

# Pipeline Quarterly

A quarterly publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Volume 3, Issue 4

Summer 2010

"Who Got Their Just Desserts?"  
p. 7

Across the State

## Celebration, Recognition, and Advocacy



**This ADA mural says it 'All.'** "Liberty, Justice, and Access for ... All." At first view, the word "All" is lost at the far lower right – but we sure can understand what the mural is telling us! We captured it 'All' in the inset. Many Ohio artists produced this 180 square foot mural, created in six panels. See story, page 2.

Articles in this issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* take us around the state, literally from top to bottom, as well as locations in-between. From Ashtabula County in the far Northeast to Lawrence County in the South, there are stories of interest about some of the more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, and those who provide support to them.

Services that help individuals live, learn, and play as active participants in their communities are made real by the people living them each day in their own way. We share with you some of these great faces and places around the state, and invite you to travel with us ...

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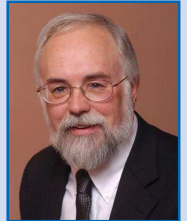
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### Director's Column

#### DODD Website Expansion and Upgrades

by John Martin  
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[www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

Our website address, above, has existed for roughly one year now, as the Department name change occurred in October 2009. 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.

Our success in these endeavors is gauged largely by user feedback, and from the data gained by reviewing analytical tools that count the number of times specific areas are accessed, and where these users geographically originate. We continue to support the improvement of Information Technology Systems as part of our DODD Priority Work.

Perhaps most exciting is the work now underway to improve our interaction and presence with service providers. Our 'provider portal' -- point of entry for service provider information and related forms -- will be relaunching soon, in a more user-friendly format.

(cont., p. 11)



## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 20 Year Anniversary

There were many events across Ohio this summer celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA. In Columbus, at the Ohio Statehouse on July 26, spearheaded by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, the celebration unveiled a very exciting mural (see cover) and spotlighted the continuing ADA commitment.

The July 26 unveiling of a 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 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as demonstrated by several state dignitaries and officials. The colorful mural, featured on the cover of this issue, was the collective design of many Ohio artists with disabilities whose work represents Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Lancaster, New Albany, Toledo, and Yellow Springs.

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 mural unveiling — organized in cooperation with VSA Arts of Ohio and dozens of Ohio artists with disabilities.

The mural ceremony was made even more dramatic as the canvas coverings were removed by the artists themselves.

*(cont. on p. 3)*



Above, RSC Administrator Michael Rench welcomes Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland to the podium. She spoke of the need to continue positive efforts in line with the ADA, noting,

**" Investing dollars in employment opportunities for people with disabilities such as Medicaid Buy-In is important in any economy – and all the more important in a difficult one such as we are experiencing now. "**

Above right, on T-shirts and at the microphone, the diverse crowd that gathered in downtown Columbus strongly supported disability rights. Participants proudly displayed T-shirts stating,

**"I support disability rights, and I vote!"**

And, at Cleveland's ADA event ...

Cuyahoga County Board of DD participant Donald Cunningham carries a flag provided by Senator George Voinovich that flew over the U.S. Capitol on July 4, 2010, walking up a ramp and onto the stage of Mall A in downtown Cleveland. The Mall's 'Fountain of Eternal Life', also known as the 'War Memorial Fountain,' is in the background. Photo: Courtesy of Lula Holt-Robertson, CCBDD.

**"Liberty, Justice, and Access for ... All"**

A candid handshake at the mural unveiling in Columbus silently speaks volumes. The mural is 6 ft. high x 30 ft. long.

**" Public art reminds us of what is important. The ADA is important to everyone – to all Americans."**

-Supreme Court Chief Justice Eric Brown



## Direct Care Provider CRSI Defines the Fabric of this Community

Visitors to Champaign County and the surrounding area will see some uniquely decorated barns, and learn a thing or two about the community and its people in the process.

The barns feature a generations-old quilt block pattern, The 'Flying Geese', bordering the outline of 'Two Scotts' ... representing Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) core values of satisfaction, honesty, quality, respect, and teamwork. The concept also collectively represents the individuals served and the direct support professionals who provide their services.

CRSI public relations director Linda Smith designed the quilt around a story immortalized by a pencil portrait drawn by Martha Perske, an artist well known in the developmental disabilities community:\*



**Friends of CRSI** install the quilt artwork in preparation for the county's annual Country Barn Quilt Tour. The pattern's "Flying Geese" at the top represent the vision, leadership, guidance, and training provided in support of direct care workers. The four "Flying Geese" pointing to the Two Scotts in the center represent that the focus is all about the people served.



Scott, a former CRSI service participant who is deceased, represents individuals with developmental disabilities, and his friend, Scott, represents the many valued people directly providing their services. The "Flying Geese" quilt blocks forming the row at the bottom and the four columns on either side of the image, represent all CRSI direct care employees. ♻



"Two boys, both named Scott, met at a country fair where they proudly showed their pigs. A friendship was born, and over the years they shared many things together such as bike riding, eating out at fast food restaurants, playing one-on-one basketball, and even painting a house together."

Contact: Linda Smith at [LSmith@CRSI-OH.com](mailto:LSmith@CRSI-OH.com)

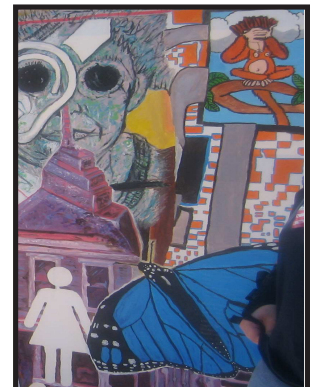
\*From "Perske: Pencil Portraits, 1971-1990.

## Americans with Disabilities Act, 20 Year Anniversary

(cont. from p. 2)

Assembled in six panels recognizing access, inclusion, and advancements under ADA legislation, the commemorative mural then was viewed by all, and walked by event participants from the Statehouse to the Vern Riffe Center across the street, for its initial exhibition. From there it will travel to several sites around the state. ♻

**Several hundred attendees** enjoyed the event.



## 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, along with family members and direct support professionals, the premiere 'Posipalooza' at the Xenos complex in Columbus, was an event to remember for shaking up the way we do things in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Hosted by the DODD Positive Culture Initiative Conveners Group and the Ohio Association of County Boards, and sponsored by more than two dozen related agencies and organizations, 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."**

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. The free-flowing format allowed for greater flexibility than the usual 'conference style' approach to learning, according to facilitator Jo Krippenstapel, who invited attendees to sample as many different venues as desired. Along with several art-related efforts, some breakout groups focused on discussions of subjects that may seem on the surface to be simplistic, yet built toward a greater understanding of something

larger. For example, 'The Good Day Café' group facilitator encouraged participants to think about what "having a good day" means to them. Some found that 'starting off with a great cup of coffee' was important ... others said that sunny weather or a hug from a person they care about was 'right up there' with that morning coffee. To paraphrase Director Martin's earlier comments, the event served as a venue to view every person as someone of value, and seek to understand them.

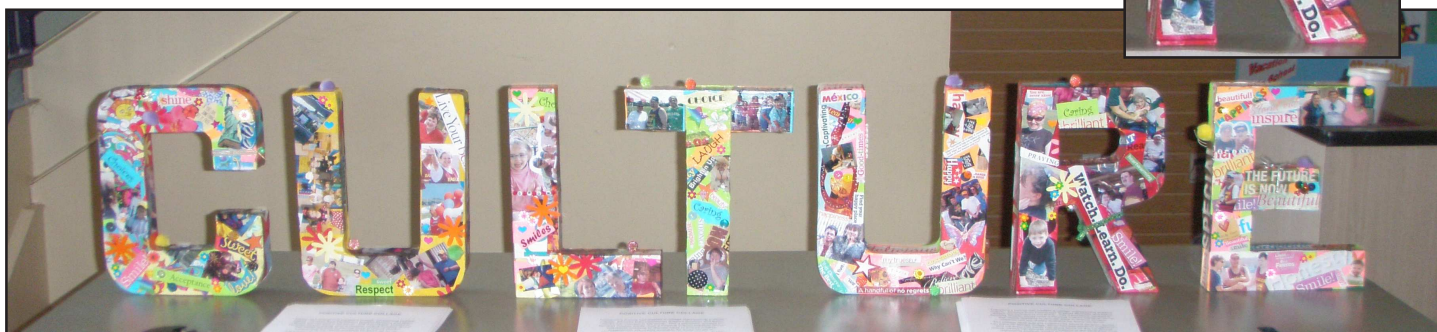


**What positive culture meant to participants at the 'create-a-mural' area was something unique to everyone.**

**'States of Ohio' mobile creation now hangs at the DODD Central Office in Columbus as a symbol of the DD community's positive energy.**

**More Positive Culture at: [dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm](http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm)**

**"The 'R' word"? Lots of words start with 'R', like Respect! The inset shows more detail on the colorful collage created by Posipalooza event participants. Some rather remarkable artistic talent shows us that there's also a respectful 'R' in 'Culture'.**



## Developmental Centers as Community Resources

### Cambridge Theater Participants Get Their 'Just Desserts'

*As most actors will tell you, putting together a live theater production can be murder!*

Just ask the cast and crew of 'Just Desserts' -- billed as a 'delicious murder mystery' -- recently produced by Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) staff and residents.

'Just Desserts' is CaDC's first theatre performance, and it debuted on stage in late June. According to the audience, "Wow! What a Performance!"

#### Let's go back in time ...

About a year ago, CaDC staff had a vision of turning one of the complex's buildings into something more modern, and of interest to the adult residents. One day, a discussion occurred with Bruce Ryan -- a member of the direct service staff and a man known to be well above the norm in artistic abilities. He casually mentioned,

*"Why not make a theatre?"  
The idea seemed a perfect fit.*



**Cast and crew of "Just Desserts!"**

*photo courtesy, Sue Sprang*

According to CaDC staff member, Sue Sprang, "We were unsure then how we would pull this off! However, with Bruce's lead, assistance from many of his talented peers, and support from several CaDC facility departments, The Theatre came to life!!" She adds,

*"And a masterpiece it is! Right down to the gold 'gems' guiding the wall fixtures."*

Sue continues, "During the months of bringing our theatre to reality, several staff proposed ideas for activities in this new area. Once the idea of a Murder Mystery was mentioned, we were off and running. Some of us went to see a Murder Mystery in the local community and we were sold. But it was the expertise of CaDC staffers Andy Pelegreen and Susan Barzda -- both of whom have directed plays in community theatres -- that helped us all rise to the task. It was with their experience that 'Just Desserts, a Delicious Murder Mystery' was created."

For months, practices were held two to three times per week. Individuals and staff continually worked on lines  
*(cont. on p. 7)*



#### More Talent ...

Alexandra "Alex" Long created this abstract geometric masterpiece for her friend Brent Mnich, a Therapeutic Program Worker at CaDC. We're not sharing Alex's art just for the artistic value, however -- we also want to share that Alex, who until just recently resided at the Cambridge Developmental Center as a short-term placement, has now returned to her hometown of Lancaster ... and, in a new two-bedroom home! Alex was very excited about this hoped-for turn of events, and yet has said she misses her friends at Cambridge who helped her so much. Those friends now report that Alex is thrilled that her new residence has two apple trees and a bird house in one of them. Alex reports that she's watching the birds from her side porch. During her stay at Cambridge, Alex was able to expand her artwork into ceramics, and explored other therapeutic venues. *Way to go, Alex!*

## Community Preparedness Efforts are ... Awesome in Ashtabula!

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month, and focuses specifically on emergency preparedness planning. In Ohio, some communities are very active in promoting safety and preparedness for their citizens. Leading the way in Northeast Ohio is Ashtabula County, where a broad-based yet closely-knit group of preparedness professionals have partnered with agencies serving its most vulnerable citizens. The result is bringing national attention to the efforts, and peace of mind to families.

**"The interest in and readiness to work together was amazing -- I'm struck by the commitment I see."**

- Joni Arcaro, SSA,  
ACBDD Community  
Support Services



**"We have a high confidence level in our depth of coverage. Our communications chain is set up so we can get to the people we need"**

- George Sabo, Director,  
Ashtabula County EMA



**Planning for jobs in the community.**

**Displaying an intense belief in the cause ... are some of the members of the Ashtabula County preparedness network, including Ashtabula County Board of DD staff, and several community health and safety organizations.**



**Workshop Preparedness.**

**"By doing this, our population will be taken care of in an emergency. It's been kind of a 'call to action' for other organizations, and we're excited about how everyone has been so receptive."**

- Elaine Marcy, School Nurse, ACBDD

In 2007, Vince Gildone, Administrator of Northwest Ambulance District contacted Joni Arcaro, Service and Support Administrator (SSA) for the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD). He had a question. "Who are the key agencies that serve individuals with special needs?" Vince, a member of the (then) local Pandemic Flu Committee, was assisting the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in fulfilling a mandate to address emergency preparedness issues.

ACBDD representatives, including Joni Arcaro and Marlene Sartini, Director of Community Support Services, worked with Gildone to identify individuals in the county who have special needs -- and the caregivers that serve them. The group also identified other resources for specific special needs. Agencies identified at the outset of this initiative as major

stakeholders were CareStar, Area Agency on Aging, and the local Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Boards, as well as the ACBDD. According to Sartini, "We were successful in partnering with these agencies, and each stakeholder was given the responsibility to maintain and update their own list of individuals. This was huge. The County EMA then partnered with our core group of stakeholders."

This synopsis simplifies a lot of work in the set-up phase, however, it grew exponentially from there. Each agency then appointed a contact person who was assigned to the project, and joined with the County EMA to develop a systematic process for notifying all entities in the event of a critical incident. At this juncture, ACBDD Administrative Secretary Carli Wojtowicz joined the group as a key player in the overall communication plan.

## Awesome in Ashtabula

(cont. from p. 6)

ACBDD Superintendent Anne Zeitler notes, "Fortunately, we have a secure shelter location right here at our 'Happy Hearts School'. There also is a commitment from our staff and other stakeholders in caring for individuals when the shelter is operational. She continues,



**They're Prepared!** Bobby is more than prepared with chrysanthemums, grown in ACBDD's Ash/Craft Greenhouse and sold to flower-lovers throughout the community, and Marlene Sartini prepares for a tour of Ash/Craft Industries.

Zeitler and Sartini point out another important element in the comprehensive preparedness efforts:

**"We have partnered with the County Department of Health and others to establish a 'Closed Pod Dispensing Site' to distribute preventive medication quickly, in a contained and organized area, during a public health emergency."**

**"The acquisition of a generator would make the project complete. We are actively looking for grant money to make this a reality. We also are securing an agreement with the American Red Cross, which already has been very helpful to us."**

The scope of these efforts in Ashtabula County is far-reaching, and has grown to include Adult Protective Services, Catholic Charities, Hospice, and two bariatric consultants from Nursing Home facilities. In addition, the stakeholders group

(cont. on p. 12)

## "Just Desserts" (cont. from p. 5)

and explained the story to ensure that everyone understood this original play. Yes, 'Just Desserts' is an original production, by CaDC's Andy Pelegreen and Sue Barzda. When they cast the players in their roles, *The Amazing CaDC Players* took shape.

### A Premiere Production!

The story's setting is a ballroom in Cambridge, Ohio, which has become the world's center for great bakeries. 'Paul Bowman' owns a bakery and has won a Million Dollar Bake-Off for a recipe he stole from a competitor. Paul is found dead. Suspects are questioned by 'Inspector Gadget', famous detective and food expert, who was one of the Bake-Off judges. Hilarity ensues, followed by delicious desserts, and the murderer is caught by the closing act.

According to CaDC staff, the production took diligence and perseverance, and at times it seemed 'all uphill' -- but then someone would surprise and energize with a twist of their lines. Says Sprang,

For more information: [susan.sprang@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:susan.sprang@dodd.ohio.gov);  
[www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/cadc.htm](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/cadc.htm)

**"It was incredible to see the strengths shown throughout this experience. Although a lot of work was required, the pay-off was so worth it. Five months in the making! There were priceless moments of seeing our residents so proud of their work, and seeing their self-esteem grow."**

CaDC Residential Care Supervisor Jackie Berg ensured that everyone received an 'Oscar', and Program Director Cathy Ballinger threw a Cast Party. An encore performance was held in July for family members, friends, and invited guests. It was an amazing experience for all, and rumor has it that the next endeavor already is in the making. 🎉



**A closer look at "The Amazing CaDC Players."**  
Those are some pretty cool Oscars they're holding!

## A Look at Learning in Lawrence County

At the southern tip of Ohio is Coal Grove ... the town that the Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) calls home, as do the many children and adults they serve -- about 300 adults and 140 children -- who may not realize just how innovative some of the programs are that



are available to them. LCBDD staff have implemented several ideas that allow individuals to explore, develop, and realize their potential. Among them are those that you see in this publication.

Kudos to all who work so hard on behalf of the people they serve to open doors to learning.



**Above and Left: Let's Rub It In!**  
In this specialized classroom, eight children who have been diagnosed as having characteristics on the Autism Spectrum participate eagerly in teacher Courtney Townsend's sensory activities. These pre-schoolers are assisted by staff from the local Head Start program, as well as Ironton City Schools. Here, they use hand lotion while singing. Says Courtney,



After the sensory activity, it's right back to learning how to spell names. Foam letters on lapboards guide the children. "How do you spell ... Mason?"

"It's calming for them right after outdoor play, and it gives us a nice transition to the next activity."

The LCBDD school age program is fairly traditional, with some surprises. Teaching staff includes several male role models.

## Tim Bishop Learns About Living in the Community

Tim Bishop is a resident of a duplex apartment built by CHOICES, a nonprofit housing organization that rents homes to individuals who receive services through the Lawrence County Board of DD. He has lived in the apartment with homemaker/personal care providers since June, and moved from a local nursing facility. Tim works at Tri-State Industries, and reports that he enjoys his job, likes his supervisor Pam, and particularly enjoys earning money.

Tim was the first resident in Lawrence County to be eligible for the HOME CHOICE Program which helps with funding to move from nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, or a developmental center, into the community.

HOME CHOICE funded rental deposits, first month's rent, furniture, start-up food supply, utility deposits, and a reserve amount for a year for Tim's additional needs. The Lawrence County Board of DD Service and Support Administration coordinated with other agencies to facilitate Tim's desire to live in the community.



"It's great to be in my own apartment!"

## Lawrence County *(cont. from p. 8)*

The Lawrence County Board's Early Childhood Center supports a unique classroom curriculum focused on students with special behavioral needs. According to Early Childhood Director Sue Vanderhoof, the students who are on the Autism Spectrum are greatly helped by the consistent and reinforcing activities that keep the day interesting. Parents already have seen excellent progress after only a few weeks of classes. "Courtney's class is making a difference, and we have received great support from the local Ironton public schools, and Head Start, as well as through grants from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council."

**Learning Archery** -- At the LCBDD Open Door School, older students receiving transition services are learning many employment related skills, as well as archery! Yes, archery. The sport has much to recommend it, according to instructors Jim Robinson and Dan Honaker. Both of these instructors have taken rigorous nationally-sanctioned archery courses and other training through the Ohio Division of Wildlife. They explain,

**"With archery, everyone's on a level playing field. We have students who are male, female, taller, smaller, weaker, and stronger. They all can learn and respect the rules and skills of archery."**

Funds for the equipment were obtained through a grant this past Spring. "We're really impressed with how our students are taking to this sport," says Jim. Specific techniques and protocols are important for participant safety and are stressed. Says Jonathan, age 19,

**"I know what I'm supposed to do, and, well, I'm pretty good at it!"**

Jim and Dan are both hoping to take their first class of archers to a competition sometime next year. "We're hopeful that The Open Door Archers will be a force to reckon with," they say, as Dan produces a sketch he's done for a possible team logo. *(Sorry we can't show it - it's a surprise!)*

*(cont. on p. 12)*



**The archery equipment is readied in the Open Door School gym. Archers line up and prepare their bows and arrows per the safety techniques and protocol of the sport. "It's a whole mind and body connection," says instructor Dan Honaker, adding, "We have adaptive techniques, as well, for those who may need to learn things differently."**



**Proper technique is to slowly pull straight out – don't just yank on it!**

## DODD Priority Work

### Ensuring Individuals' Health & Safety Clearly the Focus of this Group

Ask Scott Phillips what is so important about the work of the DODD Mortality Review Committee (MRC) and you'd better settle into a comfy chair with a sandwich. The Assistant Deputy Director in the Division of Legal and Oversight, Phillips has a lot to say on the subject, and is understandably enthusiastic about the work being done through this committee to protect and improve the health and safety of people served in Ohio's DD community.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of carefully reviewing mortality information to determine trends and patterns that might put a person in jeopardy of an accidental or otherwise avoidable death.

If one person saw something that can help in the next similar situation, then the system works, and we've seen that happen. It's a good feeling when the system helps people like that."

Attending a meeting of the Mortality Review Committee\*, one will immediately see that this is no cursory 'rubber-stamp' group. The information gathered by the Committee while reviewing causes and situations surrounding the death of any Ohioan receiving DD services is the result of a very detailed and systematic process designed to spot any trends and patterns that can later lead to reducing or avoiding similar emergency health and safety issues.

Risk factors and other related details are then included in [DODD Health & Safety Alerts](#) and [Information Notices](#) that outline preventive steps and other positive approaches to assist individuals, Direct Support Professionals and family caregivers, based on this data. The entire process supports the Department's commitment to quality services and [DODD Priority Work](#) efforts, as well.

According to Phillips, the Committee strives to promote the health and safety of individuals specifically through: Identifying factors that may have contributed to deaths; tracking mortality trends;



**Ensuring Health and Safety is their prime concern.** Several members of the Mortality Review Committee gather at a recent meeting at Columbus Developmental Center. *Front, l. to r.:* Todd Dilley, Karla Rinto, Deb McGuire, Adonna Wilson, Brengle Waldron. *Back, l. to r.:* Tom Musto, Scott Phillips, Dr. Becky Strafford, Chuck Beatty, Dr. Rukhsana Alam, Kristie Overton. (Not pictured- Kathy Rader, Connie McLaughlin, Dr. Robert Norman, Dr. Robert Wysokinski).

#### Mortality Review Committee Partners

- **APSI** (Advocacy & Protective Services, Incorporated)
- **The Arc of Ohio**
- **CRS** (Community Residential Services)
- **CRSI** (Champaign Residential Services, Inc.)
- **OPRA** (Ohio Provider Resource Association)
- **OACBDD** (Ohio Association of County Boards)
- **ODDC** (Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council)
- **ODJFS** (Ohio Department of Job & Family Services)
- **OLRS** (Ohio Legal Rights Services)
- **DODD** (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities)

identifying caregiver training needs; and, developing recommendations for preventive measures.

For example, a death resulting from choking on food could result in the creation, re-release, or update of a *Health & Safety Alert* on the subject. An *Alert* also might note that situational or transitional issues, such as a change in provider personnel, could cause a person to be unknowingly given food in a texture or shape not in line with the person's ability to chew and swallow it properly.

The MRC works in tandem with the Department's

\*Meetings are quarterly with semi-annual and annual reviews in August and February.

(cont. on p. 11)

## Health & Safety

### Mortality Review Committee *(cont. from p. 10)*

Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigative Unit, and with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, to ensure timely investigation or review of accidental and suspicious deaths of individuals served by the DD system. Physicians on the MRC add their medical expertise and attention to detail to the mix of members in the review process.

#### Data Helps Drive Decisions, Plans


Ohio's 88 County Boards are required to record pattern and trend analysis on MUI's, and to develop and maintain a mortality database that facilitates monitoring. The database may include cause of death, age, place of residence, residential provider, and day service provider. Service quality indicators include investigation timeliness, thoroughness of investigation, and follow-up prevention planning.

In addition, the MRC reviews statistical information related to 'cause of death' by groupings compared to state and national averages for the general population. Phillips notes that the DODD's usage of related National Core Indicators data over a three-year period beginning in 2008 also has been helpful in the benchmarking of service quality issues on this area.\*\* He adds,

**"We also need to be mindful of the delicate balance between individual rights and safety. That's always a concern in terms of what to do or not do in a given situation. By using valuable data, tough decisions can be made more easily."**

MRC members Dr. Becky Strafford and Chuck Beatty agree that reviewing previous decisions on cases sometimes also brings to light similarities that may have been otherwise overlooked. They note,

**"We are always asking ourselves, 'Are we missing anything here that is becoming a pattern ... either with a specific provider, medication, or procedure?' We are always open to discussion, and that's why the synergy of this group's members is so important."**

The many partners on the Mortality Review Committee complement each other as they bring their areas of expertise to the table. And as in any effort involving the health and welfare of individuals served, the goal is always to learn from what has happened, and focus on prevention and education. Phillips comments, "The DD community has greatly improved regarding the amount of detail provided in mortality reports. This helps us a great deal in understanding what issues may have lead to a death, and what risk factors may have been identified. For the MRC, it's all in the details." 

*\*\*More information at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/quality/nci.htm> and <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/>*

#### Director's Update

### DODD Website Expansion and Upgrades

*(cont. from cover)*

While I am not a technically-inclined person, I do know that the revision will streamline many online inquiries and transactions, and allow providers to basically do business with us in a more user-friendly way. Feedback from providers throughout the development phase of this site upgrade has been most helpful and encouraging. Within the next few months we expect to bring this online upgrade to be well in place.

The DODD Information Technology team, along with the Office of Policy and Constituent Support, also has expanded our internet presence in partnerships with the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), and Ohio's Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence (MIDD-CCOE), whose partnering websites are integrated within ours. Direct links are at: [www.iwg-autism.org/](http://www.iwg-autism.org/) and [www.midd.ohio.gov/](http://www.midd.ohio.gov/), respectively.

I encourage you to take a look at these internet sites and take advantage of the many resources to be found. Partnerships such as these enrich each of us involved in serving the needs of all Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.

As you use the online resources at [dodd.ohio.gov](http://dodd.ohio.gov), including the upcoming improvements to the 'provider portal' we invite your feedback and comments. Simply click on 'webmaster' at the bottom of the homepage, or send an email to [webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov). We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for using our website as a helpful resource.

*-Respectfully, John Martin*

## More Learning in Lawrence County



**At Open Door School,**  
Principal Kendra Kelley says,  
"Every day is a good day here!"  
And this young man demon-  
strates just that, through his  
makeshift rose-colored glasses.  
He says,


"Are you here to play  
with us? I hope so!"

(cont. from p. 9)

Lawrence County Board of DD Superintendent Paul Mollett is understandably proud of the efforts of the agency's staff, and the willingness of the Lawrence County community to join together and collaborate on projects, share resources, and learn from each other. He reflects,


"I really do think that we have come a long way during the past few years in making the most of partnerships in our community, and making the most of funding -- including grants and waivers. We've gone from a couple of waivers back in the mid-1990's to about 80 now."

He adds, "That's a great help for our people and their families -- a positive change in their lives."

In the southern-most tip of Ohio, looking South from Coal Grove, you can see the bridge to Kentucky, and you can wind up in West Virginia if you're not careful about your exits. Perhaps it's just as well to stay in Ohio. There's so much to learn here! 

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## More Awesome in Ashtabula (cont. from p. 7)

continues to collaborate with the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services, and neighboring counties. The group's efforts will be studied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a 'best practices' plan, according to George Sabo, Director of the Ashtabula County EMA. He emphasizes that this is especially exciting since Ashtabula County has limited resources and has taken such a long-range approach. "I'm already thinking about 2011 and 2012," he says. Sartini underscores the fact that the grassroots initiative has grown stronger each time additional agency partners came on board with the plan. "We are feeling confident that we have all the necessary organizations actively involved to provide the care and the immediate action needed in an emergency." And that's ... pretty awesome! 

**Ohio** | Department of  
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## Pipeline Quarterly

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We thank all who have allowed us to speak with them for this issue, and all who have contributed to its preparation. Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are welcomed!

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