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Volume 4, Issue 26

In This Issue ...

- 1. Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) Names Karla Rinto Executive Director
- 2. Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Brenda Benson Retires
- 3. *Special Feature: 2010 – The Year in Review, Month to Month*

First, A Wish for Safe & Happy Holidays

... From 'All R Friends' Youth Choral group, who performed at the Ohio Statehouse on Dec. 10, and brought to The Peoples' House a great deal of holiday spirit and enthusiasm.

To view, click on this: [12-10-2010 : All R Friends Young Adult Choir](#)



The 'All R Friends' females belt out a Holiday song, and are then joined by the 'All R Friends' males, who do the same, while bringing along several colorful musical instruments.

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

Announcement from Advocacy and Protective Services Inc.

1. APSI Names Karla Rinto Executive Director

Karla Rinto has been named Executive Director of Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), effective January 1, 2011. APSI is a private, non-profit agency that contracts with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide guardianship and protective services to individuals age 18 or older. Rinto has most recently served as the agency's Acting Executive

Director, following the retirement earlier in 2010 of Ron Kozlowski, who retired from the post after 24 years of service.

As Executive Director, Rinto will oversee ten regional offices throughout the state and a Central Office in Columbus, where she will be located (see <http://www.apsiohio.org/ao/>.) The independent organization has long advocated for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Rinto's entire professional career has been in the Developmental Disabilities field, beginning in 1982. She had served as Program Director at APSI for twelve years, as well as serving as Project Director for the Self Determination grant, "Removing the Mask" through the Ohio DD Planning Council. In addition, Rinto has more than 15 years of experience with three County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.



Karla Rinto

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio State University, and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Dayton. She comments,

"I am honored to lead APSI. I believe strongly in our Mission and look forward to working with our staff, our Board and our DD system partners on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities."

Nevalyn Frische-Nevel, APSI Board President and long-time advocate, notes,

"During Karla's term as Acting Executive Director, she has proven to be an outstanding leader. She has focused on increasing efficiency and developing collaborative relationships that will prepare APSI for future challenges. On behalf of the Board, I am delighted that Karla has accepted the position of Executive Director, effective January 1st."

Approximately 4600 individuals are represented by APSI. The agency is appointed guardian by the Probate Court throughout Ohio. APSI utilizes the 'Best Interest' Standard in decision making for individuals served. APSI Program staff act on behalf of the agency to provide informed consent, and to advocate for appropriate services and supports.

Scioto County Board of DD & SOCOG Announce...

2. Brenda Benson Retires as Superintendent in Scioto Co.

Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Brenda Benson is retiring at the end of December, following 30 years of service with the agency. During her career, Brenda has held numerous positions, including Early Intervention Specialist, Special Project Coordinator, Director of the Early Childhood program at Carousel Center, Principal of Vern Riffe School, and ultimately, Superintendent of the Scioto County Board for the past five years. A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, Brenda has said that she knew at age 16 that she wanted to work in the area of serving people who have developmental disabilities.

An excerpt from an SCBDD Board of Directors' honorary Proclamation adds more insight into Brenda's career:

" Whereas, since taking up the challenging role of superintendent, she has privatized transportation, initiated a fiscally responsible health insurance, redesigned employee compensation, and weathered other thorny issues;

Therefore Be It Proclaimed, that the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby honors Mrs. Brenda Lee Benson for her years of sacrifice and devoted service, commends her for her generous heart and brave leadership, and wishes her a future full of success and joy."

Taking a step in a new direction after 30 years, Brenda notes that she plans to pursue a career as a stained glass artist. And, as her love of working with individuals who have developmental disabilities has never diminished, her staff says she promises to return as a volunteer.



30 Years of Service to Scioto County individuals with disabilities...

Brenda Benson, Superintendent of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, receives a plaque from Kyle Lewis, Superintendent of the Clinton County Board of DD, and President of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments' Board (SOCOG), in recognition of her membership on SOCOG and her service to people with developmental disabilities.



3. Special Feature

2010 Year in Review

The *2010 Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals and key issues within the state's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD – including the Department's ten Priority Work Areas. Here, we take a look at the progress and challenges that have marked 2010 via *shortened versions of selected articles*, representing each month. The complete version of each issue is archived at www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm

- January -

Pipeline, January 6, 2010

Open Letter From Director Martin – On Optimism

So what might the New Year bring and why am I optimistic? My optimism comes not from knowing something about the economy no one else knows. It is not that I expect that we will not experience tremendous challenges in the coming year, or that our work will be easy. Rather, my optimism comes from observations of behavior, and reflections on some reading I have been doing. Let me explain.

I always use some of the time between Christmas and New Year's to do a couple of things such as clean my office (completed), step off the treadmill, and reflect a bit. I have been reading *The Fifth Discipline* by Peter Senge, and also some work Daniel H. Kim has done based on the writings of Senge and others. Kim states what he calls the 'Reinforcing Engine of Success:'

"As the quality of relationships rises, the quality of thinking improves, leading to an increase in the quality of actions and results. Achieving high-quality results has a positive effect on the quality of relationships, creating a reinforcing engine of success."

Let me cite a couple of examples of what I mean when I say that I am optimistic.

- Over the past few months, we have been working with a group of system leaders on the sustainability of our waiver system. Thirteen of us grappled with complex information and meaningful issues, meeting many hours over four days. Despite significant diversity of opinion, frank discussions occurred with mutual respect demonstrated by listening and respectfully challenging ideas. The quality of the group's thinking, from my observation, was some of the best I have seen where such diversity of opinions existed. Direction came from those meetings (yet to be tested with the broader community) that, with patience, will lead to quality actions and good results in the coming months and years.
- On one of my recent outings to escape the confines of the Rhodes State Office Tower, I had the opportunity to listen to a story of a direct service provider who had just completed the PATHS training program. She talked about how a project she completed as a part of her training had deepened the quality of her relationship with the individual she serves, and the positive outcomes that had resulted -- both in her life, as well as that of the individual. If you take the time to listen to persons who have completed PATHS

training ... or listen to someone involved in the Positive Culture Initiative, you will hear many exciting personal examples of the 'reinforcing engine of success.'

... So, as we enter a new year and new decade, my optimism comes from knowing the power of positive relationships and knowing the quality of thinking that is apparent at all levels in our collaborative stakeholder community. Blessings to each of you as you, too, perhaps have had the opportunity to step off the treadmill to reflect, and enjoy family and friends over the holiday season – and maybe clean up your office. -*Respectfully, John Martin*

Pipeline, January 20, 2010

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority 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. Here is the fourth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

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 the cost of those services. *The County Collaborative* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress', in partnership with 'Region V' Superintendents. Within this region, the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) Council of Government includes the following 18 counties: Knox, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Noble, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson, Harrison, and Carroll.

Region V leadership will deploy the resources of their Council of Government (MEORC) as a vehicle for coordination and support for the County Collaborative. During the biennial budget process, the DODD identified resource-sharing within targeted geographic groups as an important element in providing future service options and allowing County Boards and other service providers to serve people within a network -- rather than a set of individual entities in which service eligibility and availability could vary.

The scope and goals of the County Collaborative Project are in development during 2010, for implementation in 2011.

In the same issue ...

WE GO to Work' Grants Fund Opportunities, Statewide

The DODD announced in the summer of 2009 that funds were available to implement creative, competitive solutions to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities. These funds were made available through Ohio's 2009-10 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to address employment for people with disabilities.

Following a Request for Proposals, the DODD selected 17 'Work Exploration Grant Opportunities' (*WE GO to Work* proposals) to receive funding via the \$500,000 grant which began January 1, 2010. Funded activities include: demonstration, training, advocacy, and research, and will demonstrate successful alternatives to traditional employment services.

For a listing of the 17 projects, visit www.dodd.ohio.gov, search "WE GO to Work Projects."

- February -

Pipeline, February 3, 2010

View Governor Ted Strickland's 'State of the State' Address,

given January 26, 2010, at <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

Part V in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Priority Work Involving Ohio's Ten Developmental Centers

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 the cost of those services. *Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement with Ohio's ten Developmental Centers* is one of the ten priority areas, and already has seen demonstrated progress during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010).

The two basic strategies that are driving this work are reducing the number of residents ('census') at the Developmental Centers by at least 194 people over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, and expanding community access to all of Ohio's Developmental Center facilities and staff by sharing technical assistance and expertise. Developmental Centers participating in the census reduction include Columbus, Gallipolis, Mount Vernon, Northwest Ohio, Tiffin, and Warrensville.

There has been demonstrated progress on the census reduction during the first six months of FY 2010 (July – December 2009), with 51 individuals moving to other community-based residential settings and receiving 'follow-along' services. This follow-up activity assists in the transition for individuals and their families or other caregivers, and is provided for approximately one year following a move. Follow-up activity may identify issues that are impeding success for an individual, and allow for appropriate interventions. It also may provide useful information on which to more effectively base future decisions.

Almost exactly a year ago, DODD Director John Martin toured the state in alliance with various stakeholder organizations, hosting a series of community forums around Ohio, to openly and plainly discuss budget constraints. He asked individuals, families, and service providers to share their thoughts about ways to maximize available financial and other resources while maintaining quality services. Director Martin notes,

"One of the issues that surfaced as a priority in the minds of many of the people we spoke with was the need for Developmental Centers to be places where specialized populations could be served, because they have structure and they have resources. This was excellent feedback, and we needed to hear how people around the state valued our DCs, and hear their ideas about the role DCs can play in supporting needs within their local communities. "

In the same issue ...

PATHS Winds Its Way to the North Central Region

PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Continuing the statewide path to enriched opportunities in the direct service field, the North Central Region's first PATHS graduation was celebrated recently by the region known as 'Clearwater COG' (Council of Government), where 14 candidates graduated with a Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

According to Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations, "The candidates that graduated -- along with the skill mentors, instructors and council members -- made the first class very successful. We are very excited to have PATHS in our Clearwater COG region!"

The North Central Region includes the counties of Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot. These nine counties form the Clearwater COG.

Pipeline, February 17, 2010

Public Hearing, Home and Community Based Services Waivers

In the interest of keeping Pipeline readers in the loop on administrative matters, we provide this notice, and refer you to our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/rules.htm>

Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hereby gives notice of its intent to rescind and adopt the following rules of the Administrative Code on a permanent basis on or about May 20, 2010, and to conduct a public hearing thereon. A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held on March 19, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until all persons in attendance have had an opportunity to testify. The hearing will be held in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration:

Rule 5123:2-9-06 (Rescind) titled "HCBS Waivers - Waiver Reimbursement Methodology" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number. The rule has been revised to support implementation of the new Cost Projection Tool. The Cost Projection Tool is a web-based analytical tool, developed and administered by DODD, used to project the cost of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) identified in the individual service plans of individuals enrolled on the Individual Options and Level One HCBS waivers.

Rule 5123:2-13-07 (Rescind) titled "Individual Options Waiver - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Congregate Settings Where Individuals Share Services" is proposed for rescission and replacement by new rule 5123:2-9-31 (described below).

Rule 5123:2-9-31 (New) titled "HCBS Waivers - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Sites Where Individuals Enrolled on the Individual Options Waiver Share Services" is a new rule proposed to replace rule 5123:2-13-07. The purpose of the proposed new rule is to establish the payment process for Homemaker/Personal Care when individuals share the services of the same provider at the same site as part of the HCBS Individual Options waiver. The rule establishes a daily billing unit for individuals/sites that qualify, which shall be used instead of the fifteen-minute billing unit established in rule 5123:2-9-06 of the Administrative Code. DODD is

developing a new rule so that the rule is renumbered to Chapter 5123:2-9; it is DODD's intent that eventually all DODD rules related to HCBS waivers shall reside in Chapter 5123:2-9.

Streamlining rules is in line with the Department's Ten Priority Work Areas, which include developing a plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

- March - March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Pipeline, March 3, 2010

Hundreds To Attend Kickoff Event for Statewide Celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

An estimated 300 individuals, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community are expected to participate in the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, tomorrow, March 4, 2010, from 10 a.m. - noon. As in years past, the Statehouse Atrium area will welcome people from all across the state – traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties.

Each year the DODD hosts the event, in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards -- and we greatly appreciate their collective support, as well as that of several additional stakeholders who will be on-hand staffing information and outreach tables. This year's program will recognize and celebrate many positive efforts throughout Ohio that afford opportunities for people with disabilities to work, learn, and live successfully in their local communities. The celebration continues the statewide 'awareness' theme well-received in 2009, "*Just Like You*," reinforcing the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just as everyone else does.

In the same issue ...

Part VI in a Series: 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Simplifying and Containing Costs of DODD-Administered Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

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 the cost of those services. (See dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm) *Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress.'

In conjunction with this priority work, a Fiscal Plan for Home and Community-Based Waiver Services was completed and submitted on December 31, 2009, to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 337.30.40 of

Amended Substitute House Bill 1 of the 128th General Assembly. Implementation of one recommendation in this Plan (to harness efficiencies of the new Cost Projection Tool) requires amendments to DODD's administrative rules, a hearing for which is scheduled for March 19.

Note: This article then builds on the information provided in the February 17 issue of Pipeline.

In the same issue ...

Governor Calls for Elimination of PASSPORT Waiting List by Reallocating Existing Funds

Summarized from a news release issued by the Governor's Office on February 22, 2010.

Governor Ted Strickland has called for the elimination of the waiting list for the PASSPORT (Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today) program for this fiscal year – as well as for the Assisted Living and PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) programs – by March 31. PASSPORT is a Medicaid waiver program that provides medical care to qualifying seniors in home and community settings, and all three programs are managed by the Ohio Department of Aging.

Currently, 592 Ohioans who need and are eligible for home and community-based services are on a waiting list for these three services.

In calling for the elimination of the waiting lists, Governor Strickland stated,

"We should do our best to support older Ohioans who prefer to live independently in their own homes, but need assistance along the way. We have identified existing funds that will allow us to assist all seniors eligible for home and community-based care, without a wait."

Pipeline EXTRA, March 11, 2010

Medicare Ends Contract with Fox Insurance Company Drug Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the following information of interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community and throughout the nation.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today terminated its contract with Fox Insurance Company. After an onsite review of the plan and its services, CMS determined that the plan's significant deficiencies – not meeting Medicare's requirements to provide enrollees with prescription drugs according to recognized standards of care – jeopardized the health and safety of Fox enrollees. CMS found that Fox committed a series of violations, including improperly denying its enrollees coverage of critical HIV, cancer, and seizure medications. The termination of the contract is effective immediately.

Members of the Fox Insurance Company's plan will be provided access to needed drugs while transitioning to new plans.

Pipeline, March 17, 2010

Enthusiastic Participants Gather at Kickoff to Ohio's *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* Celebration

More than 350 participants representing at least 29 counties gathered in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on the morning of March 4, to celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*. Traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties, buses, vans, cars, and various other modes of mobility rolled into the downtown Columbus venue to join in the annual kickoff celebration.

Individuals with disabilities, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community enthusiastically participated in the event, hosted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). The crowd was likely the most diverse and geographically-representative group ever to attend the kickoff, according to OPI Board members.

This year's program included speakers representing the Ohio General Assembly, governmental agencies serving the developmental disabilities community, and many people with disabilities -- celebrating self-advocacy and the results realized in pursuing abilities and interests with the help of supportive families, staff, and local communities. Quotes and photos tell the rest of the story:

“ There are many stories to tell across Ohio, of the strides you are making in your communities. And, together, we are creating more of these stories here today, and every day. ”

- Michael Rench, Administrator, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission



Every Picture Tells a Story

The statewide 'Just Like You' DD Awareness Month theme was apparent both in clothing choices and in spirit at the Kickoff Event. The theme reinforces the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just like everyone else does.

In the same issue ...

Awareness Activities Across Ohio

As in the March 3 issue of *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 5](#), we share another sampling of the many activities and events celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month...

A. ➡ [Ohio Public Images \(OPI\) Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon](#)

What: Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive awareness and understanding of people with developmental disabilities. Each year OPI honors individuals and groups, statewide, who have -- through various events and individual efforts -- shared positive images of the lives of people with developmental disabilities. This year's Awareness Awards Luncheon was March 15.

Where: In Dublin, Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities winter conference.

Briefly: See accompanying photos of self-advocacy awards ...



Self Advocacy Awardees take the spotlight ...

(Left) **Brady Sellet**, representing Hamilton County and Cincinnati Children's Hospital;
(Right) **PersonnelPlus Advisory & Advocacy Council**, and the **DD Council Center on Public Policy** – representing the Athens County Board of DD ... and self advocates around the state.

For More Info: Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

In the same issue ...

PCI – The Positive Culture Initiative

Southeast Ohio Explores ‘Gentle Teaching’

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each brings to those relationships.

The evolution of an individual's ability to be comfortable with himself or herself is an outgrowth of how that person feels about two things, according to Dr. John McGee – “Does that person feel *safe*, and does that person feel *loved*?” He continues,

“Safe and loved. Safe and loved. Those are the keys to mending the heart and building trust. Only when those feelings are present will an individual trust you as a care provider, and only then can a person grow and change.”

The methodology McGee has developed, ‘Gentle Teaching,’ focuses on caregiving within the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) framework – and is an example of a positive approach to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or experiencing other issues.

And so, in Nelsonville, Ohio, last week, nearly 100 direct care and other support staff representing the Southeast Ohio region gathered at the Inn at Hocking College for two days of 'basic training' in the concept of Gentle Teaching. They left with several new tools in their toolboxes. They also learned to use existing tools in different ways, as McGee noted ...

"I call it a smile. You call it an 'outcome.' Either way, it's a great feeling."

Pipeline, March 31, 2010

Comprehensive Health Care Reform – News of Interest for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

Ohio's developmental disabilities community has been actively engaged in advocacy at the federal level during the approach to enactment of historic health care reform – and has followed the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee in that effort. Along with the DODD, a large number of national, state, and local organizations in the developmental disabilities community have worked together to assure that the enactment of meaningful and comprehensive national health care reform included provisions that would positively impact peoples' lives.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has released its cost estimate for the bill, stating that the reconciliation bill is projected to cut the deficit by \$138 billion in the first ten years (2010 - 2019), and would extend coverage to 32 million additional people. For this and other reasons, the bill is supported by a broad cross-section of organizations and interests.

The long-term anticipated and likely impacts of this landmark Health Care Reform legislation on individuals with disabilities and their families is currently, and will continue to be, a topic of great interest and speculation within Ohio and throughout the nation. The DODD appreciates the many points of view our stakeholders already have shared, and are hopeful that, through these shared ideas, progress can continue to be made.

For more information: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/immediate-benefits>;
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/29/support-caregivers-health-care-reform>

In the same issue ...

Awareness Efforts, Statewide

Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling

In the interest of sharing different offerings planned to promote greater understanding and awareness of Ohioans with developmental disabilities, following is a sample from this issue ...

Licking County DD Hosts Annual Event

What: *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Licking County* -- an event with a 15+ year history -- grows and changes each year to effectively tell the story in their community that, "People with disabilities are people with possibilities."

Where: Venues throughout Licking County, including Eleanor S. Weiant Center, in Newark.

Briefly: The annual event again featured excellent community involvement, as 33 community leaders participated in hands-on activities at locations throughout the county, working and

learning side-by-side with individuals served by the LCBDD. The day's event culminates in a luncheon. Among the participants there this year was the Wollenberg family, who formed 'Team Up' a baseball team that teams children with and without disabilities in a unique player-partnership, and was recently honored, along with SportsTime Ohio, by Ohio Public Images, for enriching the lives of young people with developmental disabilities.



You don't have to know these people to relate to the constant motion of energetic youth!
Licking County's 'Team Up!' family photo demonstrates real life for this award-winning group.

For More Info: Contact for event information: Heather.Odendahl@lcountydd.org .

In the same issue ...

Part VII in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan **Energizing Local Participation of Individuals, Families in System Stewardship**

Family Chat Encourages Information-Sharing and Networking.

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm>

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 the cost of those services. *Energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress,' lead by DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and families statewide – in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Several steps in the progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, in addition to the Department's ongoing Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings that have drawn attendees from across the state (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>).

For example, according to Peggy, "As a result of the 2008 Futures recommendations and the 'Empowering People' implementation team, we have created a 'discussion listserv' to encourage communication among families in supporting other families.

Another specific element within this Priority Work Area is the establishment and development of localized and/or regional Advisory Councils around the state -- comprised of individuals and families who receive services -- to be operational in 2011.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

In the same issue ...

Ron Kozlowski Honored at OPRA Conference

The Arc of Ohio presented its highest honor, the *Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award*, to Ron Kozlowski, recently-retired Executive Director of Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference last week. The award is named for a former Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, and honors either volunteers or professionals who have provided a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

After 24 years at the helm, Kozlowski retired from APSI at the end of January 2010. It was noted that through his leadership, APSI increased the number of individuals receiving the organization's services from approximately 2900 in 1983 to, now, nearly 4750 – and established APSI as an independent, respected partner in the disability community.

- April -

April is Autism Awareness Month

Pipeline, April 14, 2010

Today's Autism Rally Energizes Participants

At today's sixth annual Autism Rally on the south lawn of the Ohio Statehouse, individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators gathered to encourage the support of Ohio's autism community. The rally also provided a forum for information on other issues of interest relating to autism, including:

- House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available;
- Senate Bill 220, requesting that the Ohio Revised Code be amended to include allowing individuals with autism the authority to use assistance dogs in public places, as needed;
- Other issues assuring availability of quality services, throughout the state.

Several members of the General Assembly attended and spoke at the rally, which attracted well over 200 individuals, families, and groups in support of Ohio's autism community. In addition, organizers of the event, including spokesperson for *Autism Speaks*, Doug Krinsky, included several individuals of all ages as presenters on the program agenda, who spoke to the gathering of their experiences.

In the same issue ...

Governor Strickland Announces Elimination of PASSPORT and Other Home and Community-Based Service Waitlists

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has announced that the waitlists for home and community-based services funded through the Department of Aging, including PASSPORT, Assisted Living, Choices, and PACE, have been eliminated. He stated,

“Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services. I appreciate the collaboration and hard work of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Doug Lumpkin, and Ohio Department of Aging Director Barbara Riley. Due to their efforts, Ohio senior citizens who prefer to remain in home or community care settings are no longer relegated to waitlists.”

The announcement was made on April 1, and followed the Governor’s request on February 22, calling for the transfer of resources from ODJFS to the Department of Aging to pay for the elimination of the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and PACE program waiting lists. In February, 592 Ohioans were on waitlists – and now, those waitlists are clear.

In the same issue ...

Training Opportunity & New Initiative

Supported Employment, Proven Techniques for Success

Funded through a 2010 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), ‘*Supported Employment – Proven Techniques for Success*’ training will be offered three times this year to people providing employment services to job seekers with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities. The trainings will be offered via national trainers, Wilson Resources Inc. (WRI), on April 26-28; May 4-6; and, September 8-10.

Leslie Paull, DODD Manager of Economic and Employment Development, notes, “The MIG-funded training provides another opportunity to improve employment outcomes for Ohioans with disabilities. We continue to look for ways to share information with this goal in mind.”

Pipeline, April 28, 2010

Information-Sharing Key to Understanding Autism Issues

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) is pleased to announce the release of a newly-updated Autism Internet Modules (AIM) website. New modules, including *Visual Supports*, *Assessment for Intervention*, *Time Delay*, *Transitioning Between Activities*, and several others have been posted.

The modules were developed to offer comprehensive, updated, and usable information that is easily accessible and applicable to educators, other professionals, and families who support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Written by experts from across the nation, all online modules are free, and are designed to promote understanding of, respect for, and equality of persons with ASD.

Access AIM at <http://autisminternetmodules.org>

The updated AIM website is designed to help users more easily find the information and support they need. Modules feature videos, charts, pictures, case studies, and a glossary of key terms

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

Family Advisory Council Chats, Views, and Questions

A documentary film illustrating a story of community inclusion, a chat with DODD Director John Martin, and an update on the subject of Medicaid were the meat of a full Family Advisory Council (FAC) agenda on April 20. Hosted at the OCALI offices in Columbus, approximately 75 people attended -- most of whom were family members from across the state who have sons, daughters, or siblings with developmental disabilities – and some of whom were professionals in the developmental disabilities field.

Director Martin led the agenda with comments regarding the 2010-2011 [DODD Priority Work](#) areas, including exploration of new waiver options currently developing with recommendations from stakeholders and families, and in line with budget realities. In describing a waiver currently being developed to address the needs of families with children who have significant behavioral issues, he noted,

“We are developing this waiver as a flexible support that will allow families to identify and prioritize their needs and the needs of their child, and then work with an individual who they designate as their ‘support broker’ to direct a set amount of dollars toward those needs. There will be a lot of responsibility resting in the hands of the families, and the waiver would be yet another option beyond the Level One or Individual Options (IO) Waivers we currently offer. ”

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

Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act Public Celebration, Lecture, and Reception - OSU Campus

The Tenth Annual [Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability](#) Conference, hosted yesterday at the new Ohio Union on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University, marked a decade of community exploration on the subject of disability as an individual experience, and recognized the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Conference literature described the individual experience as ... “cutting across typical divisions of education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; race, gender and ethnicity.”

Participating in the celebration of the ADA’s 20th anniversary and recommitment to full implementation of the Act were: OSU President E. Gordon Gee; State Attorney General Richard Cordray; Ohio Civil Rights Commission Chair Eddie Harrell, Jr.; Columbus State Community College President Valeriana Moeller; Columbus Community Relations Director Napoleon Bell II; and, Columbus City Council Member Troy Miller, among other dignitaries and officials. Each of these participants reaffirmed publicly their commitment to equality, social justice, and the spirit of the ADA, during a proclamation-signing ceremony, including this notable quote:

“ I remember quite well when the ADA was signed, and it signalled a real commitment here on our campus to assure access and accommodation for every student – every student. Since its passage we have, collectively, done great deeds in support of this commitment, and have much yet to look forward to doing on behalf of education. Now, more than ever, we need full and equal participation in the construction and development of our democracy. ”

- E. Gordon Gee, who has been President of OSU twice – one term including the year 1990 when the ADA was signed, and now.

- May -

Pipeline EXTRA, May 5, 2010

Results of the May 4, 2010 Election, County Boards of DD Levies

Of the ten Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities that had levies on the ballot yesterday, eight passed and two failed (Medina and Morrow).

Pipeline, May 12, 2010

Project STIR

Leadership Training via the Ohio Self Determination Assn.

Traveling from 12 counties in Ohio (*Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Huron, Marion, Medina, Richland, Scioto, Seneca and Wyandot*) to the University Plaza Inn in Columbus, 25 self advocates and several of their friends and caregivers participated in 18 hours of self-advocacy training in mid-April, known as *Project STIR* (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility). The training was organized by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA).

As a result of completing last year's *Project STIR* 'train-the-trainer' learning opportunity, five self advocacy leaders conducted part of this year's training. According to OSDA Executive Director, Dana Charlton, "...It was clear that they had learned so much, and were eager to pass on their knowledge."

Following this initial training, the twenty new participants then learned by working in small groups, using flip charts to document their discussions and report to the full group at the end of each activity. Everyone had the opportunity to 'use their voice.' Charlton explains,

"Project STIR training is designed to provide individuals with the tools to speak for themselves, mobilize others to advocate with them, and gain leadership experience. And as always, experience for the participants was the key!"



A STIRring finale ... Project STIR participants gather at the end of the April training to congratulate each other on a job well-done, and plan for more opportunities to advocate successfully for themselves and others.

In the same issue ...

Part VIII in a Series, Priority Work Plan

Improve Processes and Outcomes of the SSA Function

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 the cost of those services. *Improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) function* is one of the ten priority areas, where work on a number of the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations has come together. Over the years, changes in service delivery, financing, and oversight roles have affected how Service and Support Administrators and provider program managers do their daily work.

Several separate-but-connected projects are underway, led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), and other stakeholders. In addition, the work of the County Collaborative [*Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2*](#), is part of several efforts affecting this Priority Work Area, including the development of an online Individual Service Plan (ISP), and examining best practices.

DODD Family Advocate [Peggy Martin](#) is working with SSA's throughout the state, gathering their input and discussing opportunities for inter-county collaboration. She explains,

“In talking with SSA's around the state, what I'm hearing is that it's so important for a Service and Support Administrator to establish a strong relationship with the families served – one that is based on understanding and trust. If the SSA is a supportive *partner*, for example, in working with individuals and families preparing an ISP, the Plan will be a much more realistic and successful guide, and reflect that process of really thinking things through.”

In the same issue ...

Huron, Ottawa Counties Launch 'Bridges to Transition'

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Huron and Ottawa counties have partnered to launch a jobs training program, *Bridges to Transition*, which works with students beginning at age 14 to find successful career paths. The Huron/Ottawa partnership is one of seven *Bridges to Transition* programs, statewide.

According to Kim Linkinhoker, Associate Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD), some participating counties are operating the program as single county enterprises, while others are grouped. Participating are Wood, Warren, Belmont, Jefferson, Crawford, Marion and Wyandot. Participating as partners are: Logan/Miami/Champaign; Ottawa/Huron; and, Hocking/Fairfield/Perry.

The *Bridges to Transition* program is a project jointly developed by local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), with state-wide coordination by the OACB.

Pipeline, May 26, 2010

Governor Ted Strickland Kicks Off OACB Conference

Governor Ted Strickland enthusiastically addressed opening comments to the more than 300 attendees at this year's Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) spring conference May 20th at the Columbus Marriott Northwest (Dublin), stating, "I am here to thank you for the work you do to assure quality of life for Ohioans with disabilities and their families. Through difficult times you have maintained quality services with limited resources." He continued,

"And, I am especially pleased that today, DODD Director John Martin will share with you some just-released statistics that show you how Ohio stacks up with other states in the nation regarding services for people with developmental disabilities. And we stack up well. Very well. My sincere thanks to you all for the work you do."

The Governor's comments also touched on the importance of maintaining strong stakeholder relationships within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, as well as the importance of using research-based data, such as the National Core Indicators (NCI), that assess how Ohio compares to other states regarding quality of services provided, as perceived by service recipients. He stated, "Clearly, we have a lot to be proud of as we look at Ohio's performance in this new research."

In the same issue ...

Part IX in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Reducing Lifelong Impacts of Disability for Families

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 the cost of those services. *Reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families' needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-

progress,' led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Steps in the progress of this Priority Work Area include:

- Usage of \$600,000 in stimulus funds specifically earmarked by the Ohio Department of Health (see *Pipeline* article #1, in this issue) for services to infants and toddlers with special needs. Specifically, the funds will be used to provide supports for families of eligible children ages zero to three;
- Collaborative efforts with entities such as West CON, a network of Ohio counties that is exploring ways to effectively provide consistent and specific services across county lines for very young children with developmental disabilities, including autism;
- Exploring intake and screening processes and workable timelines to help address an individual's needs as he or she is deemed eligible. This is being explored primarily via the County Collaborative group.

Participants in the 18-county County Collaborative Network [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), are inventorying existing processes with goals of developing a single process for intake, screening, and eligibility determination, and for integrating assessment, service planning, fiscal planning, monitoring, and quality assurance into a single web-based system that results in online availability of individual service plans.

In the same issue ...

[May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus](#)

Our Choice: Living in the Community

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates, began today's program with a rousing keynote address by Samuel Bagenstos, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, who stated clearly and often that the right of people with disabilities to live in the community is a core principle of civil rights, which must be protected and reinforced. He stated,

"When my son asks me, 'What does a disability rights lawyer do?' I tell him that at the U. S. Department of Justice, what we are about is the right to live in this world, and to live in it as our Constitution promises."

Bagenstos' comments and others during the morning session of the two-day conference, today and tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, were supported by rulings such as the Olmstead Decision (updated Ohio information: [Strickland Olmstead Plan](#)) that protect the civil rights of *all individuals*. The event is presented by the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, HOME Choice, CareSource and the Ohio Legal Rights Service. Workshops on these and other subjects, and a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are also slated.

- June -

Pipeline, June 9, 2010

In Fairfield County

Successful Transition Collaborative Gets the Job Done!

Among the noteworthy programs on Central Ohio's employment scene targeting the end-of-high school 'transitional' age group, and preparing young people with developmental disabilities for jobs in the community, two have resulted from work done by the *Fairfield Transition Collaborative*. The Collaborative has grown from its 'task force' beginnings to become an established entity adhering to a strategic plan. The two successful transitional programs are:

- *Project SEARCH* -- New to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) in 2009, this program is a joint effort among the FCBDD, Fairfield Medical Center, and the Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Center, with assistance via the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). *Project SEARCH* initially has provided work experience for six high school seniors from Fairfield County who have developmental disabilities.
- *LIFEWorks* -- A joint effort linking the County Board in Fairfield County with those in Franklin, Licking, Hocking, and Union counties, as well as with Goodwill of Columbus, and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, students participating in LIFEWorks gain job training experience during three six-week internships, with the goal of being hired by the end of the internships.

FCBDD Superintendent John Pekar notes that the two most important elements in getting these employment programs off the ground last year were *funding* and *partnerships*. He explains, "The LIFEWorks grant was through the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and allowed us to fund a fairly broad partnership with the intent of improving employment opportunities for young people with disabilities who are entering the workforce after high school. Often, during this transitional period, the responsibilities between school districts and the various agencies and services available locally are not as clearly defined as they could be."

In the same issue ...

Legislative Update

Signing of House Bill 398, Expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions; Prospects Regarding an Extension of E-FMAP

Last week, Governor Ted Strickland signed House Bill 398, expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions and allowing Ohioans in 'imminent risk' of entering a nursing facility to have access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) without first having to spend 24 hours in a nursing home facility. This change in law simplifies enrollment for waiver services from a practical standpoint, as stated by Governor Strickland in early April:

"Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services."

State Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Peggy Lehner were the sponsors of HB 398 which will assist all Ohioans, including those with developmental disabilities and those with aging conditions, in having more community-based choices under the law. The full text of the bill is at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_398.

According to reports published during the past week, including a front page story in *The New York Times*: www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/us/08medicaid.htm, Ohioans will lose access to critical health and welfare services, unless Congress grants a six-month extension of the current, higher Medicaid funding for states under of the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (E-FMAP) provision. Using economic stimulus money, the federal had government increased its share of the funding to 74%, up from 64%, but that plan is scheduled to end Dec. 31, unless Congress approves a six-month extension. According to a letter signed by Governor Ted Strickland, dated May 26, 2010,

“Ohioans have benefited greatly from the inclusion of E-FMAP in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This increased federal Medicaid match has allowed Ohio to maintain core services during our national recession. I write to ask you for your full commitment to protect critical services and maintain healthcare jobs in Ohio by extending E-FMAP for two additional quarters.”

In the same issue ...

Part X in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Plan for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio's DD Service Delivery System

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 the cost of those services. *Planning for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System* is one of the ten priority areas and is led by DODD Director John Martin, along with Deputy Director for Fiscal Administration, Ann Rengert. Working in partnership with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- The Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has agreed to a revised *tax equity formula* based on tax valuations, taking into consideration that funding formulas for counties may be based on tax valuations that have changed since their inception several years ago. Tax equity funds are to be used for waiver match, and the total amount of funding affected is approximately \$14 million. With the formula having been agreed upon within the Workgroup, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is researching appropriate legislation to carry the formula and language, targeting a beginning phase-in timeframe of June-July 2011, with full implementation by July 2019.
- The Workgroup also has gathered information to support an *increase in revenues to be generated via the Targeted Case Management (TCM) Medicaid funding stream*. By the end of June 2010, information gathered with the assistance of Ohio's 88 County Boards of DD will be complete, and the next step will be to work with the

Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) on possible implementation of an increase in TCM funding.

- The Workgroup is developing an administrative rule and structure for assisting financially-distressed County Boards. The rule has been disseminated for stakeholder review and comment. The rule and structure would provide a system by which a county board could continue to operate following failure of a levy that results in a lack of operating funds to meet basic service requirements.

In the same issue ...

Two New Websites Will Provide Improved Access to Information

Ohio's *Interagency Work Group on Autism* (IWGA), whose purpose is to identify opportunities to coordinate state agency efforts that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families, will be launching a new website to help connect people to the autism-related information they want and need. The website is currently in test/review mode, and by June 30, the DODD homepage at www.dodd.ohio.gov will include a direct access link to that site, as well as to a new Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence (MIDD/ CCOE) website.

The MIDD/CCOE site is completing testing at www.midd.ohio.gov and will provide a new avenue to communicate with counties, providers, and constituents on the subject of MIDD 'dual diagnosis' in Ohio. The IWGA website -- in test, and currently not accessible by link-- has been developed collaboratively between the DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to serve as a hub of autism-specific information for families and the autism community, representing the efforts of multiple agencies involved with the [Interagency Work Group on Autism](#).

In announcing the launch of these sites, DODD staff Jody Fisher (Project Manager, representing the efforts of IWGA) and Lara Palay (Project Manager, representing the efforts of CCOE) note that Ohio is positioned to be one of the national leaders in expertise, scholarship, practices, and supports for the dually diagnosed population, as well as for individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

Pipeline, June 23, 2010

DODD Family Advisory Council - Empowerment Through Information

"Positive Culture is not a project – it's a way of life. It's a never-wavering and disciplined focus on quality of life, including all of our conversations and actions. It can make a positive difference in all care relationships."

- Willie Jones, Ohio Association of County Boards

DODD Family Advisory Council members gathered last week in Columbus to participate in another packed agenda, kicked off by DODD Director John Martin. The regularly-featured 'Director's Chat' focused on information gathered via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (see [National Core Indicators Report 2008-2009](#).) Director Martin also shared his "Chat Time" with presenters Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn, who, from their own experiences with

family members, discussed advocacy with the accent on persistence – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

During his presentation, Director Martin noted that the data in the most recently-compiled NCI report is intended to provide states across the nation a look at how questions were responded to concerning services, and perceptions of services, compared to others participating in the initiative. He notes,

“One thing we know for sure is that families staying as involved as possible as partners in the DD community will help Ohio's developmental disabilities system identify and maintain the quality elements that are most important to individuals served.”

In the same issue ...

For Direct Support Professionals

PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has announced a new PATHS Specialized Certificate Course, “Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Direct Support Professional.” The new, four-session course is offered for professionals who have completed the PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

- July -

Looking Back ... One Year Ago, Today

Governor Strickland Signed SB 79, ‘The Name Change Bill’

On July 7, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79, a bill sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart, that changed the name of Ohio's *Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as changed the names of local Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) boards to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The bill also removed the term ‘mental retardation’ from the titles of other state and county entities, councils, commissions, and various funds that use the term. The bill became effective 90 days following signature.

Pipeline, July 7, 2010

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week Receives Unanimous Vote in U.S. Senate

In a strong show of support, and for the third consecutive year, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating the week beginning the second full week in September (September 12, 2010) as, "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week." Bi-partisan support was lead by sponsor, Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). Senate Resolution 558 recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for their, “... commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages.”

This acknowledgment by the Senate is significant to the ANCOR National Advocacy Campaign, as work continues to secure increased funding for DSPs and improve supports and services for people with disabilities.

Pipeline, July 23, 2010

July 26 is the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

There are many celebrations across Ohio this month celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA! Information listed below is courtesy of the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission*

For more information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), visit <http://www.ada.gov/>

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn on July 26, for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature a unique ADA mural and photo projects by Ohioans with disabilities.

A 6 ft. x 30 ft. mural (assembled in six panels) celebrating access, inclusion, and advancements under ADA legislation will be unveiled. Thirteen artists with disabilities representing Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Lancaster, New Albany, Toledo, and Yellow Springs will work together to create the mural from July 23 - July 25 at the office of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in Columbus. The completed mural will be presented during the July 26 event. Rain venue is the Statehouse Atrium.

In the same issue ...

2010-2011 Priority Work Plan: Overview & Progress

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. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers; (*see related article #3 in this issue of Pipeline*)
- Create a 'Positive Culture' within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

Action steps that address these Priority Work Areas have yielded some specific results, and have begun to positively impact service delivery and stakeholder involvement across the state.

More at: [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#).

In the same issue ...

In Coshocton County

The Freedom Festival – “A Picnic with a Purpose”

“I liked that the community was here to support us. I’m glad we had the chance to tell everyone we’re part of the community.”

Rita – Attends Hopewell Industries Day Program

At the Hopewell Industries parking lot in Coshocton, the second annual Freedom Festival sponsored by Hopewell Industries Employee Council hosted a large and enthusiastic crowd of individuals, family members, staff, and others in the developmental disabilities community who shared and celebrated stories of independence. Bob Nicholson, Adult Services Director for the Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities, called it “A picnic with a purpose.” He explained, “We purposely plan this celebration during the month of July because of the deep significance independence has to *all* citizens.”



Self Advocate Cindy delivers an emotional speech.

- August -

Pipeline, August 4, 2010

BREAKING NEWS: The U.S. Senate just passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

Look for more information in a [Pipeline Extra](#) to be published shortly.

ADA 20th Anniversary Commemorated, Across the Nation

-July 26 was the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)-

President Barack Obama Issued Executive Order July 26, 2010

Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

> [Read the Executive Order](#)

Secretary of Health & Human Services: Affordable Care Act Builds on Gains Made Via ADA

CMS Announces \$2.25 Billion in Grants to Extend 'Money Follows the Person' Rebalancing Demonstration. Grants Support Community-Based Alternatives to Institutional Long Term Care

According to a news release issued July 26, 2010, by Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius, Americans with disabilities will have more help to live independently and remain in their homes and communities instead of in institutional long term care facilities - such as nursing homes - through the availability of \$2.25 billion in grants to states. The new grant solicitation, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) encourages states not yet part of the *Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration* to apply for grant funds. In addition ...

... With passage of the Affordable Care Act, states already participating are afforded the opportunity to expand and extend their MFP grant program.

In the same issue ...

ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrated, Across Ohio

What the Mural Says, So Beautifully ... "Liberty, Justice, and Access for ... All"

There were many events across Ohio last month, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA. In Columbus, at the Ohio Statehouse on July 26, spearheaded by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the celebration unveiled a very exciting mural ...

The July 26 unveiling of a 6 ft. high x 30 ft. long (180 sq. ft.) mural at the celebration on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse was a ceremony large in scale, and equal to the enthusiasm for the ADA 20th Anniversary, as demonstrated by several state dignitaries and officials. Speakers included Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, RSC Chairperson David Williams and others, all of whom generated excitement toward the ultimate unveiling of Ohio's ADA mural -- organized in cooperation with VSA Arts of Ohio and dozens of Ohio artists with disabilities.



The Mural: Liberty, Justice, and Access for All.

In the same issue ...

Posipalooza: A Total Positive Culture Experience

"The Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) is a vision to shift the culture of how we all work together."

Pam Berry, DODD Senior Policy Advisor, and lead on the statewide initiative

Described as a 'day-long, real-time positive culture experience' -- involving about 250 people supported by developmental disabilities services, family members, direct support professionals, and others engaged in creating positive and responsive services and supports -- yesterday's premiere 'Posipalooza' event, at the Xenos complex in Columbus, was a day to remember for shaking up the way we do things in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Hosted by the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#) Conveners Group and the Ohio Association of County Boards, and sponsored by more than two dozen related agencies and organizations ([Posipalooza - A Positive Culture Event](#)), the day began with some personal reflections by DODD Director John Martin about the importance of the Positive Culture concept. He observed,

"What is going on here today is some of the most important work that we can do. My hope is that we all figure out new ways to understand others – to see things from another's perspective. If we expect people to respond to or learn from something, we have to find ways for them to first be aware of it, and then be interested in it. "

Following the introductory remarks, twelve 'breakout' sessions included many opportunities to engage in positive conversations, thoughtful exercises, and other approaches designed to be interactive and participatory.

Pipeline EXTRA, August 4, 2010

The U.S. Senate has passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

House Resolution 1586, the legislation containing language to extend the current Medicaid match, 'Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP),' paid by Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities was passed today. The six-month extension passed with a vote of 61 to 38, and continues the funding which would have expired December 31, 2010. The bill itself still needs a final Senate vote and agreement by the U.S. House before it can go to the President for signing.

Pipeline, August 18, 2010

President Barack Obama Signs Bill Extending FMAP Enhancement

Supports Medicaid Services, Protects Healthcare and Education Jobs

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

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

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

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

Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework* ‘Provides Clear Path’

[*Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf](http://www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf)

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a Council established via one of the Governor’s first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*. In a letter of support dated August 9, 2010, Governor Strickland noted,

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

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

From the Office of Provider Standards & Review **New Review Process “Hits the Road”**

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

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

In the same issue ...

In Line with DODD Priority Work

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

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

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

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

In the same issue ...

'Call Center' at DODD Central Office

New Support Center Manages Phones, Live!

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

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

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

**- September -
September is One Busy Month!**

Pipeline, September 1, 2010

National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 12

Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others

This year, the week of September 12 is designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation. The designation also provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role DSPs play

every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) notes that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recognized 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 ..." (Full text at www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/dsp-recognition-week-2010_ohio.pdf)

A Premiere Special Event!

**ACTION! DSPs Make it Happen: 2010 DSP Recognition Event and Film Festival,
September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

- This event is free for Ohio Direct Support Professionals -

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

OSDA Conference to "Celebrate the Fire Within"

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will be making history, empowering participants, energizing statewide self advocacy efforts, and sharing exciting individual stories this September 20th and 21st at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. The OSDA annual conference, always known for its 'accent on action' will continue that theme this year, with an agenda that will be hard to beat next time around!

The Anatomy of (Naming) A Waiver

At this conference, attendees will learn about the proposed new self-directed 'flexible support' waiver, and, by invitation of the DODD, naming the new waiver will be a part of the action in the two-day conference agenda. It will be an historic – and spirited – event, to be sure!

Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention/Awareness

**Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as
"National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio."**

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. 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.

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

National Preparedness Month Efforts, Statewide

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The overall effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The DODD is among the agencies supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations. At www.ready.gov go to the 'People with Disabilities' button and it will lead you to a menu of information for 'People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.'

Pipeline EXTRA, September 2, 2010

Just released from the Governor's Office ...

Governor Designates Federal Medicaid Funding to Protect Health Care Jobs, Services

Governor Ted Strickland today announced initial designations of dollars made available as a result of increased federal reimbursement for Medicaid. Investments will be made in hospitals, mental health services, and Ohio's HIV/AIDS assistance program to protect health care jobs and critical health services for Ohioans.

Medicaid is a state and federal partnership with shared financial responsibility. Medicaid expenses are partially reimbursed by the federal government. In the Recovery Act, the federal government increased its share of the financial responsibility for Medicaid, also known as FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages), providing economic relief to states. This enhanced FMAP was set to expire on December 31, 2010 but was extended for six months at a reduced rate by federal legislation passed in August. *Ohio's enhanced FMAP reimbursement allocation is projected to be \$518.6 million.*

Pipeline, September 15, 2010

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week! ACTION! DSP's Make It Happen – A Premiere Special Event

"This is your day, and it's been a long time coming."

-Scott Osterfield, OADSP Operations Coordinator

Today marked the very first event of its kind in Ohio – the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event, "**ACTION! DSP's Make It Happen**" -- at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus. Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) – and many other organizations, the event was – in one participant's words -- "Way more than I expected!"

Recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation, more than 300 participants attended Ohio's first major recognition event specifically celebrating the work of DSPs. Opening with remarks by

OADSPP Operations Coordinator Scott Osterfield, and DODD Director John Martin, it was immediately clear that the day would be totally focused on DSPs.

Support for the work of Direct Support Professionals is ingrained in the DODD Priority Work Plan ([DODD Priority Work](#)), including support for specific training courses such as those offered via Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) courses. (More about PATHS at www.ohiopath.org).

In the same issue ...

Legislative Advocacy Day, Both Spirited and Collaborative

“ I feel powerful because of what I have learned I can do!”

-Overheard at the event-

Legislative Advocacy Day, yesterday, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, provided an outstanding and organized opportunity for self advocates, family members, and others to meet with legislators and discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities.

Chief among those topics was funding for continued long-term services and supports in the community, and, specifically, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. Event speakers included Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Each had a personal insight to share with the group of at least 300 attendees.

Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (‘DD Council’) and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day included a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward. As stated by Senator John Carey, and echoed by others, “Tell your story! We want to hear what you have to say. Only one person can tell your story ... and that’s you!”

In the same issue ...

National Preparedness Month Efforts, Around the State

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. In particular, congregate settings provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about taking charge and being prepared for emergencies where they live, work, and play.

County Boards and other service providers around the state are planning numerous preparedness-related events, holding fire and other evacuation drills, and otherwise making sure that individuals with disabilities are better prepared to quickly pick up what they need and get out the door safely in the event of an emergency. Staying calm in such situations is easier when certain procedures are understood and practiced – and staying calm is a big part of staying safe!

In addition to the preparedness information offered through The Ohio Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other sponsors of National Preparedness Month, local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are providing materials encouraging individuals served locally to prepare for emergencies in their homes and workplaces.

At www.ready.gov go to the 'People with Disabilities' button and it will lead you to a menu of information for 'People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.'

In the same issue ...

[Following Up on the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework](#)

ICHAH Efforts Exemplify 'Infused Policy Development'...

In [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 17](#), August 18, 2010, Governor Ted Strickland's endorsement of the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework*, proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH), was spotlighted. Following is additional information on the subject from DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Kevin Aldridge.

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

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a Council established via one of the Governor's first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*.

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

6000 New Opportunities

The PSH Policy Framework endorsed by the Governor established the rather ambitious goal -- as stated in the Framework document's introduction -- of, "Creating 6000 new PSH housing opportunities over the next five years to address high-priority permanent housing and support needs for the most vulnerable households with serious and long-term disabilities."

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge stated, "This Policy Framework represents a key leverage point through which Ohio's housing policy can be transformed in the coming years." He added,

"For Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, this Policy Framework represents a watershed moment."

[Pipeline, September 29, 2010](#)

Ohio Self Determination Assn. 'Celebrates the Fire Within'

"I want to thank you for all the work you have done to show society what you can do when given the opportunities you need. Our society needs each and every one of you to continue to advocate for what you need and want – to be an integral part of your community."

- Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland, addressing OSDA conference participants

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 – www.ready.gov) 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 and positive motivational speakers – including Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland -- 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.

- October -

Pipeline, October 13, 2010

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

“Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities.”

Commemorating 40 Years, 75 Years, and 90 Years

Gathering to commemorate 40 years of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), 75 years of the Social Security Administration, and 90 years of public Vocational Rehabilitation, a crowd of about 300 people gathered on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse October 6th to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and celebrate a special related announcement. On hand for the announcement were representatives from RSC, the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, the Social Security Administration, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and others.

Announcing a partnership between RSC and the Ohio Department of Development that will benefit small business owners with disabilities, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, and Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel unveiled a symbolic billboard for the initiative ... *OhioAbilities: Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth.*

OhioAbilities will support small business owners and entrepreneurs with disabilities as they start, sustain, and grow their businesses. The effort provides enhanced opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities to explore self-employment and microenterprise. Through the agreement, Small Business Development Centers will provide funding grants, self-employment and business counseling, marketing and technical assistance to Ohioans who receive RSC services.

According to the partners involved, OhioAbilities has the promise of launching at least 40 start-up businesses in Ohio, and is being piloted in Akron, Columbus, Marietta, Toledo, and Youngstown. The \$2 million project invests \$1.1 million in support funding and \$883,000 in grants.

Funding for OhioAbilities comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in February 2009. ARRA dollars invested in RSC were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

For more information about this partnership: www.rsc.ohio.gov/ohioabilities/

In the same issue ...

County Board Celebrations

Local faces, local places tell the story ...



Richland Newhope spotlights local faces in their October employment billboards.

In the same issue ...

PAR Conference Honors Tonks for Lifetime Achievement

At the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, several awards were presented, including the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, earned by Gary Tonks, Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio. PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) surprised Tonks with the award and his gracious acceptance included these remarks,

"I want to thank PAR for this honor, and also want to thank those children, adults, dedicated professionals, moms, dads, and fellow advocates who speak up when others around them are silent or cannot speak; roll up their sleeves and do what needs to be done; and, will not rest until the job is completed."

In the same issue ...

National Core Indicators Begins Third Year

The DODD is pleased to announce the beginning of our third year of participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. We also are pleased to have the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) administering the NCI surveys for the project again this year. CMOR will be completing 400 adult individual face-to-face interviews, and 1200 family surveys via telephone. They will be surveying families who have children, and adults who live at home with families, as well as individuals who live outside the home in an alternative setting.

CMOR soon will be connecting with staff at Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to begin coordinating the survey process.

More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm>

In the same issue ...

Northwest Ohio Continues Exploration of 'Gentle Teaching'

As part of the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) -- which has proven during the past two years to be a fascinating journey toward a statewide shift to a more positive culture within Ohio's developmental disabilities community -- DODD has been offering training on positive strategies utilizing various methodologies and techniques. Most recently, John McGee, Ph.D., an internationally-known speaker who continues to do hands-on work in many countries to promote the concepts of non-violence, recently shared his Gentle Teaching Methodology at the University of Findlay.

Dr. McGee's presentation focused on caregiving within the PCI framework and included positive techniques and approaches to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or who are experiencing other behavioral issues.

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.

More at www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/pci.htm

Pipeline, October 27, 2010

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Submitted to CMS

As described in the September 29, 2010 issue of Pipeline ([Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 20](#)) the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, which was named by self advocates at last month's Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference, today was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. Review of the proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is the next step in the waiver approval process.

In the same issue ...

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we share...

A Potpourri of Progress, and Work Yet to be Done

There are many exciting employment-related efforts for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, and yet there is still much to be done to improve the employment scene, overall. In this issue of Pipeline we will take a look at employment from a broad perspective. Here's an example...

Lowe's Grows Employment Opportunities in Hancock County

\$250K grant will help train people with disabilities for jobs.

Representatives of national retailer Lowe's, along with the National Organization on Disability (NOD) and the Kessler Foundation* were asked to help ring the symbolic 'closing bell' of the New York stock exchange on October 21 – along with Hancock County Board of DD Superintendent Connie Ament, representing a unique partnership and collective commitment to employing people with disabilities. The symbolic gesture is offered to non-profit organizations, according to time-honored selection criteria related to the business environment.

As part of the Lowe's commitment, the company currently is working with Hancock County Board of DD's Blanchard Valley Center and the NOD on employment programs for eligible individuals at three distribution centers, including Findlay OH, Rockford IL, and Statesville NC.



At a recent HCBDD Board Meeting individuals were honored as Employees of the Month at BVI*, and the Lowe's Distribution Center received the Community Star award.

In the same issue ...

Ohio Provider Resource Association

OPRA Conference Reflects Partnership Approach

“Developmental Disabilities systems in states with mature stakeholder relationships that understand how to work together function much better than those in states where this is not the case.”

-Quote from George Jesien, Ph.D., as shared by DODD Director John Martin

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Annual Fall Conference, October 19-20 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin attracted more than 500 professionals in the developmental disabilities community. Each year, the program provides a diverse learning opportunity for service providers, fostering and enabling professional growth and success, and encouraging strong stakeholder partnerships. The two-day conference included several presentations on subjects such as health care reform, remote monitoring, principles and practices of an effective direct support professional, waiver reimbursement, and more.

DODD Director John Martin’s presentation focused on progress regarding several projects with which OPRA has partnered, noting that, “Together we have made some very good progress and done some very good work, including managing three sets of budget cuts, and increasing waiver availability by 30%.” Director Martin also shared that among the Priority Work areas the Department is focusing on in tandem with service providers are issues that have been identified via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. He stated,

“Perceptions of safety within an individual's home and neighborhood, as well as understanding issues affecting an individual's budget are two areas Ohio needs to improve upon. Everyone wants to feel safe, and feel that they have some control and understanding of funds available.”

In the same issue ...

OSU Nisonger Center Receives \$2.5 Million Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded The Ohio State University Nisonger Center a five-year, \$2.5 million grant as part of two new federal programs that create opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to attend classes and succeed in higher education.

The Nisonger Center is one of 27 grant recipients through Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. The goal of the pilot project is to develop, test, and refine a statewide model that delivers inclusive post-secondary options -- including participation in college classes, internships, housing, and social experiences -- that result in improved academic, employment, and residential outcomes.

In the same issue ...

DODD Website Upgrades to Enhance Interaction, Access

As noted by DODD Director John Martin in the most recent *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2010*,

our website address at www.dodd.ohio.gov has existed for roughly one year, as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) 'name change' occurred in October 2009. He states, "Within the span of one year, a great deal of work has gone into making the information on the site more accessible by users of adaptive tools and technology, more easily navigated and 'searched' by users, and easier to understand from a general content standpoint." He continues,

"Our success in these endeavors is gauged largely by user feedback, and from the data gained by reviewing information gathered by analytical system tools. We continue to support the improvement of Information Technology Systems as part of our DODD Priority Work."

More at: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>

Perhaps most exciting is the work now underway to improve our interaction and presence with service providers. The 'provider portal' -- point of entry for service provider information and related forms -- will be relaunching soon, in a more user-friendly format. The revision will streamline many online inquiries and transactions, and allow providers to 'do business with us' in a more user-friendly way.

- November -

Pipeline EXTRA, November 2, 2010

- Results of the November 2 Election - County Board Levy Issues, Across the State

All eleven County Board of Developmental Disabilities issues on the November 2 ballot passed!

Pipeline, November 10, 2010

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 states,

"During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor the millions of Americans who give endlessly of themselves to provide for the health and well-being of a beloved family member. Through their countless hours of service to their families and communities, they are shining examples of our Nation's great capacity to care for each other."

In the same issue ...

Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters

Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS Conference Celebrates Progress

"More than anything I am optimistic. SIBS has had ten years of experience as an organization, and we are on the precipice of being able to meet the real needs of siblings who may become primary caregivers for brothers or sisters, or who already have stepped up to do so ... especially in families with elderly parents."

-Tom Fish, Ph.D., The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

The tenth annual Ohio SIBS Conference (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) always is a great opportunity for siblings to learn more about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. This year's November 5-6 conference in Columbus provided a focused venue for adult siblings from across the state to meet one another, share their stories, and enjoy being with people who can identify with many experiences while growing up.

Several individuals received special recognition for efforts pertaining to sibling issues and the Ohio SIBS organization. In particular, Dean Fadel and Tom Fish each received a certificate of recognition from the DODD -- Fadel for being an outstandingly supportive sibling to his brother Jeff, as well as for his commitment to the Ohio SIBS network, and Fish for his tireless efforts in promoting Ohio SIBS for the past 10 years.

More at Ohio SIBS website at www.ohiosibs.com

In the same issue ...

Ohio Public Images Announces DD 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, 2009 through November 30, 2010. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe.

The 'Call for Entries' is posted on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State

In this issue closest to the observance of Thanksgiving, we highlight a few of the many things for which we, at the DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful.

[Pipeline, November 23, 2010 – Annual 'Thanksgiving' Issue](#)

[Spotlight on the Interagency Work Group on Autism](#)

Interagency Autism Coordinating Council Draws on Ohio Expertise

DODD Director John Martin recently was asked to address the federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IACC). More about the IWGA at www.iwg-autism.org/

The federal [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee \(IACC\) Services Subcommittee](#) held a workshop in Rockville, Maryland in early November titled, "Building a Seamless System of Quality Services & Supports Across the Lifespan." The workshop focused on policy issues related to the system of services and supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Attending the workshop were parents, educators, medical professionals, researchers, and ... presenters including DODD Director John Martin.

Director Martin highlighted the need for coordinating the many service agencies within each state, describing strategies such as those employed by Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) for integrating government systems that provide autism-related services:

“We all have gifts and talents. We all have wishes and needs. The Interagency Work Group on Autism, convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, coordinates efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with autism spectrum disorders are recognized, valued, and addressed.”

In the same issue ...

Family Advisory Council Members Look Ahead to 2011

One of the ten Priority Work Areas of the DODD is to energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

**The Family Advisory Council (FAC) 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 16 meeting of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) addressed members' requests for information about many subjects -- including budget considerations, the status of the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver which has been submitted for review to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and general thoughts about progress made within the past few years.

DODD Director John Martin responded to several questions, including one regarding what things he envisioned as being especially important considerations as the Department moves forward into 2011. He stated that while a number of initiatives and priority areas come to mind, assistive technology, and new technology in general, would be key in helping to enable and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and help them do the things they need and want to do. He explained,

“We are on the threshold of being able to employ some very exciting and creative options that will help people in a number of ways. Exploring these options, being open to them, and using them responsibly is going to be very important. Here in Ohio, we have a lot of reasons to be hopeful.”

In the same issue ...

Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by DODD Director John Martin

A few months ago I had the privilege of spending some time in the home of a family who had a preschool child with significant behavioral challenges. It was interesting to watch the family dynamics as the child's constant energy impacted every interaction in the household. It was not hard to imagine the challenges this family faced as they attempted to do things other families routinely do -- going out to eat, going on vacation, and the like. Their good-natured recounting of family experiences as they went out in the community reinforced what I was thinking.

What I was most impressed with was the love that embodied the family's interactions, and the warmth I felt just being apart of that family for the short time I was in the house.

As we all look at what we are thankful for this holiday season, many of us reflect upon our own families and what they mean and have meant to us. As I think about Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and the many families we depend upon as the backbone of our service delivery system, I deeply appreciate that commitment -- and the wonderful, warm, and nurturing environments each of you create.

In the same issue ...

REM Ohio's 'Ready, Fit, and Able' program is in year two of providing health education and fitness classes to adults with disabilities, within the community. This year, the agency has contracted with the Akron Area YMCA to provide and train class instructors at the Center. By bringing the classes directly to the Center, REM Ohio can ensure that those most interested in the classes are able to participate twice a week. Center staff say, "We are thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our friends and instructors at the YMCA for working to keep us healthy!"



Thankful to be healthy!

From Midwest Innovations, Stark County – Thankful for great employees like Edwin!

Midwest Innovations recently opened a new adult services location in the Stark County area, in collaboration with the Stark County Board of DD. An article in the local newspaper, *The Review*, highlighted a few of the employees there, including Edwin Blasiman. While Edwin is an excellent employee, what is especially impressive is that he took it upon himself to write a list of the *Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments* for all employees to keep in mind! Thank, you, Edwin -- and Midwest Innovations' Tom Rickels -- for bringing these to our attention:

Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments for Employees (unedited)

1. Decide before you enter the building to have a nice day;
2. If I make a mess, I'll clean it up;
3. 'Sorry' is a virtue only if you mean it;
4. Don't bother the boss if she's working or talking;
5. Keep working;
6. Show respect to self and others;
7. Show honesty;
8. Be careful to be honest even when you're upset;
9. Help when asked – not only when you want to;
10. Trust goes a long way!

In the same issue ...

Pipeline, December 8, 2010

Ohio Association of County Boards Winter Conference Looks to 2011

“We must always be ready to change ... to evolve. We need to find new efficiencies. And, we need to plan beyond funding and day-to-day operations to determine how we can continuously improve the lives of the more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”

–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

At the 27th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference last week at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, the three-day agenda focused on information that would help attendees find ways to do the things that OACB Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments, above – 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 total number of people attending the three-day conference topped 850!

DODD Director John Martin noted several points in his presentation under the general umbrella of ‘change,’ and indicated that to prepare for change is to act constructively. He cited a quote from Robert Greenleaf, a proponent of servant leadership, “To live well is to have changed often.” Director Martin also addressed general areas of concern within the developmental disabilities community, including ‘money is tight,’ and, ‘families waiting for services need support.’ He noted that while these are very important and compelling issues, the key thing to remember is the core of what Ohio’s disability services community is all about:

“Interactions of compassion, gentleness, and kindness toward individuals with developmental disabilities are really what our system is all about. The daily interactions with people provided by families and support staff – that’s what it’s all about. The harshness of funding issues is always there, yet the reality of care – good care – is what’s most important.”

In the same issue ...

SODC Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community

“Take care of those entrusted to you. Watch over them – not because you must, but because you are willing and eager to serve.”

- Dr Samuel Gridley Howe, physician and philanthropist

On December 1, 2010, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary as a residential rehabilitation facility. SODC borders the village of Batavia, near Cincinnati. The Center serves approximately 117 residents, ranging in age from 18 to 75 years. The majority of individuals who reside at SODC receive extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development.

And in the Spirit of the Season ...



Across the state at Tiffin Developmental Center
Packed with Perfect Poinsettias! – The Greenhouse at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) is ready for the holidays. TDC residents plant the poinsettias and enjoy watching them grow.

Pipeline PostScripts

Correction to December 8 Pipeline

In the OACB conference story (article #1) ... please see the corrected name in blue: The Partners In Excellence Award -- presented annually to County Board of DD staff members who demonstrate exemplary service in offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the County Board system as a whole -- was presented to *Bill Angel*, Director of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations at the Montgomery County Board of DD, and *Bob Beavis*, (not Bob Davis) Personnel Director for the Miami County Board of DD. *Apologies to Bob!*

Ohio Public Images (OPI) 'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 7, 2011

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 2010. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates and elected officials who champion efforts that improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The awards will be presented on March 21, at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon.

New in 2011, OPI also will spotlight employers who have made unique and exceptional efforts in training and/or employing individuals with developmental disabilities.

Contact: Mary Pat Riker: (419) 380-4049; MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org

Solidarity 2011! A leading Ohio conference for and by people with disabilities

Mark your calendars for April 26-28 to attend one of Ohio's Leading Conferences for and by People with Disabilities, *Solidarity!* Registration materials will be available via U.S. Mail and on the DNOS website after January 1, 2011. A limited number of scholarships will be available to eligible participants. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street in Columbus, and will include employment information, a job fair, a Statehouse visit, and more. Visit www.dnos.org for more information. 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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