

# *Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .*

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities\*  
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

*Pipeline* is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at  
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\*This is the last issue of *Pipeline* under the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities name. Beginning with the October 14 issue, it will be published under the new Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities name.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities), and DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009**  
**Volume 3, Issue 20**

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## October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

### **1. First Lady Frances Strickland to Lead Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration, October 8th**

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland will lead Ohio's celebration of *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday, October 8, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (in case of rain: Statehouse Atrium). The event is free and open to the public. The theme for this year's celebration is,

**"Ohio Workers with Disabilities: Diverse, Reliable, Good for Business."**

The celebration, sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, will include recognition of several American Recovery & Reinvestment Act stimulus projects, and local Pathways Partners that are working to strengthen Ohio's statewide network of disability employment services.

RSC is the state agency charged with helping Ohioans with disabilities obtain jobs, and helping businesses recruit and retain these workers. The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is a 21-member council that advises the Governor and General Assembly on disability issues.

Featured during the event will be:

- Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland, *Keynote speaker*

- RSC Administrator, Michael Rench
- School for the Deaf, 'signing' the Pledge of Allegiance
- Ohio workers with disabilities and their employers
- Display featuring assistive technology
- Artwork from the Hattie Larlham Creative Arts School, Akron Ohio



**National Disability Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the diverse talents that employees with disabilities bring to the workforce.**

For more information about the event, contact Brenda Rhodes at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, (800) 282-4536 ext. #1475, or visit their website at [www.rsc.state.oh.us](http://www.rsc.state.oh.us).

### History

Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the (now former) President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the law. Congress changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" in 1988. The responsibility for leading the nationwide recognition was transferred to the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in 2001.

### Related Information

ODEP and the U.S. Employment and Training Administration have issued a *Training and Employment Notice* and disseminated a *White Paper* and *Toolkit* which focus on Expanding Apprenticeship Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities. Visit ODEP's new [Apprenticeship](#) page, where you will find links to the *Training and Employment Notice*, the *White Paper*, the *Toolkit* and a press release announcing the cooperative agreement awards.

**Free Disability Employment Awareness Month Posters at:**  
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/ndeam2009poster.htm>



## 2. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Series Begins in October

*Simplify the Waiver System ... Plan for Fiscal Sustainability ... Plant the Seeds of a Positive Culture ...* What are the priorities and plans for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, as we move -- with our new name -- into 2010-2011?

Following completion of the biennial budget process earlier this summer, we developed a framework to impact priority issues needing to be addressed, and in compliance with budgetary constraints. This priority Work Plan has been developed and will be discussed with various stakeholders throughout Ohio's developmental disability community. It is designed to improve supports and services, while streamlining the overall system.

Some priority areas contained in the Work Plan have developed through the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee, and represent work that is ongoing, while other priority areas have developed via specific stakeholder feedback, or budgetary constraints. Priority issues include simplification of the waiver services system, a plan for fiscal sustainability, and creating a statewide environment that fosters the tenets of the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#).

Beginning in October, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will publish a series of articles in *Pipeline* that will highlight our top priority areas. The Work Plan is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. We look forward to sharing this information with you!

[Look for The 2010-2011 Work Plan, beginning in October, in Pipeline.](#)



### **3. Grants Totaling \$6.7 Million to Provide Employment and Training Opportunities via Urban Youth Works Grants**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will use \$6.7 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to provide employment and training opportunities to Ohio's urban youth through Urban Youth Works grants to 16 organizations -- including the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (new name is grant-funded entity).

ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin stated, "These funds will provide assistance to a vulnerable sector of our society and give these youth an opportunity to take a new, positive direction in their lives. I am grateful to the Obama administration and members of Congress who advocated for the stimulus bill and these resources."

The various programs funded by the grants will target youth who may be:

- Disengaged from the educational system
- In or 'aging out of' the foster care system
- Affected by having developmental disabilities
- Migrant youth
- Homeless and/or runaway youth
- Youth offenders
- Children of incarcerated parents

These groups have been targeted due to histories of high unemployment. Youth ages 16-24 and living at or below 200% of the poverty level are eligible to participate.

**Each of the programs funded will remove barriers to youth employment by offering services such as career counseling, skill assessment, job readiness preparation, education, training, and job search assistance. More than 1500 youth are expected to benefit from these services.**

As an example, the 'Internships that Work Initiative' will provide funds for youth with disabilities, youthful offenders with disabilities, and disengaged youth, to receive short term on-the-job training internships from community employers in the Dayton and Toledo areas. The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) initiative will build upon work funded by the Medicaid

Infrastructure Grant (funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), with which the DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) are currently partnering to improve outcomes for young people with disabilities.

**These initiatives also further the implementation of the Futures Committee recommendations to create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.**

Grant awards, ranging from \$168,000 to \$500,000 will be made to the following organizations: Alvis House (Columbus); Berea Children's Home (Berea); Cleveland Christian Home (Cleveland); the Easter Seals Resource Center (Cincinnati); Flying High, Inc. (Youngstown); Harbor, Inc. (Toledo); Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (Cleveland); Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation (Columbus); Project Rebuild Community Vocational High School (Cincinnati); The Employment Source (Canton); Workforce Investment Board of Lucas County (Toledo); Urban League of Greater Cincinnati (Cincinnati); *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (Columbus)*; Towards Employment, Inc. (Cleveland); Unified Health Solutions (Dayton); and Zeigler Habilitation Homes, Inc. (Toledo).

**Funding will be distributed in October, to launch services to youth through December 31, 2010.**



#### **4. Family Advisory Council Weighs-In on Family Care Service, Individual Option Waiver, and More**

The September 22 meeting of the ODMRDD Family Advisory Council (FAC) initiated a new meeting site, as well as welcomed several new individuals and families from across the state. In fact, 27 counties were represented at the meeting held at the new Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) location, 470 Glenmont Ave. in Columbus, which provided a larger meeting room (gymnasium) and ample accessible parking. This now will be 'home' for FAC meetings, as the space at Columbus Developmental Center was becoming too cramped for the growing number of meeting attendees.

Meeting planner and Family Advocate Peggy Martin noted, "There were nearly 100 people at this meeting, and the OCALI location worked out very well in terms of accommodating the growing participation in this group – we are grateful to OCALI for their support in offering this location to us." She added,

**"With 27 counties represented, we are excited about the 'statewideness' of participation."**



Morning agenda items included ODMRDD Director John Martin's 'family chat' session, and a spirited discussion regarding options under consideration for Family Care Service and the

Individual Options Waiver. Patrick Stephan, Medicaid Development and Administration Deputy Director, also shared material in the early discussion phase regarding Medicaid initiatives in the context of overall planning, for review by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at the end of the calendar year. He stated,

**“There are a number of things we are considering in the interest of finding creative ways to share costs and services, and to assure comparable services, statewide.”**

The afternoon agenda included helpful information from Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) representative, Karla Rinto, and from Ohio Legal Rights staff on the subject of Family Support Issues.

*For more information about the Family Advisory Council, visit the Department’s website at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm> or contact Peggy Martin at [peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us](mailto:peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us); or by phone at (614) 466-8706.*

**The next meeting of the Family Advisory Council will be November 17, at the new OCAI location, 470 Glenmont Avenue, Columbus.**



## **5. Ohio Partners in Policymaking Annual Meeting Oct. 9-10**

The Fifth Annual *Ohio Partners in Policymaking* (PIP) meeting will be held at the *Hyatt on Capitol Square* in Columbus, October 9 – 10. The theme is,

**Charting a Course for Leadership: Discovering hidden links and new relationships.**

The gathering’s overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates.

Partners in Policymaking is an internationally recognized leadership program that prepares parents, other family members, and adults with developmental disabilities to advocate effectively and knowledgeably with policy and decision makers on the local, state and national levels. These advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members in the forefront of public policy decisions.

**Graduates learn to ‘partner with policymakers.’**

Keynote speakers will be Bryon Murray -- self-advocate from Utah, owner of his own consulting company, and author of *“Putting the Puzzle Together: The Bryon Murray Story,”* and Michael Flannery -- a former stand-up comedian from Cincinnati, TV reporter and news anchor at WCPO-TV, and currently the Information Officer for Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries.

In 2007, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council recognized the need to coordinate this growing group of more than 150 PIP graduates, and build on their expertise. They established the role of Statewide Coordinator to locate past graduates, create a networking contact system, energize and facilitate their advocacy activities, and coordinate the Annual meeting. Essie Pederson and Linda Kunick are Ohio’s Statewide Coordinators.



Scenes from last year's Partners in Policymaking gathering.

For more information about Partners in Policymaking or the Annual Gathering, contact Essie Pederson, [epederson@cinci.rr.com](mailto:epederson@cinci.rr.com) or Linda Kunick, [lkunick@rhcorp.org](mailto:lkunick@rhcorp.org).

### PIP Training Opportunity – Imagine the Possibilities

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2010. The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities, and for parents of children who are under age 12 and have a disability. The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets are available online at [http://www.cmr-cleveland.org/Partners\\_In\\_Policymaking.htm](http://www.cmr-cleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm), by calling Partners in Policymaking at (216) 622-0755, ext. 14, or email [efakan@thearcofgreatercleveland.org](mailto:efakan@thearcofgreatercleveland.org) for more information.



## Looking Back at National Direct Support Professionals Week

### 6. Ohio's Direct Support Professionals in the Spotlight

As noted in previous issues of *Pipeline*, the week of September 14th was *National Direct Support Professionals Week* -- recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in communities throughout the nation and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages. At our ten state-operated Developmental Centers, the spirit of appreciation was shown in a variety of ways -- a few of which are shared here:





**Columbus Developmental Center Direct Care Professionals Honored at September Event.**  
(l. to r.) Rob Capaldi, Naomi Bankes, Katie Kraner, Bill Bone, and Nicki Cross hugging Patty Johnson.

Years of Service pins were presented to staff earning five, ten, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service as well as to retiring employees. Chrysanthemum plants and mugs for certain years of service and retirees are purchased courtesy of fundraisers and not with state funds.  
*Thanks to Katie Kraner at CDC, for the submitted photo.*

Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) staff were recognized for years of service during a September 'Community Care Day' event at the site's outdoor shelter house. Ice cream sundaes and cake topped off the event, also attended by CDC residents who applauded enthusiastically for their favorite staff members. Judging from the sound of it, everyone was their favorite! Thanks to all who made this a special event for Direct Support Professionals and other staff.

### **Gallipolis Developmental Center**

Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) celebrated Direct Support Professionals Week by providing snack baskets to each work area for employees on all three work-shifts. Snacks were provided by the Employee Recognition Committee. Baskets included an assortment of fruit, crackers, cookies, chips, and other treats, as well as soda, water, and juice. Each employee also received a thank you note recognizing them for their efforts and dedication in providing residents with quality care and support. Brenda Mershon at GDC noted, "Our direct care employees were appreciative and happy to receive a free snack to see them through the day. A little 'thank you' goes a long way!"

### **Montgomery Developmental Center**

In recognition of National Direct Service Professionals Week, executive staff at Montgomery Developmental Center distributed cookies to all Therapeutic Program Workers (TPWs) in their residential locations, on each shift. Each TPW also was presented with a homemade 'Thank You' card, designed by the residents at the Center. (See below)



**Thanks to all Direct Support Professionals throughout Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community.**



## 7. DD Council Conference to Focus on Healthcare Reform

People with disabilities, their families, advocates, and others will learn about health care reform, both nationally and in Ohio, and how to advocate for better health services, at the Annual Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Conference on October 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Columbus.

### Why is Health Care Reform So Important for People with Disabilities?

People with disabilities have a big stake in the current debate to make quality, affordable health care available for all. Major health care reform must address the needs of the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities, including such issues as:

- Pre-existing conditions
- Affordability
- Portability
- Preventive Services
- Cost caps
- Long-term care

**People with disabilities have unique experiences that qualify them to speak about chronic conditions, and the inefficiencies and exclusions of the current health care system. Conference attendees, including people with disabilities and advocates, should bring solutions to the table that strengthen health care efforts for all.**

Co-hosts for the Annual DD Council Conference are the Nisonger Center, The Ohio State University, Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Cincinnati. Registration information is available from the Axis Center at [axiscenter@aol.co](mailto:axiscenter@aol.co). Registration for the conference is \$35, and includes lunch.

*For more information, contact: Mary Smithson [msmithson@wowway.com](mailto:msmithson@wowway.com)*



## Pipeline PostScripts

**Note:** Many events are listed at the ODMRDD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at [https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS\\_View.aspx](https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx)

### 1. Information Session for Domestic Violence and Disability Service Providers

On Monday, November 2, a brown bag lunchtime (noon – 1:30 p.m.) information session for domestic violence and disability service providers will be hosted at the Old Worthington Library, 820 N. High Street in Worthington, focusing on a subject that, according to one co-convener, “Does not get discussed very often, and needs to be addressed.”

**Attendees will learn more about and discuss issues surrounding the vulnerability of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities – especially concerning people who may try to take advantage of their vulnerability.**



According to Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, 'This is a subject we need to talk about. People who have learned to be compliant to get what they want or need can be more easily manipulated and taken advantage of – might not know it's OK and necessary to not be compliant in certain situations, or to report certain behaviors that are directed to them. It's a health and safety issue to be sure.'

The session also will address caregiver abuse – a subject some providers may feel uncomfortable addressing or acknowledging – yet it exists, and being educated helps reduce the risk.

Participating in the information session will be representatives from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio, and others.

*RSVP by 10/29/09 (10/25/09 for interpreting service.)*

*Phone 614 825-0551, Toll Free 888 622-9315, [actionohio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:actionohio@sbcglobal.net)*



## **2. PAR – Professionals, Advocates, Resources: Annual Conference Oct. 14-16**

PAR has updated their acronym to mean 'Professionals, Advocates, Resources,' and is pleased to announce the theme for the 41st Annual PAR Convention, October 14-16, at Embassy Suites, in Dublin ...

**It's a Jungle Out There: Get the Tools You Need to Survive**

Keynote Speaker will be Bob Nelson – 'On A Mission to Motivate.' Breakout sessions will include subjects such as: DD Clients in the Court System; Private and Public Day Habs; Monitoring Individual Finances; Community Employment; Medication Administration; Self-Determination; Guardianship; How To Be Safe; Prescription Medications, and much more! Professionals can earn up to 19 credit hours.

**PLUS: Silent auction, vendors, artist showcase, and awards luncheon!**

*Information and registration at [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org) , PAR Office 419-522-6207*



## **3. Reminder: Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online**

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) event information is now available at [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com). The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or [fish1@osu.edu](mailto:fish1@osu.edu) .



## **4. Editor's Note: Terminology**

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental

disabilities, and usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. In the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in some publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



**ODMRDD 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-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

***Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...***

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**After October 5, 2009**

