



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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- National Emergency Preparedness Month -

1. DODD Earns Three-Year Federal Grant for Autism Project

A federal grant was awarded last week to DODD for the implementation of a collaborative project for improving services for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The project, *REAL* Action in Ohio*, will be completely funded by the federal grant, with \$243,092 allotted this year, and an estimated \$300,000 each of the next two years. *REAL Action in Ohio* brings together a partnership to improve information about and access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for children with ASD and other developmental disabilities, and their families.

DODD Director John Martin commented,

"This is really exciting news that comes at a very critical time. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now considered one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities that can cause impairment in socialization, communication and behavior. We are very fortunate not only for the grant award, but

also to have an innovative partnership of organizations and dedicated leaders to help fulfill this project, and empower Ohio's youth with Autism and their families."

The award is a *State Implementation Grant for Improving Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Other Developmental Disabilities*. Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the grant will support the Ohio project for a three-year period, beginning September 2011, and ending August 2014.

A fact sheet about the project and the partnership is at: [DODD Announces Federal Grant Award](#)

* *REAL: Resources, Education, Alignment, and Linkages.*
Contact: Jody Fisher at Jody.Fisher@dodd.ohio.gov



2. Department Goals, Reviewed and Summarized

Earlier this month, DODD Director John Martin was asked to present a system overview, as well as Department priorities and goals, to Governor John Kasich and fellow members of his Cabinet. In doing so, Director Martin first acknowledged the synergistic inter-relatedness of the partner agencies within the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), as they work together toward shared goals. He noted,

" It is clear that DODD cannot work effectively without the significant assistance of both the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) Division of Medicaid, and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Their expectations for providing quality services within a network of support are so important to the individuals and families in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. "

Director Martin's presentation highlighted four significant work areas, and reinforced many of the goals that have been driving the Department by way of stakeholder input over the past several months. The four work areas are:

- *Area One: Continuing the transition from institutional to community services.* We will continue a long-term project of moving individuals from state-operated Developmental Centers into the community. This task is complex, as it eliminates some state jobs in areas of high unemployment, and the individuals served in these centers have complex challenges. We also continue to admit individuals while we reduce the overall census. Despite the complexity of this scenario we continue this process because people deserve to live in community settings, because community services often are more cost-effective, and, because a landmark federal court decision, *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999) requires us to move in this direction.
- *Area Two: Making the community system more efficient and responsive to consumer needs.* As we strive to meet the needs of the approximately 30,000 persons waiting for services, it is critical that our major service delivery system -- the waiver system -- operates efficiently. To accomplish this we are adding new cost-efficient services to our waiver, and we are working with stakeholders to limit the increase in cost of existing

waivers. We also are in the process of introducing a new waiver, the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver, that will be more flexible than current waivers. The SELF Waiver also will reduce the financial exposure of County Boards of DD that will fund the waiver, and is specifically designed to meet the needs of the persons on waiting lists.

- *Area Three: The third work area is closely aligned with Area Two -- Streamlining the administration of our service delivery system.* We are working with a group of 18 counties to standardize business practices across their regions. This standardization is promoting greater sharing of services across county lines, and significant sharing has already begun. Interest in the sharing of services has increased dramatically in 2011.
- *Area Four: The development of the Department's technology infrastructure and applications.* This fourth area of concentration is critical to our ability to provide leadership to the field, and be successful in accomplishing the goals. During the past two years we have undertaken an Information Technology (IT) system 'server and desktop virtualization' project to shift time and money from 'infrastructure' to 'applications.' The complexity of a choice-driven/individual-driven waiver service delivery system, combined with the involvement of 88 County Boards and multiple state agencies, will drive the need to create efficiency by employing IT applications that are common to all users. To that end, we are implementing three major system consolidation/integration projects that have the potential to significantly reduce administration complexity and cost, while increasing accountability.

See more about DODD Goals at: [Dir. Martin's Presentation Goals](#)



Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals

3. Direct Support Professionals Work Hard, Empower Others

This year, the week beginning Sunday, September 11, has been designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, sponsored by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), and recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day. The designation provides an opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support Professionals play in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, as well as the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

'Call Congress Day'

ANCOR notes that this is an annual, unified opportunity for organizations and communities to honor the direct support workforce (see [ANCOR Board resolution](#)), make plans to host DSP Recognition Week celebrations around the state (see <http://www.ancor.org/>), and join in National DSP Call Congress Day, September 14.

On that date, providers across the nation are encouraged to contact Congress members about issues important to DSPs. Staff, individuals served, their families, and other interested parties

are encouraged to participate. This is an organized way for people who depend upon and appreciate the work of DSPs to share with elected officials the importance of the 'lifeline of services' provided by Direct Support Professionals.

In Ohio

Governor John Kasich will recognize the month with a Proclamation spotlighting the dedication and vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages, and around the state there will be many events illustrating the positive impact of DSPs within Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

One such event, the second annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition event, "*Sing! Shout! Get the Word Out!*" is 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:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=m5azxaeab&oeidk=a07e3t3i0s5e07fd36a>



For more information: www.ohiopathhs.org

- This event is free for Ohio Direct Support Professionals -

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.

At last year's premiere event, DODD Director John Martin addressed a group of more than 300 attendees stating,

**"You are the people who work 'behind-the-scenes,' but are in the forefront of peoples' lives.
We salute you!"**

Event planners for this year's DSP event have planned an even more interactive and motivational program than last year's, which will be hard to beat for enthusiastic participation! For more information, contact Lisa Barnes, lisab4dsps@yahoo.com.

*ANCOR Contact: Mary Pauline Jones; mpjones@ancor.org or (703) 535-7850, ext. 108
<http://www.ancor.org/>*



In Allen County

4. A Mom's Perspective on A Waiver and Direct Care Support

-More about Direct Service Workers in September issues of Pipeline.-

Allen County resident, Gina Goodin, provides this perspective on what direct service care means to her and her family. The Goodin family has a Level One waiver for their son, Taylor. She shares her thoughts,

“I love taking care of our son, Taylor. He is an adorable young man. His medical and physical needs are tremendous – total care 24/7 – and I love every minute of it! My husband calls me a ‘cave dweller.’ I prefer to think of it as enjoying ‘being in the nest.’ Taylor cannot handle either heat or cold, and sleeps much of the time, so he truly spends most of his time indoors. I am kind of a homebody, so that suits me just fine.

Speaking of our nest, the Level One waiver funds allowed us to redo Taylor's bathroom so that he has a roll-in shower with a bath chair. This means no more lifting into and out of a tub. With a soaked 72-pound body, that was getting dangerous, not to mention the wear-and-tear on our backs.

Level One Waiver services are outlined in the [Level I Waiver Handbook](#).

The other big benefit of the Level One waiver for us is Homemaker Personal Care services, which in our case, means a provider comes into our home to care for Taylor once a week for 4 ½ hours, so that I can go out and enjoy some respite time. There is just no way to put into words what this time to myself does for me personally! I come home completely rejuvenated and energized to continue with Taylor's care.



Taylor on Graduation Day, May 20, 2011, at Marimor School, operated by the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Taylor also celebrated his 20th birthday just a week after that. Pictured are Mom (Gina) and Dad (Gary), flanking Taylor.

The main reason that I have an easy time leaving and enjoying myself is that I am blessed with a wonderful provider. Her name is April, and she has truly been a godsend! I trust her completely in our home and with Taylor. He adores her, and she understands him and cares for him in such a beautiful way. She is not afraid to hold him, rub his back, or sing to him – all the things I love to do as well. And she is so familiar with special needs children like Taylor, that she has figured most of this out on her own. She even administers meds through his g-tube like a pro. I just cannot say what finding a great provider does for a mother's mental frame of mind. If I had to worry all the time I was gone, it would not be worth it at all to have this service."

- Sincerely, Gina Goodin (ginagoodin@woh.rr.com)

What Level One and other waiver services mean in the lives of individuals and families is best described by the people who use them. Special thanks to Gina Goodin and her family for sharing their story, which will be featured more fully in

Pipeline Quarterly Summer 2011 - publishing in late September.



5. September is National Preparedness Month!

"A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

The theme for *National Preparedness Month 2011* encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Ready Campaign*, in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, recently announced the launch of new online tools that will make it easier for individuals and organizations throughout the nation to join the 2011 *National Preparedness Month* (NPM) coalition, and help prepare their families, businesses, and communities for emergencies of all kinds.

Individuals and groups now may register to become NPM coalition members by visiting <http://community.fema.gov>. Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners, and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote preparedness events, share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives.

The theme, "*A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare,*" seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans, including those with developmental disabilities, to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces, and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

As Ohio Honors our First Responders and the important work they do, a special event in remembrance of September 11, 2001, will be held at the Ohio Statehouse West Lawn on Friday, September 9, 2011, at 11:30 a.m.

More information at www.ready.ohio.gov

See video, "I Remember September 11."

Says FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and hazards, we honor the memory of those who were lost that day."

While *National Preparedness Month* is observed each September, FEMA's *Ready Campaign* promotes individual emergency preparedness throughout the year.

The Ready Campaign websites at www.ready.gov and www.listo.gov and toll-free numbers at 1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO provide free emergency preparedness information and resources in English and Spanish.



Seminar Highlights

6. ADA 'As Amended' – Interpretations and Examples

An overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) new regulations on employment, facilities access, and program access, led by the agencies that enforce them in both private and public settings, was sponsored last week at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. The two-day seminar was offered through the collaborative sponsorship of The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion; The Ohio Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights; the Ohio Civil Rights Commission; ADA-Ohio; and, The Great Lakes ADA Center.

Discussed by various presenters at the August 24 - 25 seminar were definitions, interpretations, and examples illustrating the new ADA rules effective earlier this year. Subjects included definitions and examples of 'disability', 'reasonable accommodations', and 'mitigating measures'; specific ADA implications for employers; recent revisions to ADA Title II and III Regulations (see www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm); how State of Ohio Laws intersect with the ADA; and other policy and procedural issues impacting the public and private sectors.

An EEOC Perspective

Christopher Kuczynski, Assistant Legal Counsel and Director of the ADA/GINA (Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act) Policy Division at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), focused the first day's session on the now broader definition of 'disability' under the ADA Amendments Act, whose measures were effective earlier this year, as well as the EEOC's implementing regulations. Kuczynski provided additional guidance regarding the impact that these changes have on the 'reasonable accommodation' process, and an overview of recent litigation by the EEOC in its efforts to enforce the ADA.

The complete presentation is at
www.eeotraining.eeoc.gov/images/content/5F%20adaaa%20and%20gina.pdf

In addition, Kuczynski added some most-appreciated levity to the otherwise serious discussion, noting that the ADA 'As Amended' has been acronymed and informally referred to as 'ADAAA.' He commented,

“ ADAAA could be ADA Always Accessible! ... could be ADA As Agreed ... but in any event, life should be better, post-ADA 'As Amended'! ”

How are things different now, 21 years after the historic passage of the ADA, and now with the amendments allowing broader interpretation of disability and its affect on designated 'major life activities?' According to Kuczynski, "It allows us to look at an impairment as it really is, and not what it is only after a mitigating measure or compensatory strategy is employed. It also allows us to interpret a case of alleged discrimination without having so many circumstances be an exception to the rule."

Also included in the two-day program were presentations by Sally Conway, Deputy Chief, Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, focusing on newly-released regulations applicable to local and state governments and places of public accommodation, and by Earlene Sesker, Accessibility Specialist, U.S. Access Board, on the 2010 ADA Standards.

L. Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator at The Ohio State University, hosted the free seminar and provided continuity on various subjects during the tightly-structured two-day agenda.

Contact: Scott Lissner at lissner.2@osu.edu.



Health & Safety Potpourri

7. School is Back in Session!

There are so many things to remember as young children and teens go back to school, and children with and without disabilities will be challenging their parents, caregivers, and teachers every day. That's part of what growing up is all about, and the following potpourri of related material is shared in an effort to make this challenging and interesting time a little safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for all.



Drive Safely! 20 m.p.h. school speed zones are in effect.

Driving Cautiously

Areas where students need to cross streets are a particular safety concern. Drivers need to pay close attention to children at curbs and crosswalks -- they may not look to assure that the road is clear before crossing. Drivers also need to remember bus safety laws.

Ohio law states that if a school bus is stopped with its red lights flashing on a road with fewer than four lanes, all traffic from either direction must stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of that school bus. On a road that has four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the school bus must stop. Once stopped, drivers may not proceed until the bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.



In Northwest Ohio, one enterprising man is working on a lighting system to help alert drivers to children crossing the street ... Steve Gardner, a vehicle maintenance supervisor for the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, invented a system that has two red LED lights mounted on a bus's front grille to increase visibility, and a white LED floodlight attached to the front bumper to more clearly spotlight children crossing the street.

**See item at: [Inventor's bus lighting alerts drivers to kids crossing street](#)
(Toledo Blade © 08/20/2011)**

Food Safety

Also important for back-to-schoolers is to be sure school staff and other caregivers know about any food allergies that may adversely affect a child. Knowing this at the outset of school is very important and could save a child's life, depending on the severity of the allergy. Children who are verbal or can otherwise communicate for themselves should be encouraged to question a food or beverage they may not have had before, and refuse foods they are not sure about. And in the lunchroom, *choking* is still one of the most worrisome issues to be on the alert for, especially in children for whom chewing and swallowing is more difficult.

**Individuals with developmental disabilities share a number of common characteristics that may place them at high risk for choking/aspirating.
See the DODD Health & Safety Alert 18-03-11 and others at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm>**



Technology Can Help Locate Children Who May Tend to Flee

Child Identification

And also under the banner of *Health & Safety*, the FBI has introduced a smartphone application ('app') to help parents and law-enforcement agencies find a child who disappears. The application stores basic information — photo, a physical description, and contact information — on *iPhones* and *iPads*, making it possible for parents to quickly email that information to police, friends, and relatives in an emergency.

"The app *is not* a replacement for the 'ChildID kits' that some parents keep at home, with fingerprints and DNA samples," says Kenny Hansmire, executive director of the National Child Identification Program. The program has provided 30 million ChildID kits since 1998, in a partnership with the FBI and the American Football Coaches Association. The new app is currently only available for *iPhones* and *iPads*, but the FBI indicates that there are plans to develop it soon for other mobile devices.

The new application can be downloaded free from the 'app store' on iTunes.

Read more at: [FBI app to ID kids has parents' thumbs-up](#)

Special Needs Bookstore

A newly remodeled *online bookstore* has over 250 books and products selected specifically to educate teachers, parents, therapists, and other children about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Asperger Syndrome, Learning Disabilities, ADD/ADHD and other special needs. Visit www.SpectrumTrainingSystemsInc.com for more information.



Paper or Electronic? At least they're still reading!

Photo courtesy, Spectrum Training Systems, Inc.



September is FASD Awareness Month

8. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention & Awareness



These healthy babies are happy to report that Governor John Kasich has designated September as “*National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.*”

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is focused on raising awareness that
no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy,
and that help is available for those families already affected.
For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

To generate greater awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and provide information about alcohol and drug addiction treatments and recovery options, Governor John Kasich has designated September as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. FASD is an ‘umbrella term’ describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

FASD is 100% preventable!

Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of *preventable* birth defects, learning disabilities, attention deficits, mental retardation, and behavior disorders.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary disabilities such as substance abuse issues and disrupted school experiences, and help families better understand and cope with issues.

DODD works closely with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) in support of Ohio’s FASD Initiative to promote a strong message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies.

Under ODADAS’ leadership, DODD and partnering state agencies have formed a collaborative Statewide FASD Steering Committee, whose primary goals are public awareness and specific education and training for agencies, organizations, and professionals. The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from these state agencies, service providers, and parents. Its mission is to establish efficiency in state systems’ resource allocation, coordination of services, and further develop available resources to address and prevent FASD.

FASD Event, September 7th!

Statehouse Atrium, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tom Donaldson, President of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) will recognize Governor John Kasich for his participation on the NOFAS committee. Ohio's First Lady, Karen Waldbillig Kasich, will accept the honor on behalf of the Governor, and present a Proclamation to the FASD Steering Committee & agency leadership.

In addition, the Steering Committee will present an award to two FASD 'Advocates of the Year.'

The event is free and open to the public.

In Ohio, Department of Health officials estimate that FASD affects approximately one in 100 births, at an annual cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300 million for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and mental health services, foster care, and unemployment.* These facts prompt the reminder ...

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

*Additional information at www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/notasingledrop.aspx and <http://www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>

Pipeline PostScripts

PEOPLE FIRST ANNOUNCES 'CALL2ACTION' PLANS

The first of several *Employment Call to Action* regional forums, led by people with developmental disabilities, and representing all *People First of Ohio* members, will be September 13th at The House of New Hope in St. Louisville, 6:30-8:30 p.m.. At the forum, self-advocates will serve in the role of 'Employment Promoters.' For more information contact Sadie Hunter, Executive Director, *People First of Ohio*, (740) 397-6100.

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.

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.*



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.



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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