ‘train the trainer’ model for sustainability, and continue to support initial efforts through the certification process. She adds, “We also will be exploring the possibilities of further ‘shared services’ models, replicating the successful WestCon pilot project that has allowed children with ASD within the local Council of Government (COG) to access P.L.A.Y. Project services that might otherwise not be available.” (*Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2010-2011 pp. 4-5.)

In the same issue ...

Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) Named DODD Partner in National Core Indicators Initiative

Administration of the National Core Indicators (NCI) individual survey in Ohio will be conducted for years four and five of the initiative by the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR). As a part of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ overall mission -- “*continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families*” – DODD already has begun to use the information gathered during years one through three of the initiative to make data-driven decisions, and to inform strategic direction. CMOR has been awarded the project each of the preceding years, following a standard Request for Proposals process. *More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx>*

In the same issue ...

Ohio Earns State Lifespan Respite Grant

Lifespan Respite is defined in the Lifespan Respite Care Act as, "coordinated systems of community-based respite for family caregivers of children or adults regardless of special need." And generally, respite is defined as, "An interval of temporary relief or rest."

Ohio will be one of six states to receive a Lifespan Respite grant, funded by the Administration on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant totals just over \$1.1 million, and will bring approximately \$200,000 to the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) as administrators of the grant. ODA will work in partnership with DODD and other system partners to fulfill the grant objectives.

In the same issue ...

DODD Housing and Capital Programs Office Update

The DODD Housing and Capital Programs Office has been in transition, reorganizing some staff functions and settling into a new consolidated location at the Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad St., Columbus. Two goals for the transition process are improving service delivery, and providing a broader range of affordable housing options. The Housing and Capital Programs Office makes available state capital assistance (bond) funds to assist local County Boards of DD in purchasing housing for individuals receiving Supported Living services, or Supported Living services funded through Home and Community Based waivers.

The over-arching goal is to provide housing options in their own communities that allow people with disabilities to be as fully integrated and independent as possible.

Troy McCollister, DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Developmental Centers, notes,

“Our office is committed to operating as a community resource that helps individuals with developmental disabilities enjoy a good quality of life in community settings.”

Pipeline, August 18, 2011

Self Advocates Take Northwest Ohio Energy to Statehouse

As the next step following a well-attended and enthusiastic *Call2Action* advocacy event earlier this year in Perrysburg, northwest Ohio’s *Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Coalition* sponsored a bus trip to the Ohio Statehouse on August 15 to learn more about how decisions are made by the legislature, and to meet with Toledo area State Representative Theresa Fedor. According to Lon Mitchell, Public Information Manager, Lucas County Board of DD, “This promised to be a new learning experience leading to an even stronger local advocacy effort for people with developmental disabilities. Based on the comments we heard on the bus going back home, that’s exactly what resulted!” The nearly 40 tour participants agreed they especially enjoyed the opportunity to sit in the House and Senate chambers, and learn more about the legislative process in its natural environment.

In the same issue ...

Office of Health Transformation Explores Coordinated Care

Ohio has submitted a proposal to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (<http://innovations.cms.gov/>) to improve care coordination for dual-eligible individuals. The proposed demonstration model is based on the idea that care coordination should serve the individual, not the system in which the individual is served. The proposal envisions one person/one point of care coordination regardless of payer, service, or setting. This is in line with the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation’s (OHT) plans to modernize Ohio’s fragmented Medicaid system, improve the quality of health services available to consumers and families, and provide the best value to taxpayers.

In the same issue ...

In Columbiana County

Doors Open at Beaver Creek Candle Company

Columbiana County’s Beaver Creek Candle Company opened the doors to a brand new facility in Lisbon, Ohio, on August 12, now housing the growing business which started in a small space in the County Board’s adjacent main building on County Home Road. The new facility spans 10,000 sq. ft., and provides additional work space and storage, as sales continue to rise. Operated by the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities, individuals receiving services from the Board hand-craft the popular candles (see them at <http://bccandle.com/>), and are involved in all facets of the business.

In the same issue ...

Expanding Choices

The Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative ‘Ramps Up’

Ohio’s direct service workforce is the foundation of the state’s long-term services and supports system. It is comprised of individuals who provide a broad range of personal care assistance,

and/or assistance with activities of daily living in a variety of home and community-based settings, hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities. In addition, direct service professionals may work with individuals served by one or more state agencies, including Ohio's departments of Aging; Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; Developmental Disabilities; Health; Mental Health; and, Job and Family Services.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) are co-leading Ohio's *Direct Service Workforce Initiative* to help identify and address the education and training, credentialing, registration, and career advancement needs of direct service workers.

In the same issue ...

Empowering Families in Fayette County.

"Treasure your relationships, not your possessions." -Anonymous

Around the state, individuals with disabilities and their families are sharing their resources, sampling new ideas, and looking for ways to help each other as well as themselves. In this spirit, the Fayette County Board of DD has formed the Behavior Support Advisory Council (BSAC), created to provide support, respite, and fellowship to families who have children with significant disability-related behavioral issues. The group was formed in 2007, and was prompted by the significant unmet need for this kind of support for Fayette County families.

A committee of BSAC participants runs the Council, and is comprised of BSAC parents. The group is facilitated by Fayette County Board employees who work together with the parents to plan programs, invite speakers, ensure childcare for meetings, and arrange fundraisers and special events. The BSAC meets twice monthly.

Pipeline, August 31, 2011

DODD Earns Three-Year Federal Grant for Autism Project

A federal grant was awarded last week to DODD for the implementation of a collaborative project for improving services for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The project, *REAL Action in Ohio*, will be completely funded by the federal grant, with \$243,092 allotted this year, and an estimated \$300,000 each of the next two years. *REAL Action in Ohio* brings together a partnership to improve information about and access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for children with ASD and other developmental disabilities, and their families. DODD Director John Martin commented,

"This is really exciting news that comes at a very critical time. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now considered one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities that can cause impairment in socialization, communication and behavior. We are very fortunate not only for the grant award, but also to have an innovative partnership of organizations and dedicated leaders to help fulfill this project, and empower Ohio's youth with Autism and their families."

Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the grant will support the Ohio project for a three-year period, beginning September 2011, and ending August 2014.

In the same issue ...

Department Goals, Reviewed and Summarized

Earlier this month, DODD Director John Martin was asked to present a system overview, as well as Department priorities and goals, to Governor Kasich and fellow members of his Cabinet. In doing so, Director Martin first acknowledged the synergistic inter-relatedness of the partner agencies within the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), as they work together toward shared goals. He noted,

“ It is clear that DODD cannot work effectively without the significant assistance of both the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ (ODJFS) Division of Medicaid, and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Their expectations for providing quality services within a network of support are so important to the individuals and families in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. ”

Director Martin’s presentation highlighted four significant work areas, and reinforced many of the goals that have been driving the Department by way of stakeholder input over the past several months. The four work areas are:

- Continuing the transition from institutional to community services.
- Making the community system more efficient and responsive to consumer needs.
- Streamlining the administration of our service delivery system.
- The development of the Department’s technology infrastructure and applications.

In the same issue ...

Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals

3. Direct Support Professionals Work Hard, Empower Others

This year, the week beginning September 11, has been designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, sponsored by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), and recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day. The designation provides an opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support Professionals play in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, as well as the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

Governor John Kasich will recognize the month with a Proclamation spotlighting the dedication and vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages. And around the state there will be many events illustrating the positive impact of DSPs within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, including the second annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition event, “*Sing! Shout! Get the Word Out!*” coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), and slated for September 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the [Xenos](#) complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus.

In the same issue ...

September is National Preparedness Month!

"A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

The theme for *National Preparedness Month 2011* encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Ready Campaign*, in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, recently announced the launch of new online tools that will make it easier for individuals and organizations throughout the nation to join the 2011 *National Preparedness Month* (NPM) coalition, and help prepare their families, businesses, and communities for emergencies of all kinds. The theme, "*A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare,*" seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans, including those with developmental disabilities, to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces, and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

In the same issue ...

September is FASD Awareness Month

Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention & Awareness

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is focused on raising awareness that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

To generate greater awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and provide information about alcohol and drug addiction treatments and recovery options, Governor John Kasich has designated September as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

- September -

Pipeline, September 14, 2011

DODD 'Division of Developmental Centers' restructures to become ...

The New Division of Residential Resources

The DODD Division of Developmental Centers is changing its name to the *Division of Residential Resources (DORR)*. This change is due to the expanded role of the Division, which will continue to operate Developmental Centers (DC's), and has added other key Department initiatives, including: Voluntary conversion of ICF/DD facilities; community and DC Capital projects; Health Policy initiatives; HOME Choice ('Money Follows the Person' grant); the Support Intensity Scale (SIS) initiative; and, Developmental Center downsizing efforts. Announcing the restructuring this month, DODD Deputy Director Ginnie 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. We feel that the Division of Residential Resources appropriately designates these efforts and identifies us as a community resource, beyond the more traditional Developmental Center-based services."

In the same issue ...

Ohio FASD Steering Committee Notes Accomplishments

As reported in [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 19](#) recognizing the lifelong, detrimental effects caused by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and the high costs associated with the effects of FASD, Governor John Kasich has declared September 2011 *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of physical, behavioral, and mental effects that can result from prenatal exposure to alcohol. Spending related to the care of persons with FASD can cost the state more than \$300 million every year.

The Governor's Resolution on *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* was presented at the annual FASD Celebration of Accomplishments, September 7, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus.

Attending on behalf of Governor Kasich was First Lady of Ohio, Karen Waldbillig Kasich, who presented the Governor's Resolution to members of the Ohio FASD Steering Committee.

Also in September, A Related Item ...

Governor John Kasich and ODADAS also have joined forces in observing September 2011 as *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month* in Ohio. In a resolution designating September as *Recovery Month* in Ohio, Governor Kasich urged all Ohioans to rally around this year's theme, 'Join the Voices of Recovery: Recovery Benefits Everyone.' "

In the same issue ...

Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals

In September, DSPs Will 'Sing, Shout, Get the Word Out!'

The week beginning Sunday, September 11, designated as *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, and sponsored by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), recognizes the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day. In Ohio there will be many events illustrating the positive impact of DSPs within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. One such event, the second annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition event, "Sing! Shout! Get the Word Out!" is coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, and is slated for tomorrow.

In the same issue ...

National Preparedness Month Honors First Responders

"A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

The theme for *National Preparedness Month 2011*

As Ohio honors the nation's First Responders during *National Preparedness Month*, an event was held at the Ohio Statehouse last Friday, September 9, in remembrance of September 11, 2001. The event included many heartfelt comments by First Responders who were in New York on that day and the difficult days and weeks that followed, as well as tributes to their service by Governor John Kasich, Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, and Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman. Several members of Ohio's developmental disabilities community attended and participated in the event, including individuals representing the Columbus Developmental Center.

Pipeline, September 28, 2011

A Look Back at DSP Recognition Week, Across the State

Recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation, the second annual statewide DSP recognition event, “*Sing, Shout, Get the Word Out – DSP’s Rock!*” was a resounding success, and motivated the nearly 400 attendees to go back to work the next day (or that same evening!) with renewed enthusiasm. Comments heard during breaks at the event included this one:

“I know I don’t get paid as much as some jobs, but I can’t think of anything better than helping the guys in our homes get out there and do the best they can. They always surprise me in what they end up being able to do – and now I’m thinking that I shouldn’t be so surprised – I should expect it, and just be proud.”

Sponsored by many agencies, organizations, and service providers from around the state, presenters included representatives of the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP); National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP); Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and others.

In the same issue ...

Pipeline Profile, Zach Haughawout

Legislative Affairs & Communications’ Key Roles

Zach Haughawout, Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications joined DODD on February 14, 2011 (See [Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 4](#)) and hit the ground running during the crunch of the 2012-2013 biennial budget preparations. Speaking with him now seven months later, *Pipeline* reports on the vision and scope of the work within this Division.

Following up on a statement made during his first week at DODD, “I look forward to meeting and working with DODD’s strong stakeholder partners to address the challenges that lie ahead,” Haughawout continues to emphasize the strength and importance of Ohio’s developmental disabilities stakeholder community in improving the overall service system. He notes,

“What strikes me most is the growing advocacy efforts of individual self advocates and the network of support groups around the state. During the DODD community forums in June, and at various conferences around the state, I have learned a great deal from meeting and talking with self advocates, their families, and other service providers. This advocacy and input is critical to improving our state’s service system.”

In the same issue ...

We Appreciate Your Input!

Take the State Employment Leadership Network Survey

DODD recently became a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) thanks to a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The SELN brings states together to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. SELN members participate in a self-assessment process designed by the Network’s Project Team, to identify the strengths and challenges of the members’ existing employment services system. As part of that

assessment, DODD is asking internal and external stakeholders to complete a short survey. (Editor's note: The survey is no longer online) Results of the survey will be shared widely within Ohio's DD community.

In the same issue ...

October is NDEAM

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Theme, "Profit by Investing in Workers With Disabilities"

The U.S. Department of Labor *Office of Disability Employment Policy* has announced that the official theme for the October 2011 observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is, "*Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities.*" The theme honors the contributions of workers with disabilities, and serves to inform the public that these individuals represent a highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in today's global economy.

Of special note, one year ago this month ...

Pipeline, September 29, 2010

Ohio Self Determination Assn. 'Celebrates the Fire Within'

The enthusiasm generated by "Celebrating the Fire Within," the theme of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference September 20-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington, definitely fired-up the nearly 300 participants in attendance during the two-day event, and may have prompted those with September's heightened sense of preparedness (it's *National Preparedness Month*) to make sure there were fire extinguishers ready to be deployed if need be... because this group was super-charged!

Not only was the conference a venue for several spirited motivational speakers, but it was the forum for a history-making process of naming the new DODD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver submitted last week for consideration by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

DODD Director John Martin invited OSDA to lead the effort to involve all 2010 OSDA conference participants in brainstorming, discussing, refining, and then voting on a name that would accurately and appropriately identify the waiver -- and be meaningful to those for whom it has been developed. That is precisely what was accomplished. Understanding the language in the proposed waiver description is important, and was part of the conference's participant education efforts. With that foundation, it was equally important to empower people and energize statewide advocacy efforts through the waiver-naming process.

Out of the 164 name ideas initially brainstormed, the list was narrowed to nine. Then, following a 'sales pitch' by self-advocates and other supporters of each of the nine ideas, a final vote was taken, yielding the selected name:

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF)



“Are you ready to make history?”

Self Advocates and support staff prepare to tell their stories as to why the waiver they name they like best should be chosen as ‘the one!’ ‘Self Empowered Life Funding’ was the final choice.

Now, back to 2011 ...

- October -

Pipeline, October 12, 2011

Focus on National Disability Employment Awareness

"Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities."

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) with a Presidential Proclamation

Focusing additional efforts on employment issues faced by individuals with developmental disabilities, DODD recently became a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) via a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The SELN brings states together to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Members participate in a self-assessment process designed by the Network, to identify the strengths and challenges of the members' existing employment services system. As part of that assessment, DODD has asked internal and external stakeholders to complete a short survey. The survey closed on October 3, and results will be reported following a review of all input.

Kerr Addresses Crowd at RSC Event

DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr spoke on the subject of the SELN relationship and other employment initiatives at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebration last week at the Ohio Statehouse, hosted by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). Kerr noted that when employers hire individuals with developmental disabilities ... “and focus on their *abilities* instead of their disabilities, long-term successful employment is often the outcome. I’ve seen it happen time and again, at retailers like Lowe’s and Walgreen’s, and I am here to tell you that we will work to grow the opportunities, and build the relationships that help to make this happen.”

Counties around the state are celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month, including official Proclamations prepared by local governments, describing the importance of these efforts. And, adding special events to the mix this month, many County Boards of DD,

employment service providers, and local business organizations are spotlighting the employees and programs that are working for them in their communities. For example, in Richland County, as part of the local observance of NDEAM, Richland Newhope Industries (RNI) will host an annual Employer Recognition Breakfast on October 26. Businesses that employ individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as those that contract with RNI, will be honored.



Richland County billboards feature Ryan (left), who works at MedCentral in Mansfield, and David (right), who currently holds four jobs! He works at the Holiday Inn (Mansfield), cleans two contracted sites, and works in subcontracting at RNI, where he was named an Employee of the Year in 2010. David says,

"It is important for everyone to earn money and learn the value of money. I have learned that customer service is very important."

On the National Scene

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded more than \$21 million in Disability Employment Initiative funding to seven states, including Ohio. The funding will be used to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults who are unemployed, under-employed, and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. The initiative is jointly funded and administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration and its Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

In the same issue ...

They're Growing More than Lettuce in Clark County

At the *TAC Enterprises* Town & Country Farms' Greenhouse ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 7th in Springfield (Clark County), Jenny Rousculp, Superintendent of the Clark County Board of DD summed up the event and the environment, saying,

"We're growing more than lettuce here! We're growing jobs – we're growing relationships."

TAC Enterprises now is a non-profit stand-alone 'day service' agency which grew out of its earlier beginnings with the Clark County Board of DD. The grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the TAC Greenhouse was the culmination of about two years of work that had its start with "a couple of conversations," leading to several partnerships and a great deal of momentum around Clark County and the surrounding area.

Town & Country Farms hydroponically (without soil) grows romaine lettuce, butterhead lettuce, and culinary herbs for local schools, chefs, and restaurants under the 'Spring Field Fresh' brand. Town & Country Farms ('the Greenhouse') was formed to create sustainable and meaningful

community-based jobs for people with disabilities, most of whom have worked at TAC Industries, the county's workshop. Through an environmentally-friendly design, the Greenhouse grows high-quality produce which is fresh, clean, and handled in a safe manner.

The Greenhouse will supply about 400 lbs. of lettuce *weekly* for Springfield City Schools' lunch program serving 6,000 students at 17 different locations. This is an expansion of a successful cooperative *pilot project* started in 2010, between TAC and Springfield Schools.

In the same issue ...

ViaQuest Honors Family Advocate, Peggy Martin

In a thoroughly well-planned 'life tribute' format, service provider ViaQuest highlighted the efforts of one of the most involved and enthusiastic Family Advocates in Ohio – DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin. As part of their annual service and recognition event at the Sheraton on Capitol Square in Columbus, ViaQuest honors an individual in the developmental disabilities field who truly has made a positive difference to many people, and surprises them with the amount of research and people they bring forward to tell that story. Last year, Bill Withrow, a.k.a. 'Gahanna Bill,' was honored as their 'person of the year' (see [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 21](#)) and this year, as the Conference Honoree, Peggy Martin equally enjoyed the spotlight.

According to ViaQuest's Director of Education Art Miller, "Peggy was appropriately honored -- and we managed a few surprises that even Peggy could not expect!" As the DODD Family Advocate for many years, and with a history of shaking up Ohio's developmental disabilities field since her daughter, Jennifer, was a toddler, Peggy Martin has pushed for what's right and natural in supporting a good life in the community. Whether it's helping families to understand Medicaid waiver services, or finding caregivers who are trained to assist an individual's unique needs, Peggy is on the job.

In the same issue ...

PAR/OSDA Meeting Shows Strength in Combination

When PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) and OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association) combined forces for a first-ever dual conference this year, the organizers could not have envisioned a better outcome than the one they realized last week. Under the theme, "*We're all in this TOGETHER*," last week's conference had a stellar list of speakers and presenters, and an equally interesting group of attendees. Approximately 600 Ohio self advocates, along with DD professionals and other advocates, were highly participatory.

Speaking to individuals during the interactive program and during breaks, and listening to vendors at the information tables in the lobby area, it was clear that the conference had accomplished what it intended. "*We're all in this TOGETHER*," fostered an environment open to sharing interests, and built on a desire to move forward individually and collectively -- helping each other be successful, and understanding that all success is relative. Overheard...

Q: "What makes a good team?"

A: "Honesty, and listening to people."

In the same issue ...

Changes to Ohio's Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) has announced that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved changes to Ohio's Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver, offering more seniors the ability to choose assisted living facilities as a long-term care setting, effective immediately. In addition, the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) has awarded Ohio a three-year, \$3 million grant to enhance and integrate care systems. Greg Moody, Director of Governor John Kasich's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), in which DODD is a partner, had this to say regarding the changes:

"We are pleased that both CMS and AoA recognize the importance of a person-centered care management approach that integrates services for physical, behavioral, long-term care and social needs. With these agencies' assistance, people who wish to stay in the community can do so, and we can continue to streamline care coordination and access to services into the future."

CMS recently approved the ODA revised guidelines for the state's Assisted Living Waiver Program, which remove a requirement that a person must have been either a resident of a nursing home for at least six months or receiving services in another Medicaid waiver program. A second change allows individuals to begin receiving assisted living services while their Medicaid eligibility is being determined.

In the same issue ...

'DODD Gateway' Website to Launch October 31

Check it out at www.dodd.ohio.gov The DODD Gateway is coming soon!

Our website at www.dodd.ohio.gov will be updated as of October 31 with an all-new look, and more online services. Some of the existing features will change, and many new features will be added to help providers, families, and County Boards as they access information on the site.

In the same issue ...

Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues, November 8th

Ballot issues on November 8 election ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community include those in the following counties:

- *Adams County:* .8 mills, renewal
- *Ashland County:* 2.1 mills, renewal
- *Ashtabula County:* .5 mills, renewal
- *Darke County:* 2 mills, renewal
- *Franklin County:* 3.5 mills, replacement
- *Mahoning County:* 2 mills, renewal
- *Morgan County:* 1.97 mills, renewal AND 1.28 mills renewal
- *Morrow County:* 1 mill, additional AND 1.25 mills, additional
- *Scioto County:* 1 mill, renewal
- *Summit County:* 4.5 mills, renewal
- *Union County:* 3.8 mills, renewal
- *Wyandot County:* 2.95 mills, renewal

Pipeline, October 26, 2011

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Focus on Disability Employment Awareness Efforts

"Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities."

Read President Barack Obama's 2011 National Disability Employment Awareness Month Proclamation
Emphasizing our commitment to improving the employment picture for *all Ohioans*, DODD Director John Martin, wrote in the Summer issue of *Pipeline Quarterly** ...

"... We look forward to being a part of the solution to the employment challenges faced by the many talented Ohioans who have developmental disabilities and are currently either unemployed or underemployed."

He went on to note that DODD has joined the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) with the goal of enhancing employment options for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, using specific strategies, and finding ways to adequately fund such efforts. Director Martin adds, "Learning from the experiences of other states, and gaining guidance from a national network such as this will be most helpful, and I am looking forward to this being a meaningful process and exchange of ideas."

A Look Around the State

Ohio's local employers and employees are recognized each year during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and reflect the uniqueness of employment options and work relationships in each county. For example, the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) was one of the Ohio counties chosen to participate in the *Employment First** initiative. According to Karl L. Ware, the agency's workshop director, "Currently, four of the seven job-seekers chosen to participate have been successful in securing employment. This is very exciting, and involves a lot of work on the part of the individuals themselves, as well as our staff, the local business community, and the TCBDD Business Advisory Committee." Agency staff are hopeful that the remaining three individuals can achieve the same success.



Photo courtesy, Lisa Parramore, Stark DD

**DODD Director John Martin, and one of five TWi 2011 Employees of the Year, Jay Blossfield (seated).
Named Employee of the Year for Stark County's Lester Higgins Adult Center, Blossfield was awarded this
recognition due to his overall great attitude and work ethic on the job every day.**

In the same issue ...

State Employment Leadership Network Team Activity

DODD and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) jointly announced in early September that Teresa Kobelt would be leading a key statewide employment initiative at DODD. Kobelt, formerly Director of Transition Services for OACB's *Bridges to Transition* program, now is leading the Department's participation in the *State Employment Leadership Network* (SELN). SELN brings together member states' Developmental Disabilities agencies to share, educate, and provide guidance on practices and policies pertaining to employment.

Kobelt has lost no time in ramping up activity in the employment arena. Four members of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) national team visited Ohio on October 12, and met with internal and external stakeholders to gather information regarding the state's developmental disability service system, specifically related to integrated employment. Discussion topics included leadership, policy, funding, outcome data, capacity development, innovation, and collaboration. Kobelt will be attending the *Alliance for Full Participation, 2011 Summit* in Washington D.C. next month, which will bring together a cross-section of people who are committed to making integrated employment a reality.

In the same issue ...

Update: Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver (SELF)

Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a Formal Request for Additional Information to DODD, asking for clarification as well as some revisions to the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Application. Following that, DODD has been working closely over the past several months with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and our stakeholders, to respond to CMS' questions and to modify the SELF waiver application accordingly.

The culmination of this work was sent to CMS on September 14, 2011, when the SELF Waiver application was then re-submitted to CMS, thereby re-starting the 90-day clock that CMS has to approve or deny a Federal waiver application.

Regarding other work on the SELF Waiver that is currently underway, DODD is in discussions with ODJFS about the proposed rates for the new services under the SELF Waiver. In addition, we have been working with ODJFS in devising the contract language for the purpose of having the current statewide Financial Management Services (FMS) entity be the FMS vendor for the SELF waiver. Within the next few months, DODD also plans to post a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a national vendor to provide Support Broker training in Ohio.

In the same issue ...

National Core Indicators Initiative, Fourth Year

DODD announced this month that the Department has contracted with the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) to conduct 'year four' of the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize 'outcomes' that

people within the developmental disabilities system desire to attain, and measures the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. The current set of performance indicators address nearly 100 individual, family, systemic, cost, and health and safety outcomes that are important to understanding the overall quality of public developmental disabilities agencies.

Using the NCI process as a measure of system performance over this now four-year period, will provide DODD with a tremendous amount of useful data that can be used to monitor the service delivery system, make policy decisions, allocate resources, and help determine where to make improvements that will better support Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.

In the same issue ...

Early Education, Development

Governor Kasich Issues Executive Order

Governor John Kasich has signed an Executive Order creating the position of Early Education and Development Officer in the Office of 21st Century Education, to ... "elevate the importance of the education of young children in the state, and seek to improve kindergarten readiness results in Ohio." The Executive Order outlines steps that must be followed:

- Define and measure kindergarten readiness, as well as develop and implement a comprehensive kindergarten readiness assessment process that determines the extent to which children entering school are ready for kindergarten.
- Break down 'silos' that exist between agencies and programs to ensure that all government support to 'high-need' children is coordinated, streamlined, and effective.
- Improve system performance by including outcome and performance measures within the statewide quality rating and improvement system.
- Ensure that all publicly-funded, licensed early learning and development providers are part of the quality rating system.
- Evaluate and implement innovative financing strategies that support high-quality services for Ohio's young children.
- Engage parents as resources in the development of state policies and programs.

In the same issue ...

'DODD Gateway' Website Sneak Peek

Launching October 31, at www.dodd.ohio.gov

The DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov will be updated October 31 with an all-new look, and more online services. On the 'DODD Gateway,' some of the existing features will change, and many new features will be added to help providers, families, and County Boards as they access information on the site.

- November -

Pipeline EXTRA, November 9, 2011

Results of the November 8 Election, County Board Levies

Results of the voting on issues in the November 8 election affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community: All levies passed, except for Morrow County's two levies.

In the same issue ...

Pipeline, November 9, 2011

National Family Caregivers Month Honors Many

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November to be *National Family Caregivers Month*, in support of family caregivers in the workplace who balance work and family caregiving responsibilities. The official Proclamation ([more](#)) states, in part, “Many of our Nation's family caregivers assist seniors and people with disabilities to help improve their quality of life. Their efforts help deliver short-term comfort and security, facilitate social engagement, and help individuals stay in their homes and communities as long as possible.” It later states,

“As we observe National Family Caregivers Month, we honor the tireless compassion of Americans who heal, comfort, and support our injured, our elders, and people with disabilities. This month and throughout the year, let the quiet perseverance of our family caregivers remind us of the decency and kindness to which we can all aspire.”

In 1994, the National Family Caregivers Association began promoting the recognition of family caregivers during the week of Thanksgiving. Then-President Clinton signed the first Presidential Proclamation in 1997, and every U.S. President since then has issued an annual Proclamation appreciating family caregivers. As interest grew in family caregiving issues, National Family Caregivers Week became National Family Caregivers *Month*.

In the same issue ...

Developmental Centers as Community Resources

Families Gather at GDC for Fall Festival & Provider Fair

More than 300 smiling faces involved in Gallipolis Developmental Center's (GDC) Fall Festival & Provider Fair told a story of success for this first-ever event, and cemented the idea in place for next year, according to Mike Fitch, GDC Superintendent. The idea behind the Festival's Provider Fair was to invite the community to the GDC campus, offering an opportunity to demonstrate the Center's emphasis on integrating residents with the community, and educating all involved regarding available community-based options and alternatives. Says Fitch,

“GDC has been here for 150 years. It is surprising how many people in the community have not been here. Activities like this Festival can open the way to awareness and understanding.”

In the same issue ...

OPRA Fall Conference Hosts More Than 700 Attendees

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference, October 25-26 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, posted record-breaking attendance with more than 700 attendees, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors. Speakers included DODD Director John Martin; Patrick Mead, senior pastor at the Churches of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO; and Greg Moody, Director, Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT). In addition, each DODD Deputy Director provided a brief overview of work currently underway.

The Conference featured a menu of educational tracks for professionals in the provider community including CEOs, COOs, Program Directors, Direct Support, and various other areas. OPRA also partnered with the Foundation for the Challenged, and the Ohio Educational Service Center Association in presenting sessions focused on juvenile offenders within the DD population. These sessions and others were offered as a result of OPRA member input.

In the same issue ...

New Online Resource – Red Treehouse Partnership

www.RedTreehouse.org

The *Red Treehouse* established its ‘roots’ in a partnership between Ronald McDonald House® (RMH) of Cleveland, Inc., and Ohio Family & Children First (OFCF) and its Family Engagement Steering Committee, with support from many state and local agencies and organizations. OFCF, founded in 1993, is a partnership of state and local government, communities, and families to enhance the well-being of Ohio’s children and families by building community capacity, coordinating systems and services, and empowering families.

At www.RedTreehouse.org , site users will find relevant information to empower families, as well as connections to support networks and community events. It is a resource for families and professionals to promote the well-being of children and young adults, prenatal to age 25.

In the same issue ...

Ohio Public Images Announces 2012 Awareness Events

Ohio Public Images, Inc.(OPI), an information and advocacy group encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 2011 ‘*Call for Entries*’ for their annual Media and Awareness Awards for the period from *December 1, 2010, through November 30, 2011*. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe.

The 2011 ‘Call for Entries’ will be posted on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012.

Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month kickoff event at the Ohio Statehouse, sponsored by OPI and DODD.

Pipeline, November 22, 2011 – Annual ‘Thanksgiving’ Issue

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.

~Cicero

Family Advisory Council Members Look Ahead to 2012

The DODD Family Advisory Council provides opportunities for families to provide input to policy makers, and offers family members a venue in which to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to people who have developmental disabilities and their families. More at:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

The November 15 meeting of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) at Columbus Developmental Center addressed members’ requests for information about many subjects -- including an update on the National Core Indicators initiative; a unique and interactive description of the steps through which a bill becomes law; a family’s story of natural inclusion in the educational/social

community known as -- high school; and, information about expanding managed care enrollment, presented by representatives from the Department of Job and Family Services.

The meeting included a presentation by Hannah Wackernagle and her Mom, Hollie, who told their story about Hannah's participation in activities at Central Crossing High School in Grove City. (See *The Columbus Dispatch*: [Leading the cheer for acceptance](#)). Once Hannah was given the opportunity to try out for and be a part of the cheerleading team, Hollie shares ...

"It was the most wonderful thing. One day after Hannah had been involved for a while with cheering, she was out there with the group at a game, kind of 'working the crowd' with the students in the stands, and mingling with everyone ... and it dawned on me that I couldn't tell which one she was. I couldn't tell Hannah from any of the other girls from where I was sitting – not by what she was doing or wearing or anything. She was a natural part of everything. It was wonderful."

In the same issue ...

Annual SIBS Conference Fosters Family Connections

About 160 people participated in the Eleventh Annual Ohio SIBS Conference at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, including several family members who attended from out-of-state to participate with their Ohio siblings. Speakers addressed current and emerging issues directly affecting conference attendees, including Life Transitions, Employment, Advocacy, Community Living, Program Funding, and Social Support. Again this year, a self-advocacy track was very popular, and prompted good conversations among family members.

In the same issue ...

Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State

Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by DODD Director John Martin

Like many Ohioans, as the air gets colder and the leaves begin to change, my mind turns to the many blessings bestowed upon myself, my family, and the developmental disabilities field. In particular, as I just returned from a national meeting, I was particularly thankful for how our system is structured. Other states without the steady flow of local levy dollars have faced more drastic cuts and service reductions than Ohio. And at the ballot box in November, I was grateful for the financial sacrifices made by the overwhelming majority of the voters in these difficult times, as more than 80% of the DD levies passed.

Ohio continues to lead the nation in the level of local support provided to individuals with disabilities and we all can feel grateful for the support the DD community shows us, as demonstrated by their votes.

So, I thank each of you for the role you play in making our system work. Whether you are a voter, a parent, a program participant, a County Board employee, or one of the hundreds of Direct Support Professionals working on Thanksgiving Day to make it a special day for someone else, may you all have a relaxing and meaningful Thanksgiving Holiday.

– John Martin

Here's one of many examples of thankfulness from around the state in this issue:
From: **The Next Chapter Book Clubs – Thankful for a Place in the Community**

Tammy Bailey, Coordinator of the *Next Chapter Book Clubs*, writes, “As coordinator of the *Next Chapter Book Clubs*, I had the pleasure of visiting the Sports Club a couple of weeks ago and I really enjoyed myself. The Sports Club is a *Next Chapter Book Club* that meets at the Target store at Easton Town Center, Columbus, on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.. My son, Adam, recently joined the Sports Club, and really looks forward to it. Gil says that the Easton Target is a friendly and welcoming site for their club. While I was visiting I saw for myself how friendly the staff and customers were.” She adds, “One customer stopped by and said,

**'This sounds like my house when my husband and sons get together
and talk sports.'**

Pipeline, December 7, 2011

In the Next Issue of Pipeline - The Year In Review SELF Waiver Update – Formal Approval Expected this Month

DODD is in the final stages of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver policy and program approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service* (CMS). With final program approval expected by mid-December, Ohioans with developmental disabilities soon will have access to a waiver that empowers individuals with authority to direct *how* and *from whom* they receive supports and services.

“We’ve been communicating with CMS pretty regularly, and are on track to receive formal written approval this month,” said Patrick Stephan, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Administration. He adds,

“This is exciting news, and we’re grateful to all the organizations and individuals who have dedicated so much time and effort toward making the self-directed waiver concept a reality for Ohioans.”

In the same issue ...

OACB Conference Spotlights Ohio’s Strengths, Leadership

At the 27th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, at the Hilton Columbus/ Easton, the three-day agenda focused on ideas and information that could help attendees find ways to do what OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments – “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 number of people attending during the three-day conference exceeded last year’s record-breaking total number of 850.

“What we are trying to do is to provide the tools for collaboration, and some initiatives to help you find ways to share services, partner with others in your communities, and look beyond what has been done before. Ohio’s DD leadership is nationally known, and growing stronger. We hope you leave here inspired and encouraged by what you experience here at this year’s Winter Conference.”

–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

DODD Director John Martin highlighted several points in his presentation under the general umbrella of ‘transformational change,’ indicating that to prepare for change is to act constructively. His observations included this comment on the fiscal outlook for 2012 ...

“Where we are in terms of dollars available is probably not going to get any better for a long time. The ‘fiscal funk’ we are in is not a temporary funk. We need to continually focus on the sustainability of programs that benefit Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, and DODD is exploring different service models to help support the needs of families most efficiently and effectively. ”

In the same issue ...

Ohio Public Images 2012 Awareness Theme Announced

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Ohio Public Images (OPI) 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 1, 2012, from 10 a.m. – noon. The “*Together*” theme has been continued for 2012, encouraging everyone to welcome people with disabilities and help them to engage more fully in their communities. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov; phone (614) 644-0262.



The event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and is expected to draw more than 400 attendees from across Ohio.



... *And Now in the 2011 Holiday Spirit*

... He puzzled three hours, 'til his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
Maybe Christmas, he thought ... doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps ... means a little bit more!
–Theodore Geisel, excerpted from, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'
<http://dearsantaclaus.biz/grinch.htm>



... The Spirit of Christmas ... From Columbus-area provider, 'All R Friends,' Youth Choral group, who performed at the Ohio Statehouse on Dec. 10th this year, and brought to The Peoples' House a great deal of holiday spirit and enthusiasm.

For more information about 'All R friends': Kathy Cook; Kathy@allrfriends.com



Photo courtesy Debbie Hawk, MVDC

In the True Spirit of the Season

George S. was happy to share with others as he accompanied Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) staff to the local Salvation Army to deliver items collected during their holiday food drive. Also at MVDC, Superintendent Ernie Fischer shares this wonderful act of kindness: "One of our staff won \$1,000 on a lottery ticket. She said she didn't need it, and wanted it to go to someone who could really benefit from it. She ended up giving the entire amount to another staff person who was struggling with several family hardships."



photo courtesy, John Trevelline, YDC

In Mahoning County- Why are the Pearl Street Mission Kitchen Crew and Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC) Staff looking so pleased with themselves?

Find out more about Developmental Centers as community resources in the next issue of *PipelineQuarterly* publishing soon!

And moving us into 2012 ... are carolers from Warrensville Developmental Center, serenading the staff... moving down the corridors, into the offices, and ending in front of the tree in the Activity Center.



Photo courtesy Terri DeShon, WDC

Now on to 2012!



PostScripts

Ohio Public Images (OPI) 'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 6, 2012

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

Click on 'Call for Entries'

Ohio Public Images awards honor individuals and organizations across Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2011. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates, elected officials, and employers who champion efforts that improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The awards will be presented on March 19, 2012, at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon. Contact: Mary Pat Riker: (419) 380-4049; MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org

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 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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