



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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please click on the link below. Already done so? Thank you!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DODDPipelineNewsletter>

1. Self Advocates Take Northwest Ohio Energy to Statehouse

As the next step following a well-attended and enthusiastic *Call2Action* advocacy event earlier this year in Perrysburg, northwest Ohio's *Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Coalition* sponsored a bus trip to the Ohio Statehouse on August 15 to learn more about how decisions are made by the legislature, and to meet with Toledo area State Representative Theresa Fedor.

According to Lon Mitchell, Public Information Manager at the Lucas County Board of DD, "This promised to be a new learning experience leading to an even stronger local advocacy effort for people with developmental disabilities – and based on the comments we heard on the bus going back home, that's exactly what resulted!" He added,

"The most effective advocates are those who are knowledgeable, know the process, and know their legislators. This was a wonderful opportunity to join in the effort to educate our legislators about the developmental disabilities community, and to educate ourselves about the legislative process. Our advocacy efforts become more effective when we develop a relationship with our legislators."

The nearly 40 tour participants noted that they especially enjoyed the opportunity to sit in the House and Senate chambers, and learn more about the legislative process in its natural environment.

DODD Director John Martin met informally with the group following their tour and welcomed them to Capitol Square and the seat of Ohio government. The self advocates asked Director Martin several questions and shared that they felt they were warmly welcomed by all to 'The Peoples' House.' And to remind everyone that things can always be improved, one participant who uses a power wheelchair spoke for the others, observing, "I think that elevators could be a little faster, though!" Their patience and suggestions were duly noted.

Special thanks to Dustin McKee of the Ohio Association of County Boards for helping to orchestrate this most enlightening tour.



DODD Director John Martin speaks with the nearly 40 self advocates and staff representing Northwest Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Coalition.

Contact: Lon Mitchell at 419-380-4048 or e-mail him at Lmitchell@lucasdd.org



OHT Update

2. Office of Health Transformation Explores Coordinated Care

Governor John Kasich created the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) to modernize Ohio's fragmented Medicaid system, to improve the quality of health services available to consumers and families, and to provide the best value to taxpayers.

Ohio has submitted a proposal to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (<http://innovations.cms.gov/>) to improve care coordination for dual-eligible individuals. The

proposed demonstration model is based on the idea that care coordination should serve the individual, not the system in which the individual is served. The proposal envisions one person/one point of care coordination regardless of payer, service, or setting.

In a collaborative effort to translate the phrase "care coordination" into practical terms, specifically for the 'dual eligible' (Medicare-Medicaid) population, the Ohio Department of Aging recently hosted a presentation by a national expert on the subject. Alice Lind, senior clinical officer at the Center for Health Care Strategies, and also a nurse and former quality assurance chief for the State of Washington's Health and Recovery Services Administration, noted in her presentation that patient wishes and perspectives "must be kept at the forefront, no matter how service delivery is structured." She observed that we need to put bureaucratic terminology aside, as ...

" People don't think of themselves as 'dual-eligibles.' "

Lind also noted that making a concerted effort to involve patients and their families in care assessments, and including individuals and family members on health-related advisory groups are two basic examples of how to 'institutionalize the practice of honoring patient choice.'

Her presentation also stressed that the best information on care quality comes not from measuring against performance measures established by governments and payers, but from *the patient*. Lind stated,

"Getting the word from the actual beneficiary – there's really not a better way that I have seen so far to measure performance."

Ten goals for a strong coordinated care system were outlined:

- A clear vision of what is to be accomplished;
- Stakeholder engagement, throughout planning and implementation;
- Use of a uniform tool to assess patient needs, including non-clinical needs that may affect the ability to get care;
- Benefits structured to incentivize proper care;
- Including attendant care and/or paid family caregivers in benefit packages;
- Ensuring that program design meets patient needs;
- Recognizing the shift to risk-based managed care;
- Set financial incentives to achieve goals;
- Ensure strong oversight and monitoring; and,
- Ensure performance measures that focus on long-term supports and services.

CMS Offers Care Coordination Models

Also on the subject of care coordination, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) distributed a letter to state Medicaid directors in early July regarding two 'care coordination models' it will help states to develop. One is a 'capitated' model, and the other is a managed 'fee-for-service' model. States are requested to declare their intent to participate by October 1. More information about this at: www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/

*Acknowledgments to Hannah News Service.
Additional related information is at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/topics/budget.htm>*



In Columbiana County

3. Doors Open at Beaver Creek Candle Company

Columbiana County's Beaver Creek Candle Company opened the doors to a brand new facility in Lisbon, Ohio, on August 12, now housing the growing business which started in a small space in the County Board's adjacent main building on County Home Road. The new facility spans 10,000 sq. ft., and provides additional work space and storage, as sales continue to rise.

Operated by the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities, individuals receiving services from the Board hand-craft the popular candles (see them at <http://bccandle.com/>), and are involved in all facets of the business. Production Manager Jacob Lawton explains,

"This is a client business. We are out branding a product that the clients do every step of the candle making process. This is their business."

The open house event was attended by many local officials and business partners, as well as employees, staff and families. DODD Director John Martin presented a certificate of recognition from Governor John Kasich to the County Board, commemorating the Grand Opening, and congratulating the efforts to expand employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities while strengthening the local area's economic base. Director Martin noted,

"It takes some creativity and effort such as we see here today, to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to contribute to their communities, and shine a light on their best qualities, so that the entire community can see and benefit from their gifts."

Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent William Devon also received a Proclamation from a representative from the office of U.S. State Representative Bill Johnson acknowledging the Grand Opening event and its positive impact on the community.

William Noviki, Finance CEO for *Linens and More for Less*, said during the Grand Opening ceremony that the high demand for Beaver Creek Candle Company products in his stores is based solely on what customers want. He summed it up:

"We're selling these products. The customers love them. We're not advertising that they are made by people with disabilities. The product is selling itself."



DODD Director John Martin cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the Beaver Creek Candle Company's Grand Opening in Columbiana County last week.



Beaver Creek candles are their own best 'sales staff'! The company is always looking for additional retail sales outlets, and organizations to sell the candles as fundraisers.

*More information at <http://bccandle.com/>
Contact Jacob Lawton: (330) 424-0596 jlawton@bccandle.com*



Expanding Choices

4. The Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative 'Ramps Up'

Ohio's direct service workforce is the foundation of the state's long-term services and supports system. It is comprised of individuals who provide a broad range of personal care assistance, and/or assistance with activities of daily living in a variety of home and community-based settings, hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities. In addition, direct service

professionals may work with individuals served by one or more state agencies, including Ohio's departments of Aging; Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; Developmental Disabilities; Health; Mental Health; and, Job and Family Services.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) are co-leading Ohio's *Direct Service Workforce Initiative* to help identify and address the education and training, credentialing, registration, and career advancement needs of direct service workers. Also through this initiative, Ohio will strive to improve the quality of services provided, and address health workforce shortages.

Through the federal *Money Follows the Person* demonstration grant, ODJFS has contracted with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) and the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) at The Ohio State University. GRC and CETE will implement strategies and steps to advance Ohio's efforts to enhance its direct service workforce, career opportunities for workers, the quality of service provided, and to better meet health workforce supply and demand.

Beginning this month, ODJFS and ODA are establishing a joint group of inter-agency state partners and others, and including individuals served, caregivers, providers, and provider associations to form a foundational Consortium. The Consortium will provide input and guidance for the implementation of Ohio's *Direct Service Workforce Initiative*. Among other objectives, the Consortium will define and document the current direct service workforce environment, including challenges.

The Big Picture

ODJFS and ODA have been working with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and partnering state agencies including DODD, on aligning the *Direct Service Workforce Initiative* with four key OHT budget initiatives to ensure that changing workforce needs are addressed. The four key initiatives are:

- Medicaid Waiver Consolidation
- Dual Eligibles Project
- Patient-Centered Medical Homes
- Behavioral/Physical Health Integration

More about Direct Service Workers in September issues of *Pipeline*.
- The week of September 12, 2011, is Direct Care Professionals Week! -

More information on this and other related programs at jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HNewsletter.stm



5. Empowering Families in Fayette County.

"Treasure your relationships, not your possessions." -Anonymous

Around the state, individuals with disabilities and their families are sharing their resources, sampling new ideas, and looking for ways to help each other as well as themselves. In this spirit,

the Fayette County Board of DD has formed the Behavior Support Advisory Council (BSAC), created to provide support, respite, and fellowship to families who have children with significant disability-related behavioral issues. The group was formed in 2007, and was prompted by the significant unmet need for this kind of support for Fayette County families.

A committee of BSAC participants runs the Council, and is comprised of BSAC parents. The group is facilitated by Fayette County Board employees Cheryl Binegar, SSA, and Teresa Borden, Early Childhood Director, who work together with the parents to plan programs, invite speakers, ensure childcare for support meetings, and arrange fundraisers and special events. The BSAC meets every second and fourth Monday of each month for one hour.

These meetings allow parents to share stories and discuss current behaviors they see with their children, turning to each other for advice and solutions, as well as support.

Recently, Council meetings have expanded to offer a Sibling Support Group at the same time. This group, facilitated by FCBDD Early Intervention Specialist, Suzie Janasov, provides activities and support for siblings of children with significant behavior issues. The goal is to ensure that children understand that they are not alone, and that other children also have brothers or sisters that may need more assistance or experience different behaviors.

Once each month the BSAC also plans an all-day Saturday activity, allowing families time for fellowship and a change of scene. These outings have included a trip to a local pumpkin farm, a Thanksgiving dinner, an ice cream social, and ‘water play’ days.

According to Teresa Borden, the BSAC continues to grow. “We’ve gone from five or six active families in the first few years, to more than 20 today! The staff at the Fayette County Board of DD is happy to be able to assist with fulfilling this need within our community.”



Fayette County Family Members participating in the behavior Support Advisory Council take a break with a game of ‘Duck-Duck-Goose.’

Thanks to Teresa Borden, Early Childhood Director, Fayette County Board of DD for this information.
Contact her at (740) 335-1391 or tborden@fayettetdd.com



6. Update on Federal Benefit Payments Options

-Beginning March 1, 2013, All Federal Benefit Payments Will Be Paid Electronically-

The U.S. Department of the Treasury will be phasing out paper checks as a payment option for federal benefit payments beginning *March 1, 2013*. People who receive *Social Security*, *Supplemental Security Income* or *other federal benefit checks* for themselves or on behalf of someone else, must switch to an electronic payment option by that date.

Why wait until 2013? Take action today! In doing so, you will enjoy the advantages of electronic payments immediately.

Making the switch to electronic payment options provides several advantages:

- *Safety* - No risk of lost or stolen checks.
- *Ease* - No need to make a trip to cash or deposit a check.
- *Control* - Money is on time, every time.
- *Fast Access* - Money is accessible sooner.

Making the switch to one of the two electronic payment options recommended by the Treasury Department is fast, free and easy:

- *Direct Deposit*: People who have a checking or savings account may sign up to receive their money through *direct deposit*. Their money will go straight into their checking or savings account on payment day each month, and be accessible from virtually anywhere.
- *Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®*: This pre-paid debit card provides another reliable, low-cost alternative to paper checks. Money is posted to the card account on payment day each month. Cardholders can make purchases, pay bills, and get cash anywhere the Debit MasterCard® is accepted. Optional deposit notifications and 'low balance' alerts by phone, email, or text message are available, free. For information on card fees that may apply for some optional services and features, visit www.GoDirect.org. No bank account or credit check is required.

To make the switch to direct deposit or the Direct Express® card, current federal benefit check recipients may contact their federal benefit agency office, visit the Treasury Department website at www.GoDirect.org, or call the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795. For *direct deposit*, people also can make the switch at their local financial institution.

For more information or to order free materials, visit www.GoDirect.org or <http://www.godirect.org/partners/order-materials/>.



7. Free Seminar to Highlight ADA Updates and Revisions

A free seminar highlighting updates and revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be presented August 24 and 25 at the Vern Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus.

At this event, federal and state officials will cover several areas of interest, including ADA implications for employers; recent revisions to the ADA Title II and III Regulations (see www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm), including but not limited to service animals; modifications to ticketing and accessible seating policies; expanded obligations for effective communication; new requirements for places of lodging and accessible room reservations, and other policy and procedural issues impacting the public and private sector.

The seminar also will address the 2010 ADA standards for alterations and new construction effective March 15, 2012, including a discussion of safe harbors and what entities should be planning for now, as well as a discussion of how State of Ohio laws intersect with the ADA.

Thanks to the generosity of seminar sponsors this training is free. Parking, lunch are on your own.



From the *Pipeline Quarterly* Photo Files

Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 9, April 28, 2010:

Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary – Public Celebration at The Ohio State University



Brutus Buckeye says, "It's almost football season."

Brutus was caught resting on this accessible bench during last year's ADA 20th Anniversary celebration at OSU. The bronze sculpture is life-size, and is located at the OSU Student Union. If you look closely you can see his name on his shirt.



Pipeline PostScripts

FREE SELF-STUDY COURSE AVAILABLE VIA [DISABILITY.GOV](http://www.disability.gov)

A free self-study course to help people with developmental disabilities build practical skills to find jobs is now available via [Disability.gov](http://www.disability.gov). The course will help individuals understand the hiring process, supported and competitive employment, and how to identify personal strengths and skills and how they might translate into a career. This information was recently updated. To learn more, visit https://www.disability.gov/employment/career_planning/career_planning_tools.

OHIO DD COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has released its 2012-2016 'Notice of Funds Available.' People interested in applying for a DD Council grant can learn how to apply, and ask questions about projects contained in the Notice of Funds Available, at either of two 'Bidder's Conferences' that will be hosted in Columbus and Cambridge in August. The Cambridge location has been added to provide a more regional opportunity for interested parties in the Appalachian area of the state. A total of \$1.3 million in funding will be available.

Details about each Bidder's Conference, including registration, can be found on the Council's website at www.ddc.ohio.gov/whatsnew.htm

Deadline for applications will be October 7, 2011.

OHIO SIBS CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 11-12, SAVE THE DATES!

Ohio SIBS, a non-profit organization supporting siblings of adults with developmental disabilities, hosts an annual conference to bring together siblings across Ohio to gain information and resources to improve the health and well-being of their siblings who have a disability. This year, the *11th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference* will be Friday-Saturday, November 11-12, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel.

Click: [SIBS Conference Brochure](#)

To learn more about Ohio SIBS, visit www.ohiosibs.com. For questions about the conference, the organization, or to request printed brochures, contact Michelle Truby, truby.5@osu.edu; (614) 571-4542.

SECOND ANNUAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS EVENT

Plans are underway for the second annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals (DSP) recognition event, "*Sing! Shout! Get the Word Out!*" coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) and slated for September 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the [Xenos](#) complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus.

Register at: events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=m5azxoeab&oeidk=a07e3t3i0s5e07fd36a

The event is planned in coordination with *National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*, first declared by the U. S. Senate in 2008 to recognize the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. OADSP notes that many agencies within Ohio's developmental disabilities community donate goods, services, and time to make this program a success. It is presented *at no cost* to DSPs and is designed to be an enlightening, fun, and motivating day. *For more information: www.ohiopaths.org*

TENTH ANNUAL BUDDY WALK, SEPTEMBER 18

The 10th annual Buddy Walk will take place on Sunday, September 18th at Columbus Crew Stadium. The one-mile walk will begin at 10 a.m., and registration begins at 9 a.m. The Buddy Walk is sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) to promote acceptance and inclusion of persons with Down Syndrome. For more information, contact DSACO at 263-6020.



SAVE THE DATE: PAR/OSDA First-Ever Joint Conference, October 5-7

Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) and the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) have scheduled their first-ever annual joint conference this year, October 5-7, in Dublin, OH. Many agencies have used the annual PAR Conference as a key element in their staff development plan, and this conference will offer a group discount to DD agencies across the state to encourage participation by as many staff as possible. The conference agenda will include self-advocacy seminars by OSDA, as well as guest speakers including Peter Leidy and Nick Scott. *For more information: Kathy Rader, krader@crsi-oh.com, (937) 776-0502; or Mindy Garverick, OSDA (614) 679-0194. Visit www.par-ohio.org.*



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 ...

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