

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at

<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 19

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September continues our focus on ...

National Direct Support Professionals Week Sept. 12 - 18

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD);

National Emergency Preparedness;

Several Exciting Conferences, and More!!

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week

1. 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*” -- hosted from 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. 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.

Governor Ted Strickland issued 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)

Opening with remarks by OADSP Operations Coordinator Scott Osterfield, and DODD Director John Martin, it was immediately clear that the day would be totally focused on DSPs as the stars and the drivers of all the action. And there was plenty of action!

Director Martin prefaced the presentation of Governor Strickland's proclamation recognizing and applauding the efforts of Ohio's DSPs, with a few words from the poet Robert Frost. Taken from the poem, "Death of the Hired Man,"* Director Martin suggested that two main concepts seem to jump out as most important. He stated,

"The two main themes that I think apply so strongly to the work that you do as Direct Support Professionals are these ... that it all depends on what a person thinks of as 'home' – a place where you don't have to do anything to 'deserve' being there; and also, the concern for others that allows one to, 'look back with pride and forward with hope.' So the poem struck me as being particularly meaningful for us here today."



In the world of film-making ...

"Elvis" was amazed to see how many DSPs filed in to get a photo taken with him in the 'studio' – including Terrence, who was un-fazed by Elvis' presence. DSPs definitely were the real stars of the day.



Wall-to-Wall Talent ...

Even the ample space at the Xenos complex in Columbus may not be enough for next year's event! This year, the first-time celebration of DSP's drew well over 300 people from around the state.

A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals included The Sprout Touring Film Festival, consisting of several short films featuring people with developmental disabilities [Click here for Sprout poster](#). The films ran the gamut of emotions and stylistic approaches, and included several that drew spontaneous cheers and applause from the audience. The group was audibly appreciative of the honest and unique depictions of people with developmental disabilities and their roles within those lives.

According to Lisa Barnes, OADSP event chairperson, a contest encouraging Ohio DSP's and related provider agencies to submit videos depicting their work built a great deal of excitement online, and provided a spirited competition between eight finalists at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OADSP>. The video competition was yet another way to express the positive impact of direct support professionals on peoples' lives within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Each of the eight submissions was honored. She noted,

"We were overwhelmed by the response to this event and to the video competition, itself. It was an outstanding first-time experience for us."

ANCOR Recognizes Addie Moore, ResCare

Addie Moore, a senior direct support professional who provides services at the ResCare Dillon Circle Home in Fostoria, Ohio, recently was recognized for her outstanding contribution in support of individuals with disabilities by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) -- a national organization that supports advocacy and promotes legislation on behalf of people with disabilities.

Moore's selection by ANCOR as Ohio's 2010 Direct Support Professional was made following a nomination spotlighting her work in assisting one of individuals she supports in completing

dialysis treatments at a local hospital, despite concerns that the woman would have difficulty enduring the lengthy procedure three times a week. According to the nomination letter,

“Addie Moore’s continual encouragement and involvement in the dialysis procedures with this individual allowed hospital personnel to more successfully communicate with their patient as she was completing the dialysis regime. Moore’s commitment and care is a true example of the strong relationship that can exist between Direct Support Professionals and the people they serve.”

In celebration of her selection by ANCOR, a reception was held in Fostoria, in Moore’s honor, attended by many of her family and friends, Seneca Residential’s Board President, Paul Myers, and the Mayor of Fostoria, John Davoli. Active in several organizations within the Fostoria community, Addie Moore’s selection as Ohio’s DSP culminates a career of 20 years of service, working with individuals with disabilities. This week she attended an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. during ANCOR’s recognition of Direct Care Professionals, honoring all state winners from the national competition.



Way to Go, Addie!

Addie Moore (center) is flanked by Raberta Walthour (left), Operations Manager for several ResCare Ohio facilities, including the location at which Addie is employed, Dillon Circle. At right is Melinda Perry, Executive Director for ResCare, Western Ohio.

An excerpt from ResCare’s nomination letter to ANCOR ...

“One might think after nearly 20 years, your attitude might become less than enthusiastic with the daily routine and the similarity of challenges. But you do not come away with that feeling when you meet Addie. She is by nature, a highly optimistic person. And she overwhelms others with her attitude. You cannot resist sharing a smile and a laugh with Addie.

Recently, one of her residents found out that she was to begin kidney dialysis. This of course is a daunting experience for anyone. But for someone who is both physically and verbally impaired, the thought of spending eight hours -- three times a week -- getting hooked up to a dialysis machine with virtual strangers around you, is undoubtedly frightening.

Of all of the staff, it was Addie, who our resident chose to go with her on her visits to the hospital. She is an obvious choice. Addie showed her own spirit of determination as she faced her own personal health challenges a few years ago. Addie quickly agreed to be beside her client every step of the way."

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.ohiopaths.org).

Acknowledgements:

**http://www.internal.org/Robert_Frost/The_Death_of_the_Hired_Man*

Thanks to Missy Craddock, OPRA, for her assistance in pulling together information for this article.

For more information: <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>;

Lisa Barnes at oadsp1@yahoo.com; Amy Gerowitz at agerowitz@outlooks.us



2. 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 of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities – each of whom had a personal insight to share with the group of at least 300 attendees.



Legislative Advocacy Day Attendees were psyched ...
 ... and ready to connect with legislators immediately following the brief program at the Statehouse Atrium.
 As Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director stated,
 "This effort is not going to fail for lack of energy!"



Lead event organizer and self-advocate Carmen Shelton (right)
 enjoys the fruits of her labor in the audience before stepping up to the podium at Legislative Advocacy Day.

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!"

Look for more following up on this event at www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration



Priority Work: Reinforcing Ohio's Developmental Centers as Regional Resources

3. Gallipolis Developmental Center Hosts Congressman Charlie Wilson

Ohio Congressman Charlie Wilson represents the 6th Congressional District* which includes Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC), one of Ohio's ten DODD-operated Developmental Centers. Last week Congressman Wilson had the opportunity to be in the GDC area, and visited with staff and residents there.

During the tour, Congressman Wilson was interested in the history of the Developmental Center, and GDC's plans for the future, as a part of the [DODD Priority Work](#). He remarked,

[“ What you all do here is so important to the community and to Ohio. I am proud to travel around the 6th District and see how your services impact the lives of so many Ohioans.”](#)

GDC staff and residents warmly welcomed Congressman Wilson, whose family includes an individual with developmental disabilities who resides and receives services in another state. He has been interested in learning more about DD services in Ohio -- in particular, within the area he represents.

In conversations with GDC Superintendent Kevin Davis, and Program Director Jennifer Goodwin, the Congressman and his staff learned more about Ohio's developmental centers as regional resources -- including collaborative efforts with other service agencies in the local community. DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth, and Communications Coordinator Aaron Powell, both representing DODD Central Office, were on-hand at GDC as well. Seifarth remarked, “Mr. Wilson and his staff asked excellent, thoughtful questions – I think everyone learned a great deal.”



[GDC provides excellent weather for all Congressional visits!](#)

[Congressman Charlie Wilson \(second from left\) pauses for a photo with others touring GDC, including Gallia County Commissioner Justin Fallon \(far left\); GDC Superintendent Kevin Davis \(second from right\); and, DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth \(seated\).](#)



Congressman Charlie Wilson and resident, Jackie Purpura, obviously enjoyed meeting each other at GDC!

Gallipolis Developmental Center currently is home for 195 individuals with developmental disabilities, who reside in 10 comfortable, home-like living units. The Center provides a wide variety of professional services. The majority of people who reside at GDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The Center serves the 'Region 3' counties of Fayette, Pickaway, Ross, Pike, Vinton, Jackson, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto.

**The 6th Congressional District of Ohio starts in the Mahoning Valley in the north and stretches for 325 miles along the Ohio River through 12 counties. From north to south the district begins with the Youngstown suburbs of Canfield, Boardman and part of Poland. The district then curves south along the river to reach Marietta, and on down to Ironton. It then extends to the city limits of Portsmouth, not quite in the Cincinnati metropolitan area, where the Scioto River empties into the Ohio.*

Map at: www.charliewilson.house.gov/index.php?option=com_google_maps_vision&Itemid=45

More about GDC at www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/gdc.htm

Also featured in Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2008



They're Getting a Kit ... Making a Plan ... Being Informed

4. 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!

Weighing in on the subject, County Boards and other agencies, as well as Ohio's ten Developmental Centers are putting the accent on *safety* during National Preparedness Month. Here are a few examples of these efforts:

Getting a Kit ... Making a Plan ... Being Informed ... in Ashtabula County

There's nothing like a trip to Ashtabula County to find out what's going on in Northeast Ohio, and County Board Superintendent Anne Zeitler is just the person to put things in perspective during National Preparedness Month. She notes, "We have partnered with Emergency Management and several other area agencies, to establish a comprehensive special needs shelter here at our Happy Hearts School, to be used in the event of a major emergency." She continues,

"We also are partnering with the Ashtabula County Department of Health and others to establish a 'Closed Pod Dispensing Site' in order to distribute preventative medication quickly, in a contained and organized area – for the individuals we serve and their families/caregivers, as well as our employees – in the event of a catastrophic public health emergency."

The scope of the preparedness effort in Ashtabula County is far-reaching, and will be studied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a 'best practices' plan this month, according to George Sabo, Director of the Ashtabula County EMA. "We're very excited about the depth of the plan we have here, and the commitment we have seen from everyone involved."

This commitment to serving the special needs population in a comprehensive fashion is echoed by Marlene Sartini, Director of Community Support Services for the local County Board. She underscored the fact that the grassroots initiative has grown exponentially as agency partners came on board with the plan. "We feel very good about how receptive everyone has been, and are feeling confident that we have all the necessary organizations actively involved to provide the care and the action needed in an emergency."

**More about Ashtabula County's comprehensive preparedness plan, and how it all has come together, in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon.
(Archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm)**

Specially Equipped Shelter

Last year, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities cooperated with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus to develop a Red Cross Shelter equipped and staffed to accommodate persons with developmental disabilities in the Central Ohio area in the event of a disaster that requires temporary shelter and assistance.

Through a grant from The Columbus Foundation, three facilities operated by FCBDD were identified and equipped to serve as potential shelter locations. The grant has enabled them to purchase and install an electric generator at the West Central School location, allowing that location to be used as a shelter in the event of mass electric outages -- one of a very few shelter locations of any kind in Columbus equipped with electric generator capability.

Staff members from FCBDD serve as volunteers at the shelters, bringing with them specific experience and skills to support the individuals served. For more information, contact Jack

Brownley, FCBDD Director of Schools and Special Programs, (614) 342-5960, or email jack.brownley@fcbdd.org.

According to FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison, “In addition to Jack's work related to our clients, Human Resources Director Dan Darling and his staff participate with the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency in preparedness activities for the county.” He adds,

“We recently participated in a 'Meta Leadership' summit at The Ohio State University related to leadership during an emergency or crisis (sponsored by the Center for Disease Control) and Dan is participating in Franklin County with what is called the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – a comprehensive approach to incident management and communication related to local, state, and federal preparedness.”

- See also: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/ -

Helpful Materials Available

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, many local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are providing materials encouraging individuals served locally to prepare for emergencies in their homes and workplaces.

For example, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services offers a one-page Emergency Preparedness flyer which may be accessed online at **‘Be Prepared’** and serves as a guide and reminder – including simple text and clean graphics. In addition, they remind individuals to ...

“... Keep these items in a “Grab and Go” bag near your bed:

First aid kit, flashlight, radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned goods/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of your medical conditions, and emergency contact phone numbers. If you need to leave your home, take a one week supply of medications with you.”



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.’

Also, a booklet developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the National Organization on Disability, titled [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special ...](#) can help prepare an emergency plan to protect individuals, their families, caregivers, and others in their support network in an emergency.

In training for staff working in the developmental disabilities community over the past few years, the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review, also has supported activities that encourage County Board and other provider staff to talk with individuals and their families about preparedness. One staff member explained at a training last year,

“It’s so important to talk about these things when you’re preparing a person’s Individual Service Plan with them – so that everyone involved in that person’s circle of support has the same information, and knows it’s been discussed.”

For more information, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials.



September 20-21

5. OSDA Conference Will “Celebrate the Fire Within”

- 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!

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will be making history, empowering participants, energizing statewide self advocacy efforts, and sharing individual stories this September 20th and 21st at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. OSDA’s annual conference, with its ‘accent on action,’ will feature speakers from around the nation and state, and spotlight the many talents of Ohio self advocates sharing stories of success and challenge.

For specific program and agenda information go to www.ohiosda.org

According to the very enthusiastic OSDA Director, Dana Charlton,

“Our line-up of speakers will spark the passion to be self determined that lies inside each of us, and will motivate us to join together to ‘celebrate the fire within’! Added to these personal stories, participants (currently 239!) can expect facilitated, participant-driven work sessions to name the new Medicaid waiver proposed by the Department of Developmental Disabilities. There is still time to register at www.ohiosda.org .”

At last year's conference...

Perhaps most noteworthy at last year’s conference was not any single presentation – they all were great -- but it was the general friendliness, respect, and courtesy shown by conference attendees as they visited vendor information tables and socialized. Conversations overheard included good-natured teasing (“You’re gonna ruin your lunch with all those snacks!”) and lots of networking (“I work at a Kroger, too! Which one are you at?) In addition, there was recognition and celebration of positive action (see photo below).



2009 winners of the coveted Steven Cooley Self Determination Award – Athens County self advocates gathered for a group photo. The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities representatives earned the award by being persistent and clear in their desire to have the words 'mental retardation' dropped from the names of Ohio agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities. Judging from last year's passage of SB79, the 'Name Change Bill', and according to OSDA participants, "It worked! We did it."

The next issue of *Pipeline*, September 29, will report on the OSDA Conference.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

6. Recognition of FASD Characteristics and Consequences

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention & Awareness Month

During September, Pipeline will provide information in support of FASD awareness and prevention, including resources and articles from around the state and nation.

(See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 18](#) September 1, 2010.)

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and other alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery, Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. Similarly, states across the nation are focusing efforts on providing information to stem the tide of this growing and 100% preventable health issue. 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 life-long implications.

The Cost to Society

According to an article in the *Houston Chronicle* [Fetal alcohol disorders costly to children, taxpayers](#) educating mothers to not drink while trying to become pregnant or during pregnancy will result in an increase in healthier children, and a decrease in social services taxpayers must provide. It states, "The Harris County Intellectual and Development Disabilities Needs Counsel's online brochure at www.mrnc.hctx.net informs taxpayers that each affected child may cost about \$5 million over a lifetime."

And, the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities noted that, “A diagnosis of FASD can be hard to make unless a mother discusses her drinking with her doctor or the child's doctor. Some children may be mis-diagnosed as having autism, ADHD, oppositional defiant or conduct disorder, pervasive developmental delay, learning disabilities, emotional/behavior problems, reactive attachment disorder, and other conditions. Or, they are never diagnosed at all. Many adoptive families struggle with a child's problems, never knowing the causes or successful interventions to help them.”

Some of the most common characteristics of alcohol-related brain damage include: poor impulse control and poor problem solving skills, difficulty linking actions to consequences, poor social communication, limited abstract reasoning and lack of trial and error learning. People with FASD have difficulty internalizing values, feelings and laws, and may develop inappropriate social, sexual and sociopathic behaviors.

In Ohio, OCALI and Others Broaden the Reach

Several state agencies, including DODD, have formed Ohio’s Statewide FASD Steering Committee, under the leadership of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS). The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from nine state agencies, providers, and parents. Its mission is to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address and prevent FASD.

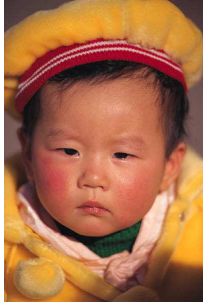
According to Melinda Norman, FASD State Coordinator, due to the nature of FASD, it is ‘everybody’s issue.’ She states, “The importance of getting information out and educating people cannot be overstated. The Steering Committee has been in existence since 2004, and we have had excellent representation in terms of membership, including the Family and Children First Council.” She continues,

“Our volunteer members are passionate about the FASD initiative, and that’s the key to the sustainability of our efforts, and their success, long term.”

According to Amy Bixler Coffin, of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), a collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), has yielded an updated website (www.ocali.org) with the latest information, links and resources on prevention, intervention and treatment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The site features an overview of FASD, a comprehensive list of available assistance for individuals living with FASD, and FASD research and resources.

In addition, a series of webcasts include ‘FASD 101’ and a first-person testimony about living with FASD. The ‘Classroom Prevention Education’ area features strategies for both educators and school administrators. Additional information about Ohio’s statewide FASD initiative is also included along with contact information for parent network representatives.

"Stop and think. If you're pregnant, don't drink."



“Due to the nature of FASD, it is everybody’s issue.”
Melinda Norman, Ohio FASD State Coordinator

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org and <http://www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>

*Additional resources: Amy Bixler Coffin, OCALI, amy_bixler@ocali.org;
Melinda Norman, FASD, (614) 644-8318;
Tina Evans, DODD (614) 752-9028*



Following Up on the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework **7. ICHAH Efforts Exemplify ‘Infused Policy Development’...**

-How services are developed with counties across various lines-

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 ICHAH 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 help address high-priority permanent housing and supportive services needs for the most vulnerable households with serious and long-term disabilities.” It also was very ambitious on another front.

“This Policy Framework represents a key leverage point through which Ohio’s housing policy can be transformed in the coming years,” DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge said of the work. He continued,

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

Specifically, Aldridge highlights the Policy Framework’s clear recognition of the needs of Ohioans dealing with challenges our service systems have traditionally had trouble supporting ... those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and those dealing with developmental disabilities and a co-occurring mental illness (‘dually-diagnosed’).

According to DODD Director John Martin, both of these groups were identified in the DODD’s 2008 Futures Committee work as needing particular attention, and both of these issues represent high priority policy work at the Department. In fact, the Governor asked DODD to facilitate the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), and both the DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health have worked together to re-energize the Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence.

In Section Three of the Framework, the State of Ohio identified, “Criteria and target populations for participation in PSH to ensure leveraging of federal resources to the greatest extent possible.” Listed among these target populations are households with serious intellectual or developmental disabilities acquired before the age of 22 including those with co-occurring mental illness and developmental disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorders, who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness or institutionalization.”

Advocates for people with autism, and other self advocates, consistently have identified available, accessible, and safe housing as an emerging and long-term need.

“This Policy Framework, embraced by multiple state agencies and the Governor’s Office, gives voice to those individuals and their families,” said Jody Fisher, DODD Project Manager for the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA). And on that same note, Lara Palay, DODD Project Manager for the Mental Illness/Developmental Dual Diagnosis Coordinating Center of Excellence -- a collaborative venture of the DODD and the Department of Mental Health -- added, “The original recommendations for Permanent Supportive Housing called for the development of trans-disability housing opportunities. This Policy Framework moves us clearly in that direction.”

Steve Matas, Manager of the Community Capital Assistance Program at the Department, comments that the level of interagency cooperation and coordination over the last year is unprecedented. He explains, “We are working together, asking new questions, and seeking innovative answers.”

Addressing the overall Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework, Director Martin emphasizes,

“This kind of work allows us to forge new ways of developing policy. By infusing policy development we are better able to address clearly identified areas of need. We look for simple solutions for multiple problems.”



Reminder

8. Register NOW to Vote in the November General Election

Thanks to Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) for the following reminder. If you are in a position to help someone with a disability register to vote, or otherwise understand their voting rights, please keep this information in mind:

In order to vote in the upcoming Ohio general election, individuals must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election. The deadline to register for the November 2nd general election is *October 4, 2010*. For citizens already registered, early voting begins September 28.

The OLRS website at <http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/vote-register> features general information regarding voting rights, and includes a link to the [Voter Registration Form](#). If you have other questions, you also may contact the Ohio Legal Rights Service Intake Department at (voice) 614-466-7264 or 1-800-282-9181; (TTY) 614-728-2553 or 1-800-858-3542.



9. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **Ohio Public Images (OPI) Plans Training on Usage of Social Media on October 4th ...**

A Social Media seminar, designed to address the subject from a basic, novice standpoint, and sponsored by Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Southwest Ohio Council of Government (COG), is slated for October 4, from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) complex, 1980 W. Broad St. in Columbus. Complete information and registration is posted at publicimagesnetwork.org/SocialMediaRegistration.htm. This seminar will help dispell myths and fears of social media usage, and review case histories of organizations and professionals in the DD field using this new communications tool. Registration information posted on the OPI website includes a link to PayPal if credit card registration is desired.

⇒ **Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 6 at the Ohio Statehouse *Increasing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities throughout Ohio***

Celebrate the gifts and talents of Ohio's workers with disabilities October 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with music by the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Panthers and information tables representing employers, business owners with disabilities, disability organizations and service providers from around the state. The event is sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD). For more information contact Eileen Courson, RSC, at Eileen.Courson@rsc.state.oh.us.

⇒ **PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) Conference, October 6-8 – ‘Get Connected’! ...**

Click here for registration and information!

Online registration is now available at www.par-ohio.org for the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. Low rates for family members and individuals. 'Get Connected' is the theme for this 42nd Annual Convention.

The mission of PAR is to offer quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). To carry out the mission, PAR relies on the support and volunteer efforts of many dedicated people, working together to improve the manner in which individuals with developmental disabilities are provided personal care and assistance. Professionals from within the DD community share their knowledge and expertise with one another to achieve a common goal. The annual PAR Convention is the keystone of these efforts, as professionals gather together to share their talents, skills, knowledge, and visions.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking 6th Annual Gathering, October 22-23, in Columbus ...**

Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) is planning their 6th Annual Gathering on October 22-23, 2010 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square, in Columbus. About 150 graduates of PIP are expected to attend. The gathering's overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates.

Partners in Policymaking is an internationally-recognized leadership program that prepares adults with developmental disabilities, parents and other family members to advocate effectively and knowledgeably with policy- and decision-makers on local, state and national levels.

Advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the forefront of public policy decisions. For more information about PIP or the Annual Gathering, contact Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhcorp.org.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking Training Opportunity – 'Imagine the Possibilities' ...**

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2011. *The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities and parents of young children, under the age of 12, with disabilities.* The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets online at http://www.thearcofgreatercleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm; or, call The Arc of Greater Cleveland at (216) 622-0755; or, email cnorwood@thearcofgreatercleveland.org for more information.

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ninth Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. More information will be shared in *Pipeline* as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information

affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *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.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

