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1. Comprehensive Health Care Reform – News of Interest for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities



“ ... I don’t believe the American people are going to put the insurance industry back in the driver’s seat. We’ve been there already and we’re not going back.

This country is ready to move forward. ”

– President Barack Obama

Ohio’s developmental disabilities community has been actively engaged in advocacy at the federal level during the approach to enactment of historic health care reform – and has followed the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee in that effort. Indeed, along with the DODD, a large number of national, state, and local organizations in the developmental disabilities community have worked together to assure that the enactment of meaningful and comprehensive national health care reform included provisions that would positively impact peoples’ lives. Through collaboration, responsibilities have been divided up among organizations so that legislation is carefully reviewed in its entirety, from various perspectives.

Health Care Reform Background

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has released its cost estimate for the bill, stating that the reconciliation bill is projected to cut the deficit by \$138 billion in the first ten years (2010 - 2019), and would extend coverage to 32 million additional people. For this and other reasons, the bill is supported by a broad cross-section of organizations and interests.

In an article noted at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/immediate-benefits>, key provisions of the health care reform that take effect immediately are briefly cited, providing an excellent summary in simplified terms. Also useful as background is an article titled *Support for Caregivers in Health Care Reform*, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/29/support-caregivers-health-care-reform> which speaks specifically to these issues within the direct care community, and the developmental disabilities community, nationwide.

For example, according to Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio,

“The Arc has supported health care reform. A number of our members in Ohio, however, remain somewhat fearful as to what it will mean to them and to their family members. We look forward to more specifics on how it will affect each of us in the coming years.”

Commenting on the Health Care Reform process and package, DODD Director John Martin, observes,

“Our stakeholders have been very actively engaged in the process of putting together the health care reform package. Their focus has been on the provisions that will assist people with developmental disabilities and their families. For example, in improving access and quality of care for older adults and people with disabilities, this legislation includes a proposal to fill the Medicare ‘donut hole’ and end drug co-pays for people who are on both Medicaid and Medicare – this kind of discount drug program for people on Medicare will help more people have access to needed medications.

He continues, “In addition, new provisions will allow more people choices regarding whether they live in an institution or receive services while living in their own home. The package also includes additional funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers to help more people learn about programs and services that are available to them. In all this historic legislation should open doors to several options that will benefit individuals within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.”

In reviewing specific elements of the Health Care Reform legislation, Barb Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, has this to say:

“The Autism Society is pleased that Congress has taken a step in the right direction by passing a health care bill that includes coverage of ‘behavioral health treatments,’ such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, and prohibiting insurers from excluding coverage based on pre-existing conditions – but there is additional work to be done to ensure that families affected by autism have access to appropriate services and supports. The Autism Society will continue to advocate on their behalf.”

And, on March 22, Governor Ted Strickland issued the following statement regarding the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of historic health care reform:

“ ... No longer will insurance companies decide who gets quality health care in this country and who does not. Children with pre-existing conditions will immediately be protected from being denied health care ... I applaud Congress for standing up for Ohioans' right to affordable, quality health care. And I admire President Obama for his leadership in achieving comprehensive health care reform.”

Governor Strickland also stated,

“I support the federal health insurance reform plan because there are approximately 1.3 million uninsured Ohioans today. We estimate this bill will result in approximately 900,000 Ohioans – who don't have insurance today – having health insurance by 2019. In addition, it will make private health insurance more affordable and accessible, it improves health care access and quality for older adults and people with disabilities, and it provides people who are living in poverty access to health insurance. This legislation also will allow people to have improved access to mental health and alcohol and drug addiction services.”

Looking Ahead

The long-term anticipated and likely impacts of this landmark Health Care Reform legislation on individuals with disabilities and their families is currently, and will continue to be, a topic of great interest and speculation within Ohio and throughout the nation. The DODD appreciates the many points of view our stakeholders already have shared, and are hopeful that, through these shared ideas, progress can continue to be made.

Specific information regarding the Health Care Reform Legislation is under the heading 'Health Care Reform' on the homepage at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthCareReformInformation.htm> . Information contained there includes an [interactive graphic](#) prepared by *The New York Times* that explains how different segments of the population will be affected by the health care overhaul.

Some of the information contained in this article has been provided by: Governor Ted Strickland's Office; The Arc of the U.S.; and, as excerpted from various state and national publications.

Additional information: Benefits on Health care reform by Congressional district:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1924:benefits-of-health-care-reform-district-by-district-impact&catid=169:legislation&Itemid=55



2. DD Awareness Activities Across Ohio, Part III – Wrap Up

The March issues of *Pipeline* archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>, share samplings of the many activities and events celebrating March, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, across Ohio. In this issue, Part III wraps up this series. *Congratulations to all for so many successful ideas and events this year!*

A. ➔ Lake County – Special People, Individual Needs Inc. Earns ‘Make a Difference Day Outstanding Project Award’

What and Where: *Special People, Individual Needs Inc. was among the top ten recipients of the ‘Make a Difference Day’ (Ohio) Outstanding Project Award. Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland and former First Lady Hope Taft honored outstanding Make a Difference Day projects at the annual Awards Ceremony in Columbus, on March 16 at the Hyatt Regency.*

Briefly: Out of 1,100 agency and group participants, Special People, Individual Needs Inc. was among the top ten to receive the Make a Difference Day Outstanding Project Award. A small nonprofit organization in Lake County working with special needs young adults, the organization’s participants were thrilled to receive the award for their *Sharing Gift Baskets & Smiles* project. Connie Janes-Lewis, Director, explained,

“Our special needs young adults shopped for, assembled, and donated Halloween gift baskets to special needs children at Broadmoor School and Deepwood Children’s Residence Center, and donated Fall gift baskets to Seniors at Mentor Way Nursing Home.”

She adds, “How appropriate, too, that we should receive this award in March, *Developmental Disability Awareness Month* in Ohio! I encourage anyone out there with a business to seriously consider employing a special needs young person. Don’t stereotype them ... and don’t forget them when you are looking for volunteers. They represent the epitome of volunteerism – selflessness and smiles.”

The honored award nominees underwent a review process including screening by the Make A Difference Day statewide steering committee and judging panel. Awardees were selected based on impact and innovation.

Janes-Lewis notes, “We are extremely proud of our young people. They have decided to continue this project, and are currently assembling Easter gift baskets to be donated.”



‘Tis Better to Give Than to Receive ... But Both Are Very Rewarding!
Volunteers honored by *Make A Difference Day (Ohio)* from *Special People, Individual Needs Inc.* in Lake County, shown here with gift basket recipients.

For more info: Connie Lewis, Special People, Individual Needs, Inc. (440) 289-0227.

B. ➡ Lucas County – Sunshine Inc. Visits Toledo Museum of Art

What: *Toledo Museum of Art, community inclusion activities, and Sunshine Inc., Maumee, which offers residential supports, day programs, family resources, respite care, and more.*

Where: Toledo Museum of Art.

Briefly: In early March, a group of artists from Sunshine Inc. were invited to the Toledo Museum of Art to participate in a unique community bead-making project. The Museum is working to collect 10,000 beads that will be a part of a large display scheduled to open this November. At the Museum, the artists created clay beads and painted them. They also were allowed to take one bead home for every bead that they contributed to the project. In the end, the group made many unique and beautiful beads, which they are very much looking forward to seeing as a part of the total display. After bead-making, the group toured the Museum, which was greatly enjoyed. The next day, a representative from the Museum came to Sunshine to work with a second group of artists who painted wooden beads for the same project.



(L. to R.) **Jeremy and Bob** are intent on their work and greatly enjoyed the opportunity for artistic expression, as well as the tour of the Toledo Art Museum.

For More Info: At Sunshine Inc., contact Amy Bennett, ABennett@sunshine.org, or Deb Rasmussen at DRasmusson@sunshine.org.

C. ➡ Union County – Boy to Gain Service Dog, Greater Independence

What: *Boy served by Union County Board of DD receives ‘Canine Assistants’ Service Dog.*

Where: Dublin, and Marysville, Ohio.

Briefly: William Ma, age 10, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, has recently learned that he is going to be the recipient of a Canine Assistants service dog. William, a Dublin resident who receives services through the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD), attended a ceremony at the Dublin Giant Eagle, along with his family. His mother stated,

“Not only is William receiving a service dog and the much needed support from UCBDD, but with the dog we know he will have a new friend.”

A trainer for Canine Assistants noted that William's service dog will be given to him at a Canine Assistants training camp that he will attend this summer, and will be selected and trained to meet his specific needs – providing him greater independence, including help in case of emergency. Training of one of these special dogs takes 18 to 24 months and costs more than \$20,000.



Canine Assistants Dog to be William's New Family Member.

(L to R) Jason Rish, Giant Eagle store manager; Steve Ma, William's father; William; Anita Zhang, William's mother; EreK Bylinowski of Milk-Bone Co.; Karen Casto of Canine Assistants, and Ash, a one-year old retriever. Canine Assistants is a national charitable organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities, at no cost to the recipient. The organization operates on individual and corporate donations, such as Milk-Bone® brand, which partnered this year with Giant Eagle. The sponsorship pays for in-depth training, ongoing support, and veterinary care for Canine Assistants service dogs.

For More Info: Carol Scheiderer, (937) 645.6702, cscheiderer@ucbdd.org; or www.ucbdd.org .

D. ➡ Licking County DD Hosts Annual Event

What: *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Licking County* -- an event with a 15+ year history -- grows and changes each year to effectively tell the story in their community that, "People with disabilities are people with possibilities."

Where: Venues throughout Licking County, including Eleanor S. Weiant Center, in Newark.

Briefly: This year, the annual event again featured excellent community participation, as 33 community leaders participated in hands-on activities at locations throughout the county, working and learning side-by-side with individuals served by the LCBDD. The day's event culminates in a luncheon. Among the participants there this year was the Wollenberg family, who formed 'Team Up' a baseball team that teams children with and without disabilities in a unique player-partnership, and was recently honored, along with SportsTime Ohio, by Ohio Public Images, for enriching the lives of young people with developmental disabilities.



You don't have to know these people to relate to the constant motion of energetic youth!
Licking County's 'Team Up!' family photo demonstrates real life for this award-winning group.

For More Info: Contact for event information: Heather.Odendahl@lcountydd.org .

Contact for more information about this year's Ohio Public Images 'Awareness Award' winners:
www.publicimagesnetwork.org .

E. ➔ [Defiance County DD Hospital Volunteers Foster Greater Awareness](#)

What and Where: Mercy Hospital, Defiance, Ohio

Briefly: Mercy Hospital of Defiance hosts five individuals from the Good Samaritan Senior Retirement Program, who volunteer their services for several hours each week. They are Rachel Sontchi, David Donley, Juanita Caryer, Dennis Kauffman and Gary Knipp. The director of hospital volunteers notes, "There is a great relationship between the hospital and Good Sam. The volunteers get to see people they know, and they are so helpful and cheerful to the customers at the gift shop." Donley, Caryer, Kauffman, and Knipp work at the gift shop, while Sontchi works in another department sorting and placing health-related pamphlets in folders provided to hospital patients. Chris Palmer, director of the Senior Retirement Program at Good Sam, comments,

"These volunteers are very dependable and have strong work skills. We train them, and they come here with good work skills from previous employment. For example, David worked for 25 years at McDonald's and Dennis was employed by the YMCA."

Palmer described how the Good Sam senior volunteer program started at the hospital. "I was at the clinic and happened to see the gift shop with its many customers and thought, 'We could do this!' I discussed it with the seniors and they said they'd like to volunteer for the hospital. I think it's a natural partnership between the hospital and Good Sam." The program started in October 2009, and has proven once again that, 'People with disabilities are people with possibilities.'

For More Info: Chris Palmer at def_mrdd_cp@nwoca.org

F. ➡ [Cuyahoga County – Just-A-Buck Promotes ‘Just Like You’](#)

What: The annual Cleveland St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Where: The streets of Cleveland.

Briefly: A contingent representing the Cuyahoga County Board of DD marched in the annual Cleveland St. Patrick’s Day parade – including *Bucky* (far left), the store mascot for *Just-A-Buck* – a retail employment and training opportunity for many individuals served by the CCBDD -- as well as a bus carrying individuals of all ages, served by the organization. The bus also served as a mobility option in the event of inclement weather, and to provide a break for individuals who might need a rest from the long parade walking-route. Staff from *Just-A-Buck* carried the 2010 statewide DD Awareness Month message that people with developmental disabilities are ‘*Just Like You*’ – and literally ‘took it to the streets!’



- Taking It to the Streets -

Staff from *Just-A-Buck*, and others, carried the 2010 statewide DD Awareness Month message that people with developmental disabilities are ‘*Just Like You*.’

More about DD Awareness Month in *Pipeline Quarterly* Winter '09-'10 issue, publishing in early April.



Part VII in a Series

3. Priority Work – Energizing Local Participation of Individuals and Families in System Stewardship

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their

families. Here is the seventh installment in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.



Family Chat Encourages Information-Sharing and Networking.
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm>

A Step in the Overall Direction

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress,’ lead by DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and families statewide – in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Several steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, in addition to the Department’s ongoing Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings that, for several years, have drawn attendees from across the state (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>).

For example, according to Peggy, “As a result of the 2008 Futures recommendations and the ‘Empowering People’ implementation team, we have created a ‘discussion listserv’ to encourage communication among families in supporting other families. You can find out more information regarding this discussion listserv, named ‘Family Chat’ -- including instructions to join – by visiting our website at www.dodd.ohio.gov under the ‘For Families’ section on our homepage.” She adds,

“We have more and more people beginning to participate in Family Chat, and we are excited about this additional, new way to communicate. Thanks to County Board Service and Support Administration (SSA) Directors and through regional meetings with families, membership in this participating group is continuing to grow.”

Beyond this newly-implemented approach, another specific element within the Priority Work Area is the establishment and development of localized and/or regional Advisory Councils around the state -- comprised of individuals and families who receive services -- to be operational in 2011. To assist in this effort, Peggy Martin has been meeting with groups of people to gauge their interest and engage their collective energy, as well as assist them in the process of developing a local or regional Council. She notes,

“If you are interested in participating in an Advisory Council at the local or regional level – as a family member or self-advocate, and want to explore this idea in your area, please email me at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. I will be sure to get back with you.”

Also as a part of the efforts to build a stronger grassroots-level family foundation, the DODD will continue to reach out to various advocacy organizations in helping to support the plans for local participation, and coordinate these efforts. Nurturing these kinds of opportunities should foster a stronger network of informed self advocates and families across the state, as well as provide more options for information-sharing without time-consuming travel.

The expected outcomes from *energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas also is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

For more information contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.



4. Ron Kozlowski Honored at OPRA Conference

The Arc of Ohio presented its highest honor, the *Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award*, to Ron Kozlowski, recently-retired Executive Director of Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference last week. The award is named for a former Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, and honors either volunteers or professionals who have provided a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

After 24 years at the helm, Kozlowski retired from APSI at the end of January 2010. It was noted that through his leadership, APSI increased the number of individuals receiving the organization's services from approximately 2900 in 1983 to, now, nearly 4750 – and established APSI as an independent, respected partner in the disability community.

In an earlier interview, Kozlowski described his years at APSI as,

“A wonderful experience! I sincerely thank the APSI Board and staff, and the many professionals I have worked with – as well as people with disabilities whom we serve – for this great opportunity.”

Presenting the award were Judy Murray, Arc of Ohio President, and John Hannah, Vice President. Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, Gary Tonks, expressed appreciation to OPRA board and staff for graciously providing an opportunity for this special award presentation at their conference.



Kozlowski Honored

Presenting the Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award to Ron Kozlowski (right) were Judy Murray, Arc of Ohio President, and John Hannah, Vice President.



Reminder: April is Autism Awareness Month

5. Rally, Reception Slated for April 14 at Ohio Statehouse

During the month of April, Autism Awareness Month, look for a variety of information on the subject in Pipeline, and on the DODD website at dodd.ohio.gov.

At the sixth annual Autism Rally at the Ohio Statehouse on April 14, individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators will gather to support legislative action and encourage passage of House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available. The rally also will provide a forum for information on other issues of interest relating to autism.

The rally will take place on the Statehouse South Lawn, 11 a.m. – noon, Wednesday, April 14.

Speakers will include members of the Ohio General Assembly and various stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community, including DODD Director John L. Martin, as well as many self-advocates of all ages. Information tables representing organizations providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including autism, also will be a part of the rally event.

Autism Awareness Legislative Reception

An Autism Awareness Legislative Reception will be hosted on the same day, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium. Legislators have been invited to meet with constituents from their districts to learn more about autism and autism supports and services in their area.

Department Directors, members of the Interagency Workgroup on Autism, and representatives of the Governor's Office also have been invited.

For more information about autism visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov. CDC now estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the U.S have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and is working to discover the risk factors, and raise awareness of the signs to look for in identifying ASDs.

For more information regarding the rally, contact: Barbara Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, (614) 537-4079; askASO@autismohio.org; www.autismohio.org

For more information about the legislative reception: Doug Krinsky at YOG1125@aol.com



[Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#)

6. Rehabilitation Services Commission Launches VRP3 – Enhanced Former ‘Pathways’ Program

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission has posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for VRP3 (formerly ‘Pathways’) programs. The new acronym stands for Vocational Rehabilitation Public and Private Partnerships, and represents a similar concept as the former Pathways, with a focus on collaboration between public and private entities to assist Ohioans with significant disabilities to gain self-sufficiency, independence, and ultimately -- employment opportunities.

RSC is accepting proposals to fund projects that enhance and expand the capacity of the state vocational rehabilitation program, that will help to establish new patterns of targeted services.



Information regarding the program and related RFP at
http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/Funding_Grants/default.aspx



7. 2010 Census and the Disability Community

Census information influences the distribution of more than \$400 billion each year in federal funds for programs in education, health care, community services, and economic development, among other areas.

In fiscal year 2007, the federal government used census information to guide the distribution of approximately \$15 billion in services specifically to people with disabilities.*

The 2010 Census Questionnaire was mailed this month to all U.S. households, and the form contains only ten questions. To gather necessary information, census workers will visit households that do not return the forms.

According to the National Council on Disability, nearly one-third of households in America had at least one member with a disability. This statistic does not include an additional 2.1 million in nursing homes and group homes. In addition to government funding for general federal health care and education programs, the census influences a number of programs that directly serve individuals with disabilities.

Organizations that serve and advocate for people with disabilities can make a difference in accuracy of reporting by helping individuals who may need assistance in completing the census form. Help on filling out the forms also is available toll-free at (866) 872-6868 and TDD (866) 783-2010. Forms also are available in Braille.

Support this important statewide and nationwide effort by completing and returning your Census Questionnaire promptly. For more information, visit www.census.gov .

**Acknowledgments to the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.*



8. Pipeline PostScripts – Timely News Briefs & Notes

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

A. Special Education Law and Advocacy Training

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) is hosting a WrightsLaw presentation, Special Education Law and Advocacy Training with Pete Wright on April 8, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Center, 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell, Ohio.

DSACO is hosting the presentation in collaboration with the Autism Society of Central Ohio, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and the Ohio DD Council. This one-day, 6-hour training focuses on four areas:

- Special education law, rights and responsibilities;
- Tests and measurements to gauge progress & regression;
- SMART IEPs; and,
- Introduction to tactics & strategies for effective advocacy.

Online registration is available at www.dsaco.net. Registration deadline is April 2, 2010.

For more information: Marge Barnheiser, Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, (614) 263.6020 ext. 202

B. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council News

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) consists of at least 28 members appointed by the Governor. Members are people with developmental disabilities; parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities; representatives from appropriate state agencies; and, nonprofit organizations and local agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities. All members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. The ODDC 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.

Seeking Applicants for Membership

ODDC is seeking applicants for membership terms beginning in October of this year. *Applications are due by June 1, 2010.* Council membership must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act, and openings this year are for two individuals with a developmental disability, and one parent or guardian of children with a developmental disability.

Serving as a member of Council provides an opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with state and federal policymakers, state and local service providers, and individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Application packets are available from the ODDC office, or download the application at www.ddc.ohio.gov. Applications must be completed and returned to the office by June 1, 2010, and may be requested by U.S. Mail at: ODDC, 8 E. Long St., Suite 1200, Columbus, OH, 43215, or by phone at: (614) 466-5205; toll-free (800) 766-7426. Email: carla.sykes@dodd.ohio.gov.

Conference Set for May 26-27

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. More information on this conference will be available at www.ddc.ohio.gov as the event draws nearer.

C. The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point

The Arc of Ohio *Day at Cedar Point* will be Wednesday, May 26. A brochure describing the day's event may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thearcofohio.org/sites/default/files/Cedar%20Point%20Brochure%202010.doc>

Requests for tickets must be submitted either by FAX or by regular mail by 5 p.m. April 5, using the request form at the above link. A limited number of discount tickets will be available for purchase through The Arc of Ohio, at Cedar Point, before noon on May 26th. *More than 6000 friends of The Arc of Ohio typically attend this event each year!*

D. 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 approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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