



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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PostScripts: Several Timely Calendar Items and News Briefs



... We Celebrated A Memorable
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

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

Administration Update

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

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

Excerpted from the *Columbus Dispatch*: "Kasich's Medicaid plan isn't only cuts"

"We know the cuts could have been a whole lot worse," said Dan Ohler, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB). He had prepared members to expect a 50% cut in funding. "You will see County Boards looking for opportunities to share services," Ohler said.

The article also noted, "The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) expects to save money during the next two years by moving about 180 people out of state-run Developmental Centers, which are more costly than community care." The cost savings also will be a result of other efficiencies, including those involved in increasing community-based services for individuals served. *Read the Dispatch article: "[Kasich's Medicaid plan isn't only cuts](#)"*

House Finance Committee Hears Explanation of Proposed Medicaid Changes

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

Directors of participating member agencies of the Health Transformation Team, including DODD Director John Martin, acknowledged the work being done to align Medicaid policy priorities across agencies since the Kasich Administration took office. OHT's Moody has said more than once in recent weeks that the sustainability of the state's Medicaid system ... "is at risk if we do not get this under control now."

Focusing on funding for the Medicaid program is complicated by the loss of the "enhanced" or increased federal match dollars (eFMAP) the state is receiving in this current biennium, and by transfers that are proposed under the transformation efforts. OHT's Moody noted that efforts also will include moving the PASSPORT program from the Department of Aging to the Department of Job and Family Services. Transfer of the community mental health and alcohol/substance abuse Medicaid services also will be transferred to ODJFS.

Read more > [Medicaid transformation details](#) from the Office of Health Transformation

Justice Department's New ADA Rules Effective March 15, 2011

The U.S. the Department of Justice notes that revised regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became effective March 15, and are the Department's first major revision of its guidance on accessibility in 20 years. See related "Access" article in this issue of *Pipeline*, and click here to [read more about the new rules](#).

Agreement Transitions LRS to Nonprofit Disability Rights Agency

[Governor Kasich's Executive Budget](#) includes a provision reflecting the agreement between the Administration and the Ohio Legal Rights Service (LRS) Commission and staff to transition LRS to become a nonprofit corporation. Transfer of the agency's staff and functions, including redesignation of the protection and advocacy and client assistance program, as specified in federal law, will be concluded by September 30, 2012. Until then, the budget will fully fund the agency. LRS has stated that it will work to implement the transition in a way that recognizes the Commission's history of advocacy, while ensuring continuation of that advocacy as a nonprofit disability rights agency. Visit the LRS website at <http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/> for updates.



2. A Full Month of Greater Awareness Across Ohio

We are pleased to share a final sampling of the many activities and events that celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month across Ohio this year. Thanks to all who have provided information to share!

Superintendent's Conference Hosts Annual Awards Event

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



Joe Vance, Ohio Public Images' 2011 Self Advocate of the Year, and his 'entourage' ...
Joe accepts a 'Passion Flower' award from OPI Board President, Jane Imbody.
“ My Life Got Much Better with Assistive Technology.”
– Joe Vance, Allen County self-advocate (seated, with communications device)



Photos courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB

Mark Stewart (left) and Alan Cox, Lowe's – Findlay, Ohio – Employer of the Year

Superintendent's Conference presentations also provided an overview of current budget information and specific program updates, as well as provided a venue for questions and discussions among Ohio's 88 County Boards' management staff and conference presenters.

Commenting on efforts progressing in the 2012-13 biennial timeframe, DODD Director John Martin noted,

"We, as an Office of Health Transformation* partner agency, are working together on certain initiatives that will help build a strategy so that we can move forward planfully, as a more integrated system."

***See: Governor's Office of Health Transformation**

In Huron County, Three Little Words ...

In March, the Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities hosts three of its most recognized community events: The Self Advocates Breakfast; Annual 'Free Shred' Day; and, the Christie Lane 5K Walk & Run. The theme for this year's Self Advocates Club breakfast was, *"Together the future is brighter."* The Breakfast featured a brief video in the style of Good Morning America's, *"Three Words"* segment, and featured individuals who receive services at Christie Lane, expressing three words that are important to them.

**"Together We Can" was used by some members of the Bears basketball team ...
"Going to Preschool" - was used by a little girl in the Help Me Grow program ...
Two young men who are graduating this year used "Class of 2011" ...
And, "We are Friends" was used by some of the Christie Lane students.**

Attendees received a package of customized red and yellow M&Ms, imprinted with "Vote Yes" and "Christie Lane," a reminder to support the renewal levy in May.

At Free Shred Day, area residents can bring in up to 500 pounds of personal documents to Christie Lane Industries and have them shredded at no charge. The event helps raise awareness for the Christie Lane shredding and recycling business, which is AAA certified by the National Association for Information Destruction.

And, on March 26, runners and walkers hit the streets of Norwalk for the Christie Lane 5K Walk & Run. The popular event awards prizes in several age categories, recognizing all participants.

And Beyond the 'Three Little Words' ...

Dr. Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky, Superintendent of the Huron County Board of DD, shared the following during DD Awareness Month: "Mark Straka is 32 and has been receiving services for many years. Matt Leiber is 22, and began receiving services following his graduation from Norwalk High School in 2007. Their relationship began as co-workers in the workshop, Christie Lane Industries, Inc. It has developed into a fast friendship. You rarely see one without the other. In fact, *inseparable* is not too strong a word! They sort potatoes together at Great Lakes Packing in Bellevue, they mow grass together as part of Christie Lane Industries' lawn maintenance business, and they are part of the Christie Lane Bears Basketball Team."

She concludes,

"I tell you about Mark and Matt because they are reminders to all at Christie Lane of why we are in this line of work. Because of their friendship, the lives of both men are fuller and more complete ... It enhances their lives, and it enriches ours."



Mark and Matt – A story of friendship.

You rarely see one without the other. In fact, "inseparable" is not too strong a word.

In Medina County

SHC/The Arc of Medina County, a grassroots organization providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities for more than 58 years, "took a look at the big picture" this year. As one of the 700+ national chapters of The Arc, SHC/The Arc celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a photo shoot, including nearly 100 individuals, staff, families, and others. They held high the letters spelling the "R-word" they like -- "RESPECT."



SHC/The Arc of Medina County: Taking a look at the Big Picture

Photo courtesy, Bev Hardin, SHC/The Arc of Medina County

More Eye-Catching Billboards -- Belmont and Stark Counties

We've seen several great billboards promoting DD Awareness in Ohio this month, and they keep rolling in from around the state. "Together," and other localized themes speak to the viewer in the language of relationships – people and their communities.



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



In Stark County, it's clear they get the picture, too.

World Down Syndrome Day Celebration

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), in collaboration with the Ohio Down Syndrome Advocacy Network, hosted a World Down Syndrome Day celebration on March 21 at the The Fawcett Center in Columbus. Advocates and others from across the state promoted awareness and understanding of Down syndrome, and mobilized support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with Down syndrome.

The celebration also recognized work on the Trisomy 21 Translational Research Parity Act of 2009 ("The 21 Act"). DSACO Program Director Marge Barnheiser noted,

“The 21 Act represents a critical step in expanding and coordinating federal support for Down syndrome biomedical research.”

**Click on: National Down Syndrome Society - Healthcare
The Trisomy 21 Translational Research Parity Act of 2009**

The day included inspirational remarks by self-advocates and elected officials, as well as information on how to become a more effective advocate or self advocate. *For more information: Marge Barnheiser, (614) 263-6020, mbarnheiser@dsaco.net*



REM Ohio Celebrates, Statewide

REM Ohio representatives participated in large numbers at the DD Awareness Kick-Off Event at the Ohio Statehouse on March 3rd (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/DDAwarenessMonthPix.htm>) and took their advocacy and enthusiasm back to their local communities. Articles were published in several area newspapers serving communities where REM provides services. Here's an excerpt from one ...

Dear Editor,

... Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month not only offers an opportunity for increasing education, awareness, and community inclusion, but paves the way toward improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Several awareness and outreach efforts will be held and encouraged throughout the year by REM Ohio. It is, after all, a lack of knowledge and barriers to inclusion that often can result in isolation and disconnection from a community.

Our hope is that through education and support by our own friends and neighbors, many fears and false assumptions can be replaced with awareness, understanding, and inclusion. Readers who are interested in bringing awareness and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities into their community are invited to visit www.rem-oh.com for more information.

Sincerely,

Carla Parker, State Director

REM Ohio

330.864.5895

March is National Developmental Disability Month



Join REM Ohio as we celebrate National Developmental Disability Awareness Month!

At REM Ohio we are committed to delivering the highest quality services in community neighborhood living – empowering the people we serve to live, work and thrive in their community.

We encourage everyone to learn more about those in the community who have developmental disabilities and recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer. For more information on how to bring awareness to your community go to www.rem-oh.com.

REM
OHIO

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Its hard to beat a photo like this one, illustrating a group of individuals served by REM who recently participated enthusiastically in a health-related challenge, and did quite well.

Auglaize County Celebrates at Heritage Manor

Heritage Manor Residential Center, an Intermediate Care Facility in Minster, Ohio (Auglaize County), celebrates National Developmental Disability Awareness Month with residents and staff by planning events and activities that foster greater awareness and understanding. This year, Heritage Manor residents created clay art projects to share with family and friends, and enjoyed playing ‘Abled!’ (their version of ‘Bingo!’) with the letters and numbers ‘called’ over the intercom for staff to participate. They also baked and decorated cookies for nursing home residents and staff. When asked why they were serving them, Janice Jaynes, a resident at the Residential Center replied,

“We want to serve, and we are celebrating how awesome we are, too!”

Licking County DD Shows Community Ways to 'Get to Know Us'

More than 150 people gathered March 24 at Eleanor S. Weiant Center in Newark, for the Licking County Board of DD annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month celebration. The event, which has grown in scope and participation each year since the early 1990’s, aims to educate the community in a hands-on, on-location fashion, about the people it serves and the services it provides. Heather Odendahl, LCBDD public information manager, notes that the photos and comments below, *begin* to tell the story of what was learned and shared – but, indeed – “You had to be there!”



They got to know each other.

Licking County DD Awareness Event participants included area employers, local officials, and partner agency representatives who spent a full morning learning more about people with developmental disabilities, and all they can do and are doing in the community.



They got to know many other wonderful people.

Licking County started the 60th People First of Ohio chapter last year, and members were in full force with a rousing presentation at this year's Awareness Event. It rocked the house, and prompted a standing ovation!

- [Click here](#) to read more about the event from the Newark Advocate.



3. 'New' Regulations for Access* Now in Effect

***Defined as 'Disability Access', it is Improved Access for All!**

*Excerpted from an article March 16, 2011, by Julie Mianecki, Washington Bureau Los Angeles Times
Acknowledgements also to Mary Butler, mbutler@ohiosilc.org Olmstead Taskforce*

Further on the subject of the revised regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) effective March 15 – the first major revision of its guidance on accessibility in 20 years – Marilyn Golden, a policy analyst with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, noted the new regulations fit well with many existing local building codes, stating,

"So now, architects have one standard to follow – they don't have to comply with multiple standards that may seem conflicting."

Golden said other important changes involved hotel room accommodations, and seats at sporting events and concerts. She notes, "For example, let's say you're at a sporting event, and there's an exciting play, and everybody stands up. Can an individual who uses a wheelchair see over all those standing people?" It's much clearer that accessible seating has to provide *a clear line of sight, and* how that is to be achieved."

Golden added that before these regulations, it was common for a person with a disability to reserve an accessible room only to arrive and find, for example, that their wheelchair could not fit through the bathroom doorway.

"This is not to be considered a luxury," Golden added. "A person who needs an accessible room cannot use an inaccessible bathroom."

That's just one good example. Here's another venue in which the new regulations will be helpful ...

Accessibility should be even better ... at the event below!!



➡ THE ARC OF OHIO CEDAR POINT DAY IS MAY 25!

The Arc of Ohio invites members, friends, and family members to The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point on Wednesday, May 25.

Requests for a limited number of free admission tickets must be received by fax or regular mail in The Arc of Ohio office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15.

[Click here for more information and the Complimentary Ticket Request Form.](#)

Reduced-rate admission tickets will be available for purchase until noon on May 25, 2011 at The Arc of Ohio table, near the Cedar Point Ticket Booths.



Reminder

4. The IWGA Wants to Hear from Ohio's Families

The Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), 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.

Across the nation, there are many different kinds of general interventions and therapies being researched and developed to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) grow, learn, and pursue a high quality of life.

To learn about what kinds of interventions and therapies Ohio families are using for their family member with ASD, the IWGA has created a brief online survey at www.autism.ohio.gov.

The survey will remain online throughout April - National Autism Awareness Month!

The survey asks families about their experiences with eight different general intervention/therapy approaches. Information collected will help develop a picture of the kinds of intervention approaches Ohio families are using, and will help guide the work needed to assure that useful information about effective approaches get to families and service providers, statewide.



Developmental Centers as Community Resources

5. The Positive Culture Initiative Continues to Grow

The Positive Culture Initiative, introduced to Ohio's developmental disabilities community in September 2008, and growing by leaps and bounds over the past few years ([Read More](#)) is designed ...

To work toward the reduction and eventual elimination of aversive interventions, especially timeout and restraint, except where there is imminent risk to health and safety.



The Positive Culture Initiative debuts a new logo today, which will help unify informational materials.

According to noted Positive Culture proponent and 'Gentle Teaching' instructor, John McGee, "A Positive Culture is essential for building an environment that enhances the quality of life for the individuals we support throughout the state. The ultimate goal of any training is an 'aversive-free' approach to behavior supports."

Basically, the gentle teaching concept acknowledges that *all* people need to feel that others are connecting with them. They need to feel *safe* and *loved*. Once we take the time to see that the heart of each person is valued, then positive changes in behavior can result. Says McGee,

“We are dealing with the inner person more than the behavior. We have seen some amazing results in doing this – all over the world.”

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

The training is FREE and will be hosted at YDC’s Central Training Building’s Mall, 4891 E. County Line Rd., Mineral Ridge, Ohio, on Wednesday, April 13, from 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30am)

Reservations are requested. R.S.V.P. to John Trevelline at 330-544-2231 or john.trevelline@dodd.ohio.gov no later than April 6th.

Employees in the developmental disabilities field, family members of individuals with disabilities, guardians, and other members of the general public with an interest in the subject are invited to attend.



6. Plan to Attend Family Advisory Council Meeting April 12!

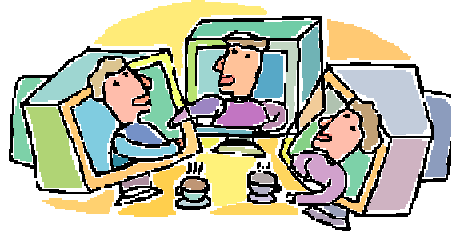
The next Family Advisory Council meeting is April 12, 2011, at the Ohio Centers for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) headquarters, 470 Glenmont Ave., Columbus, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. In providing information to families regarding the upcoming meeting, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin commented,

“Director Martin will look very seriously for your input as we move forward together. What is most important is that we do to hear from you. We are pleased to be at the OCALI location to accommodate as many family members as possible. Bring others from your county and region so that we hear from people, statewide.”

The packed agenda includes several topics, many of which have been requested by families:

- DODD Director John Martin will discuss the biennial budget and how we can best move forward together with individuals, families, and other stakeholders and partner agencies;
- APSI Director Karla Rinto will discuss guardianships and waiting lists;
- Janet Winterstein, R.N., will share information about DODD’s Health Improvement Initiative, and specifically, Medication Administration;
- JJ House will discuss -- from his 9 year old perspective – the adoption of children with special needs; and,
- Michelle Dexter and Leah Holden will share information about regional support to Families.

RSVP: Michele Kanode, 614-644-0265, michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov.



Pipeline PostScripts

➡ **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY – APRIL 14**

Legislative Advocacy Day 2011 will be April 14, 2011 at the Ohio Statehouse. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network, the event will include a brief program followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network consists of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council'), Ohio Legal Rights Service, and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and at the University of Cincinnati. About 325 advocates from throughout Ohio attended the Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse last September.

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

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

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

➡ **SOLIDARITY 2011**

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

➡ **OACB SPRING CONFERENCE, MAY 19-20**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) *Spring Conference* will be held May 19-20, at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, 8700 Lyra Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43240. Presenters will provide a wealth of useful information for attendees, and continuing education credits will be offered for each session.

Registration for the Spring Conference is open! (Click Here to Register and View Hotel Information).

➡ **MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON ACCESS, INCLUSION & DISABILITY, MAY 4-5**

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

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

Multiple Perspectives reaches across typical divisions: education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; race; gender, and ethnicity. Conference presentations provide an exciting opportunity for participants to reflect on tools and strategies needed to transform a commitment to justice and excellence in providing a future promising full access.

Visitors to Columbus for *Multiple Perspectives* may wish to consider arriving a day early to attend the May 3 [National Conference on Diversity, Race & Learning](#), sponsored by The Ohio State University Office of Diversity & Inclusion. For more information, visit <http://ada.osu.edu> or contact Scott Lissner at (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tt).

➡ **GCPD SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ADVOCACY AWARD**

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

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

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 ...

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