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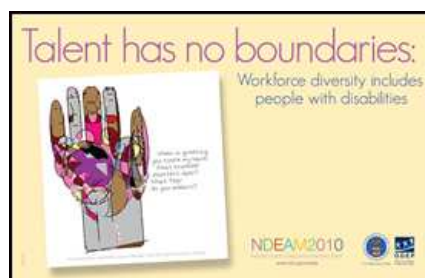
Volume 4, Issue 21

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Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

"Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities."



Stories and photos illustrating this month's theme abound in this issue of Pipeline.

On Ohio's Employment Scene...

1. Commemorating 40 Years, 75 Years, and 90 Years

Gathering to commemorate 40 years of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), 75 years of the Social Security Administration, and 90 years of public Vocational Rehabilitation, a crowd of about 300 people gathered on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse October 6th to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and celebrate a special related announcement. On hand for the announcement were representatives from RSC, the Ohio

Department of Development, Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the Social Security Administration, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and others.

The Announcement

Announcing a partnership between RSC and the Ohio Department of Development that will benefit small business owners with disabilities, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, and Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel unveiled a symbolic billboard for the initiative ... *OhioAbilities: Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth*.



OhioAbilities, Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth –
The new partnership's logo is unveiled from beneath the blue draping.

OhioAbilities will support small business owners and entrepreneurs with disabilities as they start, sustain, and grow their businesses. The effort provides enhanced opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities to explore self-employment and microenterprise. Through the agreement, Small Business Development Centers will provide funding grants, self-employment and business counseling, marketing and technical assistance to Ohioans who receive RSC services.

According to the partners involved, OhioAbilities has the promise of launching at least 40 start-up businesses in Ohio, and is being piloted in Akron, Columbus, Marietta, Toledo, and Youngstown. The \$2 million project invests \$1.1 million in support funding and \$883,000 in grants.

Funding for OhioAbilities comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in February 2009. ARRA dollars invested in RSC were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information about this partnership: www.rsc.ohio.gov/ohioabilities/

Also Noteworthy

Live music for the celebratory event included a rousing 'Braille Script Ohio' performed by the Ohio State School for the Blind's 'Marching Panthers,' and the Pledge of Allegiance led by

students of the Ohio State School for the Deaf. Their renditions of each selection were met with enthusiastic participation and applause from the appreciative crowd.



Signing the National Anthem – Students from the Columbus School for the Deaf ably lead event participants in the National Anthem, with vocal accompaniment by attendees. Below, following the performance, the students spend a few thoughtful moments as a natural part of their community.





Play On! Known for their excellent sense of timing and musicianship at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, the Ohio State School for the Blind rocked several stirring numbers.

A number of notable comments were made by those on the podium on the subjects of employment ... people with disabilities ... and various connections between the two. They included this from Michael Rench:

“What we do through partnerships like this is ‘Johnny Appleseed’ work. We just plant the seeds.”

Rench noted that he was paraphrasing John McGee – proponent of ‘gentle teaching,’ known in the developmental disabilities community as an approach to working with people in a non-judgemental atmosphere that allows people to feel safe and loved, no matter what their circumstances. (See article #6 in this issue of *Pipeline*).

DODD Director John Martin spoke of the useful employment-related data gathered from the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm>), now in its third year of providing information on individual perceptions and programmatic comparisons across more than 25 states:

“The NCI data has shown us that when people with disabilities are employed in their communities, those employers and friends from work are like an extra set of community eyes on individuals that help them to feel safe, and to actually be safer in their environment. This feeling of safety is kind of a secondary but very important benefit of employment.”

In addition, both Director Martin and Michael Rench commented on the *Bridges to Transition* programs currently sprouting up across the state – now in 39 counties, and focused on improving the lives of hundreds of Ohio’s young adults with disabilities, paving the way for real change in their economic futures. Director of Development Director McDaniel added that it is through specific and targeted programs such as Bridges, and the new OhioAbilities connections that real change in the employment scene for Ohioans with disabilities will be realized. She stated,

“We salute the many businesses around the state that have stepped up to participate in programs such as these, and we continue to look for more ways to support these efforts.”

For more information on RSC contact Eileen Corson at Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.



Continuing on the Subject of Employment

2. A Potpourri of Progress, and Steps Toward Improvement

In Hocking & Perry Counties – The Employment Connection Solving Workforce Needs with Human Potential.

The Employment Connection (TEC), a division of The Hocking & Perry County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, has developed two programs; *Bridges to Transition*, for adolescents ages 14-22, and *LIFEWORKS*, serving adults with disabilities. TEC is a CARF-certified (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) program designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities obtain and maintain community employment.

To ensure that a comprehensive and successful employment plan is developed for each individual, TEC staff works closely with other agencies, including the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Job and Family Services (JFS), and others.

Bridges to Transition services include educating individuals, families, and the Hocking and Perry County School Districts about training and employment options for individuals who have a developmental disability. A Transition Specialist develops a plan of employment that fits each individual's needs, and monitors the individual's progress as they learn skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

The over-riding purpose of the partnership is to provide a successful transition from school to work with appropriate supports in place to achieve realistic and measurable goals, and community employment upon graduation.

LIFEWORKS is a BVR grant-funded program designed to assist individuals ages 18 and older in obtaining community employment. Individuals in the six-week class are taught appropriate workplace conduct, problem-solving skills and other work-related skills necessary to be successful in their jobs. Class participants then receive on-the-job training for three separate six-week paid internships. Following the internships, participants are assisted in job searches, building a resume, and interviewing for jobs in areas that interest them.

LIFEWORKS currently is serving nine individuals in Hocking and Perry Counties. TEC works closely with many businesses in both counties, and is always looking for more! The program is offered at no cost to employers.

For more information about The Employment Connection of Hocking and Perry Counties contact a team member at (740) 342- 5156 or (740)385-4371 ext. 246.

Education Leading to Employment

The Education Connection at Columbus State

In the Spring of 2008, *Pipeline Quarterly* featured Columbus State Community College's (CSCC) Community/ Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program. The [Spring 2008 PDF](#) cover story subject is now in its fourth year -- and what a four years it's been!

Since its inception, 31 Central Ohio students have completed the one-year certificate program, and 13 students currently are in the program, which is designed for individuals who have a developmental disability and want to work in the human services field. Students attend college classes at CSCC for one year, obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to become a Community/ Habilitation Assistant. Students complete three academic quarters of practical experience at area schools, preschools, adult day and older adult programs as part of their education, where they practice skills and techniques learned in the classroom.

Jackie Teny-Miller, Program Coordinator, explains,

"The Community/Habilitation Assistant Program has been a tremendous success in more ways than I could have imagined. Students who never thought they would attend college are enjoying the college experience, making friends with folks they never would have met, and securing jobs in the field."

Students are referred to the CSCC program by County Board of DD Service Coordinators, public school districts, transition coordinators, BVR counselors, employment services, parents, and friends. The students are enrolled in college classes, and pay the same fees as all CSCC students. Admittance criteria include that students must:

- Have a developmental disability;
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED;
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have a 5th Grade reading level;
- Have an interest in helping others;
- Have the ability to 'look outside of themselves'; and,
- Be willing to commit to going to school for four quarters.

Of the 31 students completing the program, 19 are currently working in the human services field. Individuals are employed as Assistants and/or Advocates in programs that serve children and adults with developmental disabilities.

For example, Brian Zuefle completed the program in June 2008 and is working as an Assistant at ARC Industries West in Franklin County. Brian comments on his CSCC experience,

"It was great! I never thought I could go to college, and this program showed me that I could. Now I really enjoy going to work – I get to give people one-on-one attention. I never felt that personal closeness with people in previous jobs. My job is fantastic."



"I was skeptical, at first ..."

(Above, top) In 2008, Brian Zuefle explains that he was nervous upon joining the class at Columbus State Community College, and classmates Amber and Wally note that he is now much more relaxed and social. (Now) Brian works 35 hours per week assisting in a habilitation room providing support to older adults with a developmental disability or dementia.

Linda Monroe, Director of Bixby Living Skills Center in Franklin County has hired two students who have completed the Community/ Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program. They work as assistants providing one-on-one care and attention to the participants. Linda stated, "They are fantastic young workers. They come to work with a smile, full of energy and eager to do anything asked of them. They run a weekly social group, assist in the sensory room and are an extra pair of hands on community activities." She adds,

"Our participants greatly benefit from the individual attention they so willingly provide."

Kathy Cook, CEO of *All R Friends* Adult Day program has hired three students who have completed the CSCC program. They work as assistants providing support to individuals enrolled. Kathy acknowledges that, “The Columbus State Program gives students the basics, so we can build up from there.”

Jackie Teny-Miller concludes,

“The reality for many of the students participating in this innovative education-to-employment curriculum is that they were the client, and now they are the employee. Students are learning and obtaining meaningful jobs ... and human service agencies are employing dedicated, committed employees.”

For more information, contact Jackie Teny-Miller at (614) 287-2544, or Jackie Teny at jteny@csc.edu

County Board Celebrations **Local faces, local places tell the story ...**



Richland Newhope spotlights local faces in their October employment billboards.

This billboard features Richland Newhope Industries' 2009 Employees of the Year – Kandi Takacs, Guy Adkins, and Jeff Pfeleiderer. Kandi and Jeff were recognized as the facility-based Employees of the Year (they work at one of two RNI facilities) and Guy was the community-based Employee of the Year. He works at Kroger. The 2010 Employees of the Year will be honored at a breakfast October 28.

In Richland County

Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) hosts its annual Employer Recognition Breakfast later this month, honoring community businesses that employ individuals with developmental disabilities, including those that contract with RNI. Naming the Employer of the Year, along with the facility-based and community-based Employees of the Year, are highlights of the event. The breakfast will be held October 28, at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield.

According to Amanda South, Richland Newhope's Director of Adult Services, "Richland Newhope is not only committed to linking qualified, skilled, and dedicated employees to the needs of local employers, but we also work continuously to educate the community about the abilities of employees with disabilities to break down barriers and open real opportunities for this under-utilized workforce."

Contact Jane Imbody, Newhope Director of Community Relations, at 419-774-4215 or jimbody@rnewhope.org.

More about Employment in the next issue of *Pipeline*, October 27.

Featuring ... strong programs in Hancock and Athens Counties, and elsewhere.

Information welcomed! – Send to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov



3. ViaQuest Honors Bill Withrow – ‘Gahanna Bill’

“You are kidding me!”

-Bill Withrow, as his former bosses emerged from behind the velvet curtain, one by one

It would be difficult to imagine a more exciting moment for Bill Withrow ... or anyone else for that matter! In a thoroughly well-planned ‘life tribute’ format, service provider ViaQuest* stepped out of the usual routine of spotlighting a nationally-known speaker at their annual conference last week at the Hyatt on Capital Square in Columbus, and instead highlighted one of Ohio’s true originals – Gahanna Bill.

Stepping back in time, briefly ...

Bill Withrow – affectionately known as “Gahanna Bill” (Gahanna is in northeastern Franklin County) is a gentleman, an avid sports fan, and the subject of a documentary of the same name which shares how this community came together to support Bill.

Produced in 2001, *Gahanna Bill* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0396609/>) documents the story of Bill’s family, his attendance and participation in the Gahanna-Jefferson school system, and then growing into adulthood working and living in the community. During his grade school years, Bill was diagnosed with a form of aphasia (a language disorder in which there is an impairment in language usage or comprehension), and was raised with a loving and supportive family.

Following the death of both parents, Bill ultimately needed to reach outside his family for community supports, and was introduced to a variety of services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and others, including ViaQuest.

Bill’s work ethic over more than 20 years as an employee at a local bottler/distributor of soft drinks, and his endless enthusiasm for (and helping to manage) the Gahanna schools athletic teams, along with his positive affect on the people (everyone!) with whom he comes in contact, formed the solid foundation he needed to ‘navigate new waters’ as a middle-aged adult.

Fast Forward to October 7, 2010

Bill may have been a little curious about being invited to the ViaQuest conference, but he’s used to a little positive attention, especially since the 2001 video. However at the conference on October 7th, when the Gahanna High School marching band showed up in full dress, he may have become a little more curious. Then, being called up to the stage to be seated in a special throne-like chair in front of a backdrop illuminating the theme “Angels Among Us” made it pretty clear that the program would be something special.



Gahanna Bill Holds Court.

Above and below: Bill Withrow graciously and enthusiastically accepts the accolades and enjoys the comments delivered by family, friends, and co-workers.



Surprise! A unique Gahanna Lincoln School athletic jersey is under glass and in the spotlight.

And special it was, as Bill's positive impact on people throughout his life was 'brought home' over and over again via friends, family, and former bosses appearing from behind a 'This is Your Life'-style velvet curtain. Each was met with Bill's extremely enthusiastic hugs. More than one longtime friend proclaimed,

"You haven't been bear-hugged until you've been hugged by Bill Withrow!"

The nearly 300 conference attendees laughed and cried, as, according to ViaQuest's Director of Education Art Miller, "Bill was appropriately honored and nicely surprised." ViaQuest President Rich Johnson added,

"Bill has been a student, teacher, coach, mentor, and friend – what he has done with his abilities - and with deeds, not words - is why we are honoring him here today. What Bill Withrow has done with his life is very powerful."

Thanks to Bill Withrow for being Bill Withrow -- and to ViaQuest for recognizing that, as one former Gahanna Lincoln High School athletic coach said ...

"People ... well, they just don't come any better than Bill."

**ViaQuest services include behavioral health, mental health, home health care, day habilitation, vocational, nursing, hospice, developmental disabilities, and supported living.*

For more information: <http://www.viaquestinc.com/>:



4. PAR Conference Honors Tonks for Lifetime Achievement

At the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, several awards were presented, including the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, earned by Gary Tonks, Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio. PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) surprised Tonks with the award and his gracious acceptance included these remarks,

"I want to thank PAR for this honor, and also want to thank those children, adults, dedicated professionals, moms, dads, and fellow advocates who speak up when others around them are silent or cannot speak; roll up their sleeves and do what needs to be done; and, will not rest until the job is completed."



Gary Tonks – Congratulations!

Tonks has been the Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio since 1997, and also has served The Arc as Executive Director in Pennsylvania, Alabama, and California. He has fulfilled many other roles, including volunteer, Direct Support Professional, and teacher, and is best known for his advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

DODD Director John Martin congratulates Tonks on the award, noting,

“It is great to see this award going to Gary. He has worked tirelessly over the years as an advocate for families and individuals with developmental disabilities. His ‘real world’ experience brings a perspective to his advocacy that shapes his straightforward style and approach. This, coupled with his inherent kindness, has made him an extremely effective advocate. It’s a well- deserved honor.”

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, PAR presented the following:

- The second annual *You Make a Difference Award* was presented to Robin Trocki from the cast of the TV program, Glee. This award was presented for the first time last year, to DODD Director John Martin.
- The PAR Memorial Scholarship - presented to Dolly Brumage and Wendy Gorrell, Morgan County Board of DD. This is a \$200.00 scholarship, sponsored by Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI).
- PAR Members of the Year - presented to Anna Markley and Lynn Franklin, Lucas County Board of DD.
- The “PAR’tnering Award,” given to an individual or organization that collaborates with PAR and supports its mission - Leeda NE Inc., Winnie Hosking, Owner.
- PAR Individual of the Year Award - Christine Brown, self advocate
- “PAR for Excellence” Award - Nancy Richards, Executive Director, Clearwater COG



Robin Trocki and friends, from the cast of the TV program, Glee.

The mission of PAR is to offer quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities. PAR relies on the support and volunteer efforts of many dedicated people working together to improve the manner in which individuals are provided personal care and assistance. Professionals from throughout the developmental disabilities community share knowledge and expertise to achieve these common goals, and the annual PAR Convention is the keystone event for these efforts.

For more information: <http://www.par-ohio.org/>



5. National Core Indicators Begins Third Year

The DODD is pleased to announce the beginning of our third year of participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. We also are pleased to have the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) administering the NCI surveys for the project again this year. CMOR will be completing 400 adult individual face-to-face interviews, and 1200 family surveys via telephone. They will be surveying families who have children, and adults who live at home with families, as well as individuals who live outside the home in an alternative setting.

CMOR soon will be connecting with staff at Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to begin coordinating the survey process.



Data for Decision-Making

Ohio currently is using the data report from the 2008-2009 surveys, and soon will be receiving the data report for 2009-2010. Never before has the Department had this level of reliable and valid statewide data directly from individuals we serve and their families. It will enable us to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of the state's service delivery system, and will assist us in developing plans to improve the quality of life for the more than 80,000 Ohioans receiving services. According to Tina Evans, DODD Project Manager, "We are looking forward to digging deeper into the data and to comparing results from year to year. This NCI project will be a catalyst for great changes within our system."

DODD Director John Martin has been a proponent of data-driven decision-making since the beginning of the Administration in early 2007, and strongly supports such initiatives. He comments,

"The National Core Indicators initiative is an important part of the future of our service system. Not only does it put us in a much better position to develop data-informed policy, it also will help to identify specific ways to improve how we support Ohioans with developmental disabilities."

A Little History

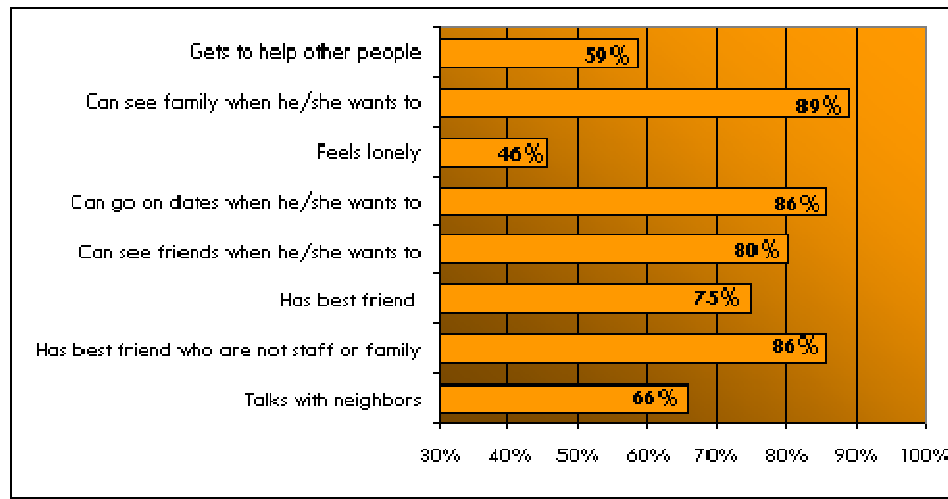
The National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative began in 1997 as a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The goal of the new program was to encourage and support NASDDDS member agencies to develop a standard set of performance measures that could be used by states to manage quality, and across states for making comparisons and setting benchmarks.

Fifteen states initially stepped forward to work on the 'Core Indicators Project', as it was originally known, and pooled their resources to develop valid and reliable data collection protocols. Over time, NCI has become an integral piece of the quality management systems of

more than half the states in the nation, and aligns with basic requirements for assuring quality in Home and Community-Based (HCBS) waivers.

NCI states and project partners continue to work toward the vision of utilizing NCI data not only to improve practice at the state level but also to add knowledge to the field, to influence state and national policy, and to inform strategic planning initiatives for NASDDDS.

Example: Ohio NCI Data on Relationships
(from 2008 -2009 report)



Visit the DODD website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/documents/OhioNCIStateReport2008-09.pdf> to view Ohio's 2008-2009 NCI data report.

According to DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge, “The prospects we are seeing with the NCI initiative are very exciting. A single year's data already has had a significant impact on how we think about best supporting peoples’ needs, as well as how we think about supporting communities.”

Contact: Tina Evans at tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov or (614) 752-9028



6. Northwest Ohio Continues Exploration of ‘Gentle Teaching’

As part of the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) -- which has proven during the past two years to be a fascinating journey toward a statewide shift to a more positive culture within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community – DODD has been offering training on positive strategies utilizing various methodologies and techniques. Most recently, John McGee, Ph.D., an internationally-known speaker who continues to do hands-on work in many countries to promote the concepts of non-violence, recently shared his Gentle Teaching Methodology at the University of Findlay.

This training included an introduction to the Positive Culture Initiative by Pam Berry, DODD Sr. Policy Advisor (see related information at www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/pci.htm). Dr. McGee’s

presentation focused on caregiving within the PCI framework and included positive techniques and approaches to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or who are experiencing other behavioral issues.

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships. It is about making the shift (in thinking) away from power, control and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement.

According to Dr. John McGee, the evolution of an individual's ability to be comfortable with himself or herself is an outgrowth of how that person feels about two things. He asks, "Does that person feel *safe*, and does that person feel *loved*?" He continues,

"Safe and loved. Safe and loved. Those are the keys to mending the heart and building trust. Only when those feelings are present will an individual trust you as a care provider, and only then can a person grow and change."

Pam Berry notes, "Dr. John McGee travels the world bringing hope to those who are most marginalized. We are very fortunate to have him in Ohio teaching us how to create a culture of gentleness within our communities. Participants are always so inspired by John McGee's message that they leave ready to make dramatic shifts in the way they interact with people within their organizations, and even their own families. We want to keep this enthusiasm going by offering follow-up training and organizing network groups through the PCI that can support lasting change."



photo courtesy Dottie Bowes, Marion County

Talk about inspired!

Staff from Marion County's Residential Home Association of Marion, Inc. (RHAM) attend training in Northwest Ohio and take a break with Dr. John McGee (front, left). Says RHAM's Dottie Bowes,

" The training was really inspiring. John McGee is truly a wealth of knowledge, and it was amazing to spend the day with him. I encourage everyone who needs an energy boost to go spend the day with him! Thank you for investing in the culture of life in Marion County."



7. UCP of Central Ohio to Merge with Goodwill Columbus

On September 30th the Board of Directors for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Ohio and Goodwill Columbus signed a merger agreement that will unite the two closely-aligned mission-driven agencies and bring more than 75 participants from UCP to Goodwill Columbus programs and services. The transition will begin January 3, 2011.

Both Goodwill and UCP have a long-standing history of serving people with disabilities in Central Ohio. According to Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, UCP of Ohio,

“The consolidation of these two organizations will increase the sustainability and success of the programs, and provide the community with a more comprehensive range of services to address the needs of individuals with disabilities.”

“It’s a partnership that we’ve been talking about for more than a year,” said Diane Dierna, chair of the Board of Directors of UCP, noting that an inability to secure more funding sources to fully sustain the non-profit agency during challenging economic times led to a lengthy search for a compatible partner. She added, “We have worked very closely with Goodwill Columbus through a structured due diligence process, and are confident that they are the best local partner.”

To determine the viability of the new partnership, UCP was awarded a grant for \$75,000 from The Columbus Foundation’s Fund for Financial Restructuring. Goodwill Columbus also received a \$15,000 Capacity-Building grant from United Way of Central Ohio. Both grant-issuing agencies encourage non-profits with similar missions to partner for sustainability and success.

Contact: Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, UCP of Central Ohio (614) 279-0109 ext. 208

For more information: www.ucpofcentralohio.org



Information repeated by request ...

8. County Board Levy Issues, Across the State

Ballot issues on November 2 election ballots affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community include those in the following counties:

- *Athens:* 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.65 million annually for eight years.
- *Defiance:* 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$200,000 per year. First time on the ballot as a replacement.
- *Mahoning:* 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$11.9 million annually for five years.
- *Medina:* 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. Second attempt.
- *Montgomery:* 6.03 mill Replacement Levy. \$4.5 million new money to offset losses in tangible personal property and CAT tax dollars. (NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children’s Services, Elderly support, etc.)
- *Portage:* 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$3.9 million for five years.
- *Putnam:* .5 Replacement Levy. To generate \$322,727 each year for 10 years.
- *Vinton:* 2 mill Renewal Levy. For five years.

The Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information, and will post more about the election as it draws closer. See additional information at [Voters With Disabilities](#).

Your vote is very important!



Pipeline Quarterly

Will be publishing this week! Reporting on Summer 2010 ... look for it in your email Inbox.

9. *PostScripts* – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **OPRA Annual Fall Conference October 19-20**



ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

For the Fall Conference registration brochure, **Click Here!** For more information, visit www.opra.org.

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Annual Fall Conference attracts more than 300 attendees and 25 exhibitors - providing opportunities to interact with hundreds of executives, direct support staff, and other professionals in the developmental disabilities community. It's an opportunity to make important professional contacts and gather vital information. Each year, the program provides a high-level learning opportunity that will enable professional growth and success. This year's event is at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Dublin, OH. [Click Here](#) to reserve your room online or call the Embassy Suites Hotel directly at 1-800-Embassy. Download a copy of the [2010 Fall Conference Brochure](#).

⇒ **OACB Annual Fall Conference, December 1-3**

The Ohio Association of County Boards Annual Convention will be held December 1 - 3, at the Hilton Easton, Columbus. A variety of tracks will enable participants to attend many interesting and diverse sessions during each of the three days. More information on the event coming soon at <http://www.oacbmdd.org/>. Contact: Ann Neu, (614) 431-0616 or email: aneu@oacbdd.org.

Note: The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Track is the third option for Wednesday, December 1.

⇒ **Belmont County Board of DD to Host Kathie Snow, 'Disability is Natural'**

"Awesome change is possible when we think differently about developmental disabilities!"

Learn how to think differently at an evening with parent advocate, author, and trainer Kathie Snow, on Thursday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville -- presented by the Belmont

County Board of Developmental Disabilities. *Public Invited! Free Admission!* Kathie is the author and creator of *Disability is Natural*, a respected source for new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities. Learn more at www.disabilityisnatural.com. Contact: Pamela McCort, pmccort@bcbdd.org.

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

Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) will host their 6th Annual Gathering on October 22-23, at the Hyatt on Capital Square, Columbus. About 150 graduates of PIP are expected to attend the gathering, whose 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 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. Contact: Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhcorp.org.

⇒ **Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) Conference, Nov. 5-6**

The Ohio SIBS Conference is a great opportunity for siblings to learn about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. The conference also allows adult siblings to meet each other, share their stories, and enjoy being with others who can identify with each others' experiences in growing up. To register for the November 5-6 Conference at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel, go to www.ohiosibs.com. *Deadline for conference registration is Monday, October 25th.* Contact: Michelle Truby, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, truby.5@osu.edu.

⇒ **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 ...

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