



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month And Ohio's Statewide Kickoff Event is Tomorrow!

For more information visit: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/ddawarenessmonth.htm>



Administration Update

1. 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 (check availability at <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>). The Governor's budget is due within a week of that date, on March 15, and as previous governors have used State of the State addresses to debut budget ideas, it is expected there will be some budgetary issues addressed regarding the 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 the 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. He explained at a meeting late last month,

"You will see proposals to restructure some of our programs and how they operate. We are not going to lead with a proposal to restructure the agencies. Part of the charge of the Office of Health Transformation is to recommend a permanent structure going forward. That recommendation is not going to be in the March 15 budget."

Confirmation Hearings

In other Administration news, Director Confirmation Hearings were held last week and will again be held early this month for Cabinet-level agencies under the umbrella of the Office of Health Transformation. These include the Ohio Departments of: Job and Family Services; Medicaid; Budget and Management; Developmental Disabilities; Mental Health; Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; Aging; and, Health.

**On January 13 Governor John Kasich signed an Executive Order that created the Office of Health Transformation (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. The Office's first priority is to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges.*



2. DD Awareness Month Activities Planned Across the State

We hope you will share information and a photo or two of your local activities ...
Please send information to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in one of the
March issues of Pipeline. Thank you!

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. (More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/ddawarenessmonth.htm>)

Around the Clock, Around the State

These same communities will be hosting events during March, focusing on local people, local programs, and many great examples of the 2011 DD Awareness theme, *"Together..."* The theme lends itself well to illustrations of inclusive lives, community involvement, and inter-personal engagement -- the goals, and often the realities, of many Ohioans who have developmental disabilities.

For materials supporting this year's DD Awareness Month theme, *"Together..."* visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org
Some are free!

During March we'll be seeing several great billboards around the state, including localized themes and variations on the "Together ..." concept:



Cuyahoga County displays their colorful billboards that feature local people.



Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities posts this March 2011 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month billboard in a prominent location in downtown Newark, where Lucy Heller shares her smile.



Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities shares their 'snapshot' billboard concept throughout the county. There are four similar layouts in the set. Several counties have sponsors partnering in their campaigns again this year, adding to the cost-effectiveness and 'reach' of the awareness efforts.

together in Our Community



Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities likes the film-strip look, featuring crisp, colorful photos.

Local events provide opportunities for thousands of Ohioans with and without disabilities to learn more about each other's capabilities and possibilities. Following are just a few things in the works for March:

Lake County Area - Walk Promotes Understanding

Charlie Schulz, 25, who has Down syndrome, has a busy March planned. Among other things, he and his brother help educate the community about people with developmental disabilities during the annual 'Walk in Their Shoes' event at Perry High School. Students in the Perry Service Learning program organized this second annual event to promote understanding of people with disabilities, and raise awareness about the challenges they face.

Today, from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., people from the Lake County community, including Perry, Madison, Painesville, Mentor, and Willoughby -- as well as from Cuyahoga County (Solon) -- will be lacing up their comfortable walking shoes to help spread the word that "Together ..." everyone can achieve more. And all the way from Franklin County, the remarkable Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band will be there with a flair, sharing their own special brand of musical talent and teamwork. Perry Service Learning program instructor Mark Soeder notes,

**"It's a great way to build tolerance and acceptance in our community.
We have more than 260 people registered!"**



An energetic group of walkers get ready for last year's event.

Attendees participate in various activities during the one-mile walk around the Perry High School track. This free event also will feature opportunities for Charlie Schulz and others to share their personal stories and answer questions during breakout sessions at the event.

“The opportunity to answer their questions is the best part of the event for me,” says Charlie. He and his friends hope that, ultimately, breaking down stereotypes and barriers to understanding is the outcome of events such as this, that foster an inclusive community.

Contact Mark Soeder at 440-259-9381 or soederm@perry-lake.k12.oh.us

Acknowledgements to the Willoughby News Herald, <http://www.news-herald.com/>

Licking County, People First

Members of the newest chapter of *People First of Ohio* -- Licking County -- recently addressed the County's Board members regarding their *Project STIR* training in January. Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is an advocacy training initiative of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA). LCBDD *People First* members also will be involved in the agency's annual DD Awareness Month Luncheon on March 24, and will be working on a fundraising event for April -- a "Spring Fling." Proceeds from the event will assist members in paying for registration fees for training and conference opportunities, and other future projects. For more information: Diana Shannon, at Diana.Shannon@lcountydd.org.



Shawna (left) and Sarah are two of the dynamic members of Licking County's new *People First* chapter.

Hancock County – The Gliding Stars of Findlay

The Gliding Stars of Findlay will host their tenth annual Ice Show, ‘*Time Traveling with Gliding Stars*’ on March 20 at The Cube, 3430 N. Main St. in Findlay, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Children and adults with disabilities participate in the annual ice show, which this year includes music from all of the previous shows over the past nine years. Gliding Stars is an adaptive ice skating program that uses equipment such as walkers and various skates to help individuals with special needs – “The Stars” – to perform and skate. Stars participate in weekly lessons and are paired with trained volunteers under the direction of skilled skating instructors. The program boasts 51 Stars from six surrounding counties and the Hancock County area. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance, or at the door the day of the event.

For more info: www.glidingstars.org or contact Cindy Bregel, (419) 423-4536.



More Ohio DD Awareness Month activities in the March 16th Pipeline.



3. Seifarth Receives Senate Resolution Marking Retirement

Ohio Senate President Tom Niehaus and Senator Jim Hughes presented a Resolution to DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth at a ceremony on February 23 in the Ohio Statehouse Senate Chambers. Seifarth's retirement from the position was effective March 1, 2011. The resolution stated in-part, "Members of the Senate of the 129th General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to pay tribute to Mark Evan Seifarth on his retirement as the Legislative Liaison for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities." It went on to say,...

" Mark Seifarth has shown how very much a conscientious, industrious person can accomplish, and he can be proud that his unflagging dedication to the DODD has inspired many who know him to devote themselves similarly."

The Proclamation also stated, "Commencing his career as an intern with the Legislative Services Commission in 1983, he also has served as the Executive Assistant and Legislative Aide to Senator Oliver Ocasek; acting team leader of Consumer and Legislative Affairs as well as Government Affairs Coordinator for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; and, Congressional Liaison for the National Council on Disability."



(Left) Mark receives a congratulatory handshake from a young man who spontaneously came forward following the presentation. Quipped Mark, "He's probably an up-and-coming Senate Page!"

(Right) Mark receives the Proclamation on behalf of the Ohio Senate, presented by Senator Jim Hughes.

Legislative Affairs and Communications

Following March 1, as *Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs and Communications*, Zachary Haughawout will continue the work of the Legislative Liaison position, as well as overseeing the agency Communications function (see [Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 4](#) February 16, 2011).



Annual Conference

4. Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability

The Eleventh Annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability Conference: 'From Policy to Practice'* is slated for May 4 - 5, 2011, at the Blackwell Hotel & Conference Center on The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2110 Tuttle Park Place, in Columbus.

Registration for the 2011 Multiple Perspectives conference is available at <http://ada.osu.edu>

The conference continues the exploration of disability as a reflection of the environment and the human condition as seen from the perspective of art, law, social construct, and individual experience. *Multiple Perspectives* reaches across typical divisions: education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; discipline; race; gender, and ethnicity.

"We must build a world free of unnecessary barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination ... policies must be developed, attitudes must be shaped, and buildings and organizations must be designed to ensure that everyone has a chance to get the education they need and live independently as full citizens in their communities." - Barack Obama, April 11, 2008

Conference presentations will provide an opportunity for participants to step back from daily demands, and reflect on tools and strategies needed to transform a commitment to justice and excellence in providing a future promising full access.

Conference Highlights

Conference presentations will provide an opportunity for participants to step back from the daily demands, and reflect on tools and strategies needed to transform a commitment to justice and excellence in providing a future promising full access for all citizens. Highlights include:

- The Ken Campbell Memorial Lecture -- Daniel F. Goldstein, Esq., May 4, 2011
- Ethel Louise Armstrong Memorial Lecture, and President's and Provost's Diversity Lecture Series
- FLAME (free concert) Performance, May 4, 2011;
- More than 30 informational sessions;
- Public hearings on access to instructional media; and,
- Training in the ADA design standards for professionals.

People traveling to Columbus for *Multiple Perspectives* may wish to consider arriving a day early to attend the May 3rd [National Conference on Diversity, Race & Learning](#). Sponsored by The Ohio State University Office of Diversity & Inclusion, it will include:

- The Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Post Secondary Education, Meeting & Public Forum – May 3-4, 2011; and,
- Accessible Digital Rights Management Conference (A-DRM2) – May 3, 2011.

*For more information, visit <http://ada.osu.edu>
Contact: Scott Lissner at (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty)*



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

5. DD Council Seeks Applicants for Membership

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking applicants for membership terms to be appointed by Governor John Kasich beginning in October 2011 and ending September 30, 2014. Council membership for the three-year terms must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Openings this year are for the following categories:

- One individual with a developmental disability; and,
- One immediate relative or guardian of an adult with a mentally impairing developmental disability who cannot advocate for himself/herself.

All candidates for DD Council membership should have experience serving on committees, boards, or organizations. Experience concerning persons with developmental disabilities would be especially relevant. Applicants should have first-hand knowledge about the developmental disabilities community in Ohio.

According to DD Council staff, it is especially important that applicants have the time to attend six meetings per year, and actively serve on at least two committees. Each meeting of Council occurs over a two-day period.

Serving as a member of DD Council provides the opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with state and federal policymakers, state and local service providers, and individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members.



The DD Council advocates to improve the system of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and it conducts grant activities for the same purpose.

Application packets are available directly from the DD Council office (see below) or you may download the application at www.ddc.ohio.gov.

Applications due by May 31, 2011

Ohio DD Council
899 East Broad Street, Suite 203,
Columbus, Ohio 43205
(614) 466-5205 or toll-free (800) 766-7426
email contact: Carla.Sykes@dodd.ohio.gov



Coming in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on
Winter 2010-2011



Mercer County P.L.A.Y. Project participant, Emmet, knows how to make the most of his time with Colleen Zunk, Home Consultant. P.L.A.Y. time is learning time for Emmet and his family.

Pipeline PostScripts

APSI REQUESTS NOMINATIONS FOR RON KOZLOWSKI ADVOCACY AWARD

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

APSI is accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through March 31.
Access the nomination form at www.apsiohio.org

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

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OHIO SELF DETERMINATION ASSOCIATION, CENTRAL REGION MEETING

March 9, 2011

Speaker topic - SELF Waiver

10:30 to 12:00 (ish) lunch will follow

Location - NEW!

At the Event Center of LifeCare Alliance, 670 Harmon Ave., Columbus, OH 43223
Conveniently located near the intersection of I-71S and I-70 – 5 minutes off the freeway!

Details at <http://www.ohiosda.org/>

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SOUTHWEST REGION OF PATHS OFFERS ADVANCED TRAINING

The Southwest Region of PATHS – Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services – is starting a new series of classes to prepare direct service staff to earn a Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP). Classes begin April 6, and will be held at the St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati. The classes are open to all PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) graduates who are interested in earning the more advanced CAP credential. Link at www.ohiopaths.org/Courses.html and open 'Southwest Region CAP' schedule.



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PEOPLE FIRST OF OHIO, CONFERENCE – MARCH 17-19

The *People First of Ohio* Conference, "Cruising Into Employment," is coming up on March 17 - 19, at Robert's Convention Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. Self advocates plan the conference and often lead the sessions – this year focusing on topics to help others gain employment. The Shelby County chapter of *People First* is the conference host. SSA's, County Board staff, providers and other professionals, families, and self advocates are encouraged to attend. Topics include how to write a resume, Medicaid Buy-In, and more. CEU's will be awarded for trainings. Registration materials available via U.S. Mail and on the *People First* website at www.peoplefirstohio.org, or call (740) 397-6100.

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GCPD SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ADVOCACY AWARD

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities *Advocacy Award* (sponsored by the Health and Welfare Committee) will recognize a person (or group) who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to people with disabilities. It is an annual award that will be presented at an Awards Ceremony on August 18, 2011. For details and nomination information:

gcpd.ohio.gov/AdvocacyAward.asp. Award nominations must be received by May 27.

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LEADERSHIP FORUM

OHIO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will host the 12th Annual Ohio Youth Leadership Forum in Columbus, July 18-21, at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel.

All interested high school juniors and seniors who have a disability are encouraged to apply to attend this exciting, interesting, and empowering forum. Student application forms, available at www.gcpd.ohio.gov, must be completed and returned no later than March 25, 2011.

The Ohio Youth Leadership Forum is a four-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities, geared to prepare them to make the most of opportunities to fully develop as constructive, contributing citizens.

For more information, visit the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities website at www.gcpd.ohio.gov (click on YLF), or contact Donna Foster, Ability Advocate, at (614) 438-1394.

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Coming in April

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY – APRIL 14

The 2011 Legislative Advocacy Day is slated for April 14, 2011 at the Ohio Statehouse. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network, the event will include a brief program followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network consists of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council'), Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and at the University of Cincinnati.

Registration for the event is encouraged, at www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration. As this is a sponsored event, there is no registration fee.

Self advocates, families, and professionals in the developmental disabilities community are encouraged to come together and talk with legislators about why home and community-based services are important to people with disabilities as the state shapes the biennial budget. Advocates are urged to tell their stories, as well as to share ideas and suggestions for increasing revenue. Event planners note that Legislative Advocacy Day is an opportunity to make a difference.

Contact Carmen Shelton, (740) 505-8337 or email c_shelton@ameritech.net.

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Also in April

SOLIDARITY 2011!

Mark your calendar for April 26-28 to attend one of Ohio's leading conferences for and by people with disabilities -- *Solidarity!* -- at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street. Registration materials are now available at www.dnos.org and via U.S. Mail. The conference will include employment information, a job fair, a visit to the Statehouse, and more. A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact: *Solidarity 2011* at (800) 863-0344; email: DNOS@the-meeting-connection.com.

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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The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**



**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**