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Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



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



1. Ohio's Statewide DD Awareness Month Kickoff, and More

It was a record-setting crowd!

More than 500 participants representing at least 28 counties gathered in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on the morning of March 3, to celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, hosted by the Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Traveling from all corners of the state, groups of individuals, families, caregivers and other direct service providers, as well as other professionals

in Ohio's developmental disabilities community arrived in downtown Columbus to join in the annual kickoff celebration. Considering the many crowds and rallies of recent weeks surrounding the budget and other issues, more than one speaker noted, "This is probably one of the *happiest* big crowds we've had down here for a while!" And, indeed, there was a lot of camaraderie.

Individuals with disabilities, employers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community enthusiastically participated in the kickoff program, and it was the most diverse and geographically-representative group ever to attend the kickoff, according to OPI Board members. OPI Executive Director Lon Mitchell welcomed all with a nod to the 2011 DD Awareness Month theme, "*Together*," observing,

"It would be difficult to imagine a more impressive place for us to gather together – the beautiful Ohio Statehouse. You know, as 'The People's House,' it belongs to all of us."



At the very outset of the event, before a few more bus-loads of travelers arrived ...

OPI Executive Director Lon Mitchell welcomes all, including five members of Ohio's General Assembly who stepped up to the podium, and several who attended more briefly to mix and mingle with constituents. At the podium we heard Senator Charleta Tavares; Representative Ted Celeste; Representative Jay Goyal; Senator Peggy Lehner; and, Representative Lou Gentile. Also in attendance were Senator Bill Beagle, and Representatives Vernon Sykes and Richard Adams. (photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB)

This year's program (see <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/ddawarenessmonth.htm>) included people with disabilities and their employers, friends, and mentors – each celebrating self advocacy and the results realized in pursuing abilities and interests with the help of supportive families, staff, and local communities. Also addressing the group were speakers representing the Ohio General Assembly, and governmental agencies serving Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Of special note this year were employers from large companies -- including Lowe's and Sam's Club -- who came to share thoughts on training and hiring people who have disabilities:

"I know this sounds a little corny, but what I'm saying is, 'Let's Build Something Together!' I believe we are, and I believe we can."

Alan Cox, Human Resources Manager for Lowe's Findlay Distribution Center, comments on the 'Together' theme, which reinforces the ongoing Lowe's slogan, 'Let's Build Something Together' – a synergy not lost on the audience.

It was evident as each speaker and group headed to the podium ... gathered at the information tables ... and mingled among the majestic columns of the Statehouse Atrium, that the spirit of the event grew exponentially as stories and experiences were shared. *Together*, the more than 500 people who came to celebrate made a positive impact on each others' lives, and will then pass that potential on to others – yet to be encouraged by the progress that is poised to continue.



They're building something together.

(Left to Right) Greg Wehr, Hancock County DD Business Manager, and Alan Cox, HR Manager for Lowe's Findlay Distribution Center, listen to Franklin Thompson as he explains why he is important to the Lowe's team in Findlay, Ohio. He says,

"I'm a good worker, I'm there every day – *working* – and they like me!"



With the TAC Choir in the Lead, We Pledged Allegiance.

The TAC Choir, representing Clark and surrounding counties, did a superb job of leading the *Pledge of Allegiance*, as well as singing *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*.

(photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB)



“Together,” Personified!

You don't get more **“Together”** than these ladies! Jennifer Crowe (left) and Annie Callan represented **PATHS** training, a credentialed program for direct service professionals - they earned Certificates of Initial Proficiency) , and shared their Southwest Ohio self advocacy stories with gusto. Jenny and Annie are the first Ohio DD service recipients to have earned the PATHS credential.



Ohio Public Images 2010 Self Advocate of the Year Award winner, **Brady Sellet**, returned to Columbus from Hamilton County this year to introduce his friends Jennifer and Annie (above) and help ‘keep the flow going’ with OPI’s Lon Mitchell, event Master of Ceremonies.



Standing together.

DODD Director John Martin; The Ability Center of Greater Toledo Executive Director Tim Harrington; and Colin, representing Wood County — each had something to say at the DD Awareness Kickoff event:

“I think that the selection of this month’s theme, “Together,” is significant – in that as we move through this difficult budget year, it is important that we stay *together*, and that we listen *together*. It is my commitment to you that we as a Department will listen, will tell you the truth, and will be fair in our decision-making.”

-DODD Director John Martin

“Today is a celebration of disability pride. We have developmental disabilities and we are proud to be the people that we are ...

*We are all in this boat **together**.”*

-Executive Director of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, Tim Harrington

“This is cool! This is so cool.”

-Wood County resident, Colin



They’re Getting it *Together* in Mercer County.

Mercer County has the T-shirts *and* the signs to match! Now that’s getting it *all* together.

See more great photos at the new Ohio Association of County Boards' (OACB) new social networking page at <http://on.fb.me/fFjm9e> and at: [Footage from the event](#)

A Marvelous March Mix of Awareness Across Ohio

As in the March 2 issue of *Pipeline*, ([Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 5](#)) we share here another sampling of the many activities and events celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month across Ohio. We'll wrap up a look at the month in the March 30 issue.

Richland Newhope's Awareness Comes in All Colors

Fifteen Richland County students were selected winners of the Annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest. The event is sponsored by Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of DD) as part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. All Richland County third grade classes were invited to participate in the contest, using the 2011 statewide theme, "Together."

Contest participants were asked to color a picture featuring three children, one of whom uses a wheelchair. The picture contained the message, "In one way or another, everyone is a little bit different. When we work and play together, it makes life better."



Contest organizers received 562 entries from 15 schools. One winner was chosen from each school. Tim Ludwig, an artist and employee at Element of Art Studio/Gallery, helped select this year's winners, which marked the first time that an individual who receives services from Richland Newhope assisted with judging the contest.

Winners received a certificate, art supplies, a bookmark with their name in Braille, a magnifier, and a button designed by an individual served by Richland Newhope. Teachers received a resource guide about disabilities and how to incorporate lessons into class curriculum.

For more information, contact Jane Imbody, Director of Community Relations, 419-774-4215 or jimbody@rnewhope.org

Lawrence County Celebrates with Annual Balloon Launch

The Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities Balloon Launch marks the beginning of DD Awareness month for the organization, and has been an ongoing event for more than ten years.

Every student at Lawrence County Early Childhood Center, and at Open Door School (provides services for students ages 6-21) received a helium balloon with a tag attached, including the student's first name and school address. Each year, the students release their balloons into the community and wait to see who might find theirs. Individuals who find the balloons/tags are encouraged to send a note to the school.

To date, the farthest place a note has been mailed from was Halifax, VA, approximately 350 miles away from the school. Kendra Kelley, Principal at Open Door School, a part of the LCBDD, says, “When people write back, the children get such a kick out of it! It’s always so much fun.”



Together in the Launch.

A colorful community gathering where children of all ages love to see their balloons drift up into the sky.

For more information about the Lawrence County Balloon Launch, contact Tim Nunnery at tnunnery@lawrencedd.org

Fairfield County Spotlights Individual Achievement

Bob McMaster's positive attitude is what friends say they like best about the 48-year-old Lancaster resident, whose smiling face can be spotted four days per week behind The Zone's service counter at the Ohio University-Lancaster cafeteria. It's also what made him the ideal recipient for the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities' third annual Deanna Kirwin Award for Individual Achievement.

The award is given annually to an individual who receives services from the Fairfield County Board. McMaster, along with seven other Fairfield County individuals, will be recognized by the organization on March 31 during the agency's annual *Celebration of Possibilities* awards dinner.



Service with a Smile.

Bob McMaster serves lunch at OU-Lancaster's *The Zone*. McMaster, who has worked at *The Zone* for two years, is the 2011 recipient of Fairfield County DD's *Deanna Kirwin Award for Individual Achievement*.

Photo courtesy, Abigail S. Fisher, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

Mount Vernon Developmental Center & Knox County DD Join Forces

At the Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) on March 2, nearly 130 people representing a broad cross-section of community partners, service providers, and individuals with developmental disabilities, attended a DD Awareness Month Luncheon sponsored by MVDC and the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities (KCBDD).

The group was welcomed by MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer, who spotlighted this year's theme, *"Together."* Noting that 'Together the Future is Brighter,' Fischer reinforced the theme, adding that individuals with disabilities are, "...Our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and friends. They can achieve great things with the community's support."

The luncheon included awards presented by KCBDD Superintendent Steve Oster, and a keynote speech by Stephen Douglas, Ph.D., who talked about his life experiences to illustrate how one's approach to life has the potential to brighten the lives of many others. MVDC and the Knox County Board work collaboratively on many community efforts, building on the Developmental Center's strengths as a community resource for needed services and information, and the County Board's local approach to and expertise in meeting the needs of area citizens with developmental disabilities.



“ Be It Resolved ...”

Knox County Commissioners presented a Resolution recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the positive impact persons with developmental disabilities have had locally, with the support of the Knox County community. Here, County Commissioner Allan Stockberger reads the Resolution while representatives from the County Board and MVDC listen.

Stark County DD Art Exhibit Opens at District Library's Main Branch

The Stark County District Library and the Stark County Board of DD are partnering in a spring celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. A “Spring has Sprung!” art exhibit will be featured at the Main Branch Library, March 8 - 31. All of the art has been handcrafted by artists employed by The Workshops Inc., in collaboration with The Stark County Board of DD.

Artists ‘went green’ this spring and used all recyclable/ reusable products. Papier-mâché, clay, paint, cardboard tubes, and old pop bottles became furry critters, flowers, rainbow fish, and trees. According to Debbie Kempthorne, workshop specialist at the Stark County DD Whipple-Dale Centre’s art program, “The art is all about the individuals and what they have inside.”

Over a two month period, adult artists worked together, side-by-side, to complete the art projects – sharing ideas, paint brushes, and inspiration, and all the while encouraging one another.



“It all came from up here,” she explained, while smiling and pointing to her head. “I worked on the bird and the art coloring,” said Jennifer Nuske, an artist working for The Workshops Inc. “The bird is so cool. I just picked a color. I thought red is really nice. I added gold to the legs because they looked plain. I thought red, white, and gold were pretty – they looked like socks. My favorite part was the painting.”

Linda Dahl, Public Information Manager for the Stark County District Library, added, “What better way to illustrate this year’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme of ‘Together’ than for the library to work with the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities to bring this show to the public!”

For more information contact Lisa Parramore at 330-479-3934 or at parramorel@starkdd.org .

We hope you will share information and a photo or two of your local activities ...

Please send to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in Pipeline. Thank you!

For materials supporting this year's DD Awareness Month theme, "*Together...*"
visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org
Some are free!



Administration Update

2. Governor Kasich and the Office of Health Transformation Move Forward on Agenda

A new state law takes effect this month that will help more older adults stay in their homes and out of nursing facilities. According to a news release from the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, "Starting Saturday, March 12, older adults who are discharged from hospitals, live in unsafe conditions, or have depleted their assets for assisted living will have immediate access to home care, eliminating any wait lists for PASSPORT and other services if they should occur." The release continues,

"The law expands Ohio's *Home First* policy and overcomes a major barrier to receiving home and community care by doing away with government-imposed wait lists that controlled enrollment in these programs in the past. Many older adults are placed needlessly in expensive nursing facilities for services they could easily receive at home and at less cost, including personal care and assistance with meals."

Ohio's 12 area agencies on aging will administer the policy, known as *Home First*. The new *Home First* expansion passed unanimously in both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate last June.

Keeping Ohio's seniors in their own homes was one cost-cutting measure highlighted in Governor Kasich's State of the State address (see [2011 State of the State](#)) and it has been estimated that providing services at home reduces costs for long-term care by one-third. For example, the state pays about \$20,000 annually to care for a person at home, compared to \$62,000 annually at a nursing facility.

Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee, Director Confirmation Hearings

On March 9, the Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee heard presentations from three Department Directors: Orman Hall, of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS); John Martin, of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD); and Tracy Plouck, of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH). Confirmation hearings for each Cabinet-level Director within the purview of the Committee have now been held.

ODADAS Director Hall observed that, "Substance abuse and addiction are embedded in many of the serious challenges facing the State of Ohio today." He focused specifically on addictions to

opiates and heroin, and said that addressing this epidemic will be the agency's 'priority number one' moving forward.

DODD Director Martin, noted that the Department has reduced the GRF for Central Office administration expenditures by 43% over the past few years, and expressed the Department's enthusiasm for working collaboratively with the newly-created Office of Health Transformation and partnering health and human services agencies. He stated, "We appreciate the Administration's demonstrated interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and we look forward to continuing to build strong relationships with our OHT partners."

ODMH Director Tracy Plouck explained in her presentation that the mental health system's financing structure, established in Ohio's Mental Health Act of 1988, "...Must be transformed immediately to address a number of significant and growing pressures that render the status quo unsustainable." To that end, ODMH will be leading the Office of Health Transformation effort on integrating behavioral and physical health services.

See Governor John Kasich's first 'State of the State' Address, presented March 8, on *The Ohio Channel* at 'speech'. The subject of 'health transformation' begins at minute 29:06.

See also: Full transcript

www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov is a portal for information about Ohio's health transformation activities. It also provides an opportunity for Ohio citizens to share ideas about how to modernize Medicaid.

**On January 13 Governor John Kasich signed an Executive Order that created the Office of Health Transformation (www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov) to modernize the fragmented system of Medicaid in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available, and to provide the best value to taxpayers. The Office's first priority is to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges.*



Ohio Respite Summit

3. Respite is the Key to this Story

Defined as, "An interval of temporary relief or rest," *respite* is the most often-mentioned need cited by families and caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities. And the Ohio Respite Summit is seeking ways to improve and strengthen respite options within the state by learning more from the people who know most about it.

According to DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, "I support the Ohio Respite Summit because after many years in this position, I know that the service most needed and most requested by families is *respite*!" She continues,

"I strongly believe that families experience a higher level of family stress when raising a child who has a disability. If a family can get a break or have time for other members in their family they are able to cope better. Family caregivers need a break and we need to invest in respite so that we don't end up seeking residential settings for families because they find they just 'can't do it anymore.' A little break can make a world of difference!"



At the Ohio Respite Summit meeting earlier this month, hosted by the Arch National Respite Network and Resource Center (www.archrespite.org) discussions gave way to breakout sessions and lots of input on 'Lifespan Respite' (click on [The Purpose of the Program and How it Works](#)) by families and caregivers. While much information is available at the links noted here, the shared stories are what will most often drive the system and empower the individuals served. *Here is one such story ...*

Lynne's Story

Good morning. My name is Lynne Fogel. I am the mother of two beautiful girls - Erica is 9 and is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and Natalie is 5. I am also blessed with a wonderful husband who takes an equal share of the caregiving responsibilities for both of our girls.

Erica's CP is of the spastic quadriplegic variety, which means that she requires full assist for all activities of daily living. I feel that in being a parent and advocate for her, I wear the hats of mom, therapist, teacher, tutor, cheerleader, secretary, and sometimes pack mule. Every departure from the house with her in tow takes four times longer, and many errands go undone because it just isn't worth the effort to take her along.

When respite happens, it sometimes gives me a feeling of turbo-charged productivity. If someone is at home working with Erica on school work while I am out running important errands, I'm not only getting my to-do list checked off but I won't have the homework to deal with when I get home!

Other times, respite gives me some actual alone time, which for me is in short supply and I cherish. When a provider takes Erica to therapy appointments for me and my preschooler is occupied in another part of the house, I've been known to... dare I say it?... read a magazine. Oh, such indulgence!! But whether I am cranking out chores or enjoying some peace and quiet, I end up feeling energized and re-charged, which benefits my children as well.

I am a better mom when I feel like I am accomplishing what I need to and not feeling harried, stressed and overwhelmed.

I am fortunate in that my daughter's caregivers are people who love her. She has a way of making you fall for her, but knowing that these important people in her life not only care about doing a job well, but truly want what's best for her in every way is simply wonderful for my peace of mind.

We have a Level One waiver for Erica, and thus far that has provided enough of a budget for the number of respite hours we use. I can foresee, however, that the future will bring more opportunities to utilize respite ... *(more in Pipeline Quarterly, coming soon!)*

-Lynne Fogel, CP Parent Columbus, Reaching for the Stars, Central Ohio Chapter

More about Lynne's Story and others ... Coming in the next issue of
Pipeline Quarterly, reporting on Winter 2010-2011



Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)

4. Best Practice Provider and County Board Selections Announced

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and its system partners announced the selection of six groups to participate in a study to determine the *best practices* of providers and County Boards serving Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The study is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

The goals of the project include improved consistency of care, statewide; role clarification among staff; and, enhanced involvement of individuals and families.

“The response to participate in this important study was great,” said Mark Davis, OPRA President. “We had a difficult time selecting from the many quality providers and County Boards.”



Selection Panel (Clockwise from right front): Anita Allen, OPRA; Dana Charlton, Ohio Self Determination Association; Lori Stanfa, OACB; Jeanne Stuntz, Dynamic Pathways; Sharon Travis, Erie County Board DD; Jeannie Stahl, Allen County Board DD; Cheryl Phipps, Hamilton County DD Services; Mark Davis, OPRA.

The selection panel considered many factors when selecting the counties, including: relationships between all stakeholders; tenure of leadership; history of working through challenges; size of counties and providers; geographic diversity; and, service array offered.

Those selected and listed below include those who have made a *strong initial commitment* at the time of application to work together on this project. Additional providers, along with individuals with disabilities, family members, and others also will be invited to participate in this study.

- Clearwater COG -- *(Includes Broken Arrow, Christie Lane Industries, Crawford County, Huron County, Marion County, Renaissance House, RHAM, Wynn-Reeth)*
- Cuyahoga County -- *Grand Manner, Koinonia*
- Guernsey County -- *Guernsey Residential*
- Hamilton County -- *Ohio Valley Goodwill, Ohio Valley Residential Services*
- Knox County -- *Creative Foundation, New Hope Industries*
- Miami County -- *Champaign Residential Services (CRSI), Vision Mentors*

Selection panel member Lori Stanfa, Ohio Association of County Boards, noted, “We were overwhelmed by the responses, and want to thank everyone who took the time to submit an application. This speaks very highly of the commitment to best practices in our field.”

Increased Emphasis on Government Relations

In other news at OPRA, the agency last week announced the hiring of Jeff Davis as its new Director of Government Relations. Davis most recently served as Director of Integrated Health Services for Buckeye Community Health Plan. Prior to that, from 1991 to 2007, Davis was a Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.



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

The Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, coordinates efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with Autism Spectrum Disorders are recognized, valued, and addressed.

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

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

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

The survey will remain online through the month of *April – National Autism Awareness Month!*

Pipeline Postscripts

➡ **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY – APRIL 14**

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

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

Self advocates, families, and professionals in the developmental disabilities community are encouraged to come together and talk with legislators about why home and community-based services are important to people with disabilities as the state shapes the biennial budget. Advocates are urged to tell their stories, as well as to share ideas and suggestions for increasing revenue.

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

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

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

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

➡ **Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks Membership Applicants**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking applicants for membership terms to be appointed by Governor John Kasich beginning in October 2011 and ending September 30, 2014. The DD Council advocates to improve the system of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and conducts grant activities for the same purpose. Council membership for the three-year terms must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Openings this year are for one individual with a developmental disability, and one immediate relative or guardian of an adult with a mentally impairing developmental disability who cannot advocate for himself/herself.

Candidates for DD Council membership should have experience serving on committees, boards, or organizations, and experience concerning persons with developmental disabilities is especially relevant.

Application packets are available directly from the DD Council office (see below) or download the application at www.ddc.ohio.gov. *Applications are due by May 31, 2011.*

Ohio DD Council
899 East Broad Street, Suite 203, Columbus, Ohio 43205
(614) 466-5205 or toll-free (800) 766-7426
email contact: Carla.Sykes@dodd.ohio.gov

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

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

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

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

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

➡ **APSI REQUESTS NOMINATIONS FOR RON KOZLOWSKI ADVOCACY AWARD**

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of the agency's former Executive Director's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award will be given annually to a person or entity outside of APSI who has *demonstrated a lifetime achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities*, and has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system.

APSI is accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through March 31.
Access the nomination form at www.apsiohio.org

The award will be presented at APSI's All Staff Training and Luncheon in June. Contact Cindy Ison, cison@apsiohio.org for more information.

➡ **SOUTHWEST OHIO REGION OF PATHS OFFERS ADVANCED TRAINING**

The Southwest Region of PATHS – Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services – is starting a new series of classes to prepare direct service staff to earn a Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP). Classes begin April 6, and will be held at the St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati. The classes are open to all PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) graduates who are interested in earning the more advanced CAP credential. Link at www.ohiopaths.org/Courses.html and open 'Southwest Region CAP' schedule.

➡ **GCPD SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ADVOCACY AWARD**

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities *Advocacy Award* (sponsored by the Health and Welfare Committee) will recognize a person (or group) who has demonstrated outstanding contributions

to people with disabilities. It is an annual award that will be presented at an Awards Ceremony on August 18, 2011. For details and nomination information:

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

LEADERSHIP FORUM

➡ OHIO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will host the 12th Annual Ohio Youth Leadership Forum in Columbus, July 18-21, at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel. The Ohio Youth Leadership Forum is a four-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities, geared to prepare them to make the most of opportunities to fully develop as constructive, contributing citizens.

For more information, visit the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities website at www.gcpd.ohio.gov (click on YLF), or contact Donna Foster, Ability Advocate, at (614) 438-1394.

All interested high school juniors and seniors who have a disability are encouraged to apply to attend this exciting, interesting, and empowering forum. Student application forms, available at www.gcpd.ohio.gov, must be completed and returned no later than March 25, 2011.

➡ SOLIDARITY 2011!

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

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

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



**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**