



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Pipeline PostScripts: Update Your 2012 Calendar – Events and Opportunities

Governor Kasich Sets 'State of the State' Address for Steubenville, Feb. 7th
Governor Kasich will deliver his second State of the State address on Feb. 7 (noon or 1 p.m.) from Wells Academy - an elementary school in Steubenville, said to be Ohio's highest-ranking public elementary school. The Address typically is made to a joint session of the General Assembly in Columbus, making this 2012 setting a unique one.

DODD on the Road

1. Butler County Board Demonstrates Positive Culture Shifts

Several members of the DODD Central Office met last week with staff at the Hamilton, Ohio, offices of the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities (BCBDD) as part of an ongoing outreach and education effort spearheaded by Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Direction. “On-site visits around the state are one way to help us develop stronger engagement and understanding with our stakeholder groups at the grassroots level,” says Kerr, adding,

“It is important that we keep up with what’s happening in the field and learn how to better support local County Boards and providers. Making those connections in-person sometimes provides a certain synergy that can fuel great ideas and more collaboration down the line.”

Central Office participants on the trip were involved in meetings and tours at Butler County’s Liberty Center (adult day habilitation services), the Janet Clemmons Center (where we met with staff from Early Intervention services and other family-oriented programming), and a local Intermediate Care Facility, Takota Trails, as well as a supported living residence. Also on the

agenda was a presentation on the Positive Culture Initiative* during an informal provider luncheon. A positive culture approach to working with individuals who have disabilities focuses on affirming relationships and interactions, and providing a safe, caring environment.

Comments from DODD visitors following the day of learning and discussions in Butler County indicated that the BCBDD staff had definitely embraced a positive culture shift, and it was apparent in their approach to collaboration -- with service providers and with individuals and families served. The Positive Culture Initiative had become rooted within the county's system of support, and had become a pervasive way of thinking and doing, as demonstrated by staff.

Superintendent Chris Hurr noted that the organization has shifted from an 'assisting' to a 'supporting' role, which is a shift from an 'assist/dependency' model to one that supports and empowers. She explains,

"Everything from developing community employment opportunities for adults and transition-age youth, to working with young children and their families participating in early intervention services has been touched by this shift in thinking. We are seeing positive results."

Unique programs and services at BCBDD include a Problematic Sexual Behavior Support Team (a treatment approach certified through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) for persons with developmental disabilities who have been identified with challenging issues in this area, and a hybrid approach to early intervention services which includes strategies of the P.L.A.Y. Program** as well as identifying and adopting other evidence-based 'best practices.'

Butler County Board staff member Mary May notes that it wasn't easy taking a look at new ways to reach out to families with early intervention-age children to involve them more completely in helping children progress. She states, "We basically had to allow ourselves to change how much we did *for* the children and the families, and become better guides and catalysts for the families." She added,

"This shared strength is yielding great results when you see the children get the kind of interaction and stimulation needed to sustain progress in natural environments like the family home."

May continues, "It's also helped that we've 'crossed the lines' in terms of county lines -- in collaborating with our peers in Hamilton, Clermont, and Warren Counties. We are in the process of developing a more regional and connected approach to services and making some very helpful connections with others who have expertise. We need to do more of that."

Visitors from DODD Central Office agreed that they would have their hands full assimilating and sharing with co-workers all the information they had learned about the Butler County Board's business operations, strategic planning, transition and employment services, strong self advocacy efforts, and more ... and that the time spent learning would be useful in understanding how counties are managing with fewer dollars. This is precisely what Monty Kerr had in mind when planning the BCBDD trip. "Stronger engagement with our stakeholders, and better understanding of their day-to-day issues will help us to plan more practically, and use our state's resources more effectively."

One of the keys to effectively managing resources was noted by Butler County staff member Gina Frankenfeld, as she summed up some thoughts about Early Intervention services...

"If you keep the family the center of the decision-making, you can't go wrong."

Butler County Board of DD contact: Wendy Planicka, wkplanicka@butlerdd.org

**More about the Positive Culture Initiative: dodd.ohio.gov/pci/Pages/default.aspx*

***More about P.L.A.Y. at [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 17](#), "Relationship-Based Training."*

More about Butler County DD
in the next [Pipeline Quarterly](#), publishing in late March.

2. Bill of Rights – The Right to Vote

The updated *Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities* poster online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org contains 24 plainly-stated rights that serve as a guide for all who are a part of Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Right XXIII (#23): The right to vote and learn about laws and your community.



For the complete updated poster: [Download here](#)

According to Brett Harbage, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator with the Ohio Secretary of State's office, 2012 will be a busy 2012 election year, and the office is stepping up its efforts to educate people with disabilities about voting and the election process.

Two new publications, [2012 Options for Voting](#) and [2012 Voter Access Guide](#) are available to educate individuals with disabilities about their voting rights and responsibilities.

February 6 is the deadline for registering to vote in the March 6 Primary Election.

Contact your local Board of Elections for more information.

Harbage notes, "Please keep in mind the magnitude of a busy Presidential election, and Ohioans with disabilities – some of whom may not have voted before – will be looking for information to become educated voters." In that effort, the Secretary of State's office will staff an information table at the annual kickoff celebration of *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* at the Ohio Statehouse on March 1 (see article below) from 10:00 a.m. – noon. More about this event in a separate article in this issue of *Pipeline*.

Do you have a short item illustrating one of the 24 Rights in action?

Email it to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov and it will be considered for the *Pipeline* series, 'Bill of Rights in Action, 2012'



Health & Safety

3. Great American ShakeOut Set for February 7th

Just a few minutes after the January 18th *Pipeline* was distributed via email, carrying an article referencing a rare earthquake felt on the campus of Youngstown Developmental Center* (YDC) ... the information below was received from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency!

OHIO EMA ENCOURAGES PUBLIC TO JOIN THE GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKEOUT

February is Earthquake Awareness Month

The *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* is a drill designed to educate the public on how to protect themselves during a large earthquake, and how to get prepared. The second annual large-scale earthquake drill will be held on Feb. 7 at 10:15 a.m.

The ShakeOut includes nine partners (states) that were impacted by large earthquakes that centered near New Madrid, Missouri in 1811 and 1812 – Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Any central U.S. state not directly impacted then, can join to participate. Several Ohio businesses and organizations have already registered, and Ohio EMA joined in January of this year.

Some Earthquake Preparedness Steps

- Identify safe places in each room of your home and workplace. A safe place could be under a heavy piece of furniture, or against an interior wall that is away from windows or items that could fall.
- Practice *Drop, Cover, and Hold On* in each safe place. If there is no sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Organize and maintain a disaster supply kit. Be sure to include any needed medications.
- Develop an emergency communications plan. It could be as simple as updating and sharing cell phone numbers.
- Practice your plan.

For more information about the ShakeOut, go to: www.shakeout.org/centralus/

*(Excerpted from *Pipeline*, January 18, 2012) While some winter hazards are to be expected in Ohio, a few are more rare. In the Youngstown area, New Year's Eve was marked by such a rarity -- an earthquake. While the shaking and ground movement were felt on the Youngstown Developmental Center campus, there were no reports of serious damage and no reports of injuries. One resident, Tyler P., injected a bit of humor into the situation. As the shaking began in his residence building, Tyler looked around and quickly assured the staff, "It wasn't me!"

Ohio EMA Contact: Tamara McBride, Public Affairs (614) 799-3695



4. RSC Seeks Additional Commissioners to Serve on Board

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) currently has three open seats to fill on the Commission's Board, and is searching for candidates for appointment. Commissioners are appointed by Governor John Kasich and approved by the Senate to seven-year terms. Ohio law allows one re-appointment.

According to RSC Director Kevin Miller, "There is no requirement for service more important than knowledge and concern for the agency's mission ..."

Independence for Ohioans with physical or mental disabilities is the mission that unites all aspects of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). RSC works with partners in business, education, and non-profits to facilitate customized employment plans for Ohioans with disabilities.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for participation on the RSC Board, submit information for consideration using the form located at:

www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Boards%20and%20Commissions%20Application%20Final.pdf.

More information at <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>; Acknowledgements to the RSC publication, Weekly Focus.



5. Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities

YLF is an annual four-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities. The July 2012 forum in Columbus is geared to prepare students to take advantage of new and different community-based opportunities, and develop as constructive, contributing members of society.

Characteristics of participating YLF students include:

- Demonstrating leadership potential;
- Demonstrating involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities;
- Demonstrating an ability to interact effectively with other students, and;
- Representing Ohio in terms of geographic region, gender, and ethnicity.

According to YLF organizers, student delegates learn about career choices and available resources including assistive technology; identify existing barriers to personal and professional success; and, develop plans to deal with barriers. In addition, YLF participants are introduced to professionals with disabilities as possible mentors to encourage youth to realize their abilities, rights, and obligations to pursue meaningful employment and community leadership.

One of the most unique aspects of the Youth Leadership Forum is that students develop a 'Personal Leadership Plan,' to take back to their communities and be better empowered to reach their goals in education, employment, and community involvement.

Approximately 50 high school students will be selected to attend the 2012 Forum, through a competitive selection process. More information on Youth Leadership Forum information at www.gcpd.ohio.gov/YLF/index.html

There is no cost to attend for students who are selected.

Contact: Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator;
Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614)438.1394 or 1.800.282.4536 ext.1394; 1-866-579-5622
(VP) Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us



6. Applications Sought for Advocates in Disability Award

Young leaders with disabilities are encouraged to apply!

The purpose of the Advocates in Disability program is to award and encourage a young individual with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26, who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States.

The program also supports an innovative project developed by a young person with a disability that serves and empowers individuals with disabilities.

The Advocates in Disability Award is a program of The HSC Foundation*. The selected recipient is awarded \$3,000 in recognition of the demonstrated disability advocacy, and will receive up to an additional \$7,000 in funding support for the individual's proposed project that focuses on serving and empowering individuals with disabilities.

Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States at the time of application submission and recipient selection. The Advocates in Disability Award Program is part of The HSC Foundation's National Youth Transitions Initiative.

Apply online at: www.hscfoundation.org/2012ADA.php

Applications must be received by February 28, 2012 (by 5:00pm EST).

*Formerly Health Services for Children, now referred to by only the acronym HSC.

Contact: Ryan Easterly, Manager, National Youth Transitions Initiative, The HSC Foundation, Washington, DC
REasterly@cscn.org; www.hscfoundation.org

In case you missed it ... read about the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver in the most recent issue of

Pipeline Quarterly

Archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx>



On page 8, *Pipeline Quarterly*, Autumn 2011, illustrating the spirit of the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.



PostScripts

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Informational Sessions Feb. 23 & March 1

On Thursday, February 23, 2012 (ESC - Valley View, OH - Cleveland area) and Thursday, March 1, 2012 (Crowne Plaza Hotel - Columbus) informational sessions on *Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD): Challenges to Community Participation and Supports to Improve Involvement* will be presented by representatives for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI.) The sessions will discuss the characteristics of ASD in relation to challenges that are encountered in the community, as well as strategies to support individuals. Discussion will include the impact of ASD characteristics on interactions with employers, co-workers, medical personnel, law enforcement, and other community members, and training needs will be identified.

ONLINE REGISTRATION at www.par-ohio.org

Contact PAR (419) 522-6207; Ecmrdd@aol.com

Mark Your Calendar for March 1, 2012

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff

Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* (March) *Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 1, 2012, from 10 a.m. – noon.



'Together' theme materials are now available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

"Our Community is Better Together," the statewide theme for 2012, focuses this event and other developmental disabilities awareness efforts on understanding and welcoming peoples' differences *and* similarities. The event will spotlight opportunities that are emerging in this spirit around the state, and last year drew nearly 500 attendees. Self advocates from around the state will share their unique experiences.

Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

People First of Ohio, "Blazing New Trails" Conference, March 22-24

Mark your calendar for the *People First of Ohio* Conference, "Blazing New Trails," March 22-24, at Roberts Convention Centre, Wilmington, Ohio. Sessions will include information about voting, employment, leadership, Medicaid Buy-In, and more. Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, is a featured speaker. *Who should attend?* SSA's, providers and other professionals, families, County Board staff, and self advocates. CEU's will be awarded for trainings. Registration materials available via U.S. Mail and on the *People First* website at www.peoplefirstohio.org, or by calling (740) 397-6100; email Carrie Swingle at carrie@peoplefirstohio.org.

Registration is now open! [Click here> People First Conference Registration Form](#)

Twelfth Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference April 24-25

The theme for the Twelfth Annual *Multiple Perspectives Conference*, "Experience Understood in Image, Poetry, Narrative, and Research," reaches across disciplines and professions for a fuller understanding of disability. The April 24-25 event on the OSU Columbus campus offers a twelve-year exploration of disability as a reflection of the human condition, seen through various lenses of understanding. Past programs and conference updates, as they become available, at ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm. The Multiple Perspectives Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation Endowment Fund and ongoing support from The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

To be on the mailing list for the conference, e-mail ADA-OSU@osu.edu

Contact: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

Office of Health Transformation Launches New Website

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has launched a new website which provides easy navigation to track Ohio's efforts to modernize Medicaid, streamline health and human services, and improve overall health system performance.

New Website : <http://healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, 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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