



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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This is National Direct Support Professionals Week. DODD Salutes Ohio's DSPs!

This year's U.S. Senate resolution declaring National Direct Support Professionals Week marks the sixth consecutive year of recognition for this important national workforce. Disability services providers across the country mark the week by hosting celebrations to honor their Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

[Senate Resolution 208](#) recognizes DSPs for their commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community-inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages. **SEE ARTICLE #2, THIS ISSUE**

1. National Core Indicators (NCI) Project to Gather New Data

July 1, 2013, began the sixth year of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Project in conjunction with DODD. This project helps the Department measure system performance and provides a great deal of specific data that can be used to monitor the service delivery system, make policy decisions, allocate resources, and aid in developing plans to improve the quality of life for the people with developmental disabilities. Again this year, the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) will be administering the statewide surveys.

The Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the service system wish to attain, and demonstrate the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes.

The set of performance indicators includes approximately 100 outcomes that are important to understanding the overall quality of public developmental disabilities agencies. They include measures for health and safety outcomes, cost of services, and various individual and family indicators. This year, CMOR will administer approximately 400 face-to-face

interviews with adult individuals, as well as surveying about 100 individuals who have moved out of Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) into a community setting between January 2012 and December 2012.

Interviewing folks who have transitioned out of the DCs is something DODD has not done before. The Department will use the NCI Survey tool to learn more about the level of satisfaction among those individuals who have moved out into the community, and to help determine where the strengths and weaknesses are in our system.

DODD has requested that individuals receiving services from County Boards of DD, as well as individuals living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) are included in the sample pool of individuals who could be randomly selected to participate in the survey. The process of information-gathering involved in the survey will include the close collaboration of County Boards, which has been greatly appreciated over the years of NCI survey participation.

This year, DODD contracted with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center at The Ohio State University to manage day-to-day activities of the NCI project.

*For more information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx>;
Barry Jamieson at barry.jamieson@osumc.edu, (614) 366-0329.*

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2. Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) third annual DSP Recognition Event hosted nearly 500 People at the Xenos Center in Columbus today. Make that nearly 500 *extremely enthusiastic* people. Stirring up the energy level from the beginning was Scott Osterfeld, Butler County DD staffer and Master of Ceremonies, who was clear on the message for the day ... "Peoples' lives are better because of you! Because of the work you do. You help create other peoples' life stories, and that is awesome."

Noting the theme, "Direct Support Professionals Help Create Great Life Stories," DODD Director John Martin shared one of his own such stories from early in his longtime career, beginning as a Direct Support Professional. Following a few humorous insights, he took a page from his own family's experiences with DSPs who assist his adult son each day, noting,

"There are hundreds and hundreds of parents around the state, just like me, who have entrusted their family members to you, and who could not possibly imagine their lives without your help and your caring. On behalf of all of us that the Department, we sincerely thank you for all you do."

The event's keynote speaker, [Rachel Simon](#), is a sibling to a sister with DD, and writer of six books including, "*Riding the Bus with my Sister*," and "*The Story of Beautiful Girl*." On the subject of individuals with DD, and the importance of DSPs in individuals' lives, Rachel shared a wealth of information, including some sobering statistics...



"It is estimated that there are approximately six million people in the nation who have a developmental disability, and there are approximately 875,000 DSPs to help care for them. The workforce shortage is all the more critical when you consider that you play such a critical character in the lives of the people you serve."

-Rachel Simon, author

In order to improve these national numbers, Simon suggested that progress can and will be made through the development and adoption of credentialing programs, and a related Code of Ethics for the profession, such as are available through the state's OADSP and its national organization NADSP. She also stated that the need for siblings to take an active role and interest in the lives of individuals with DD, as well as for parents and other family members to do so, is extremely important. She emphasized,

"As a DSP, keep trying to keep families involved – even if they do not initially show interest. You never know what might trigger a visit that can change lives for the better, for everyone involved."

The event continues today with interactive programs and activities designed to share stories, and show appreciation for the many positive efforts being made by individuals in the profession around the state.

National DSP Support

The [American Network of Community Options and Resources \(ANCOR\)](#), the [National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\)](#), and the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services \(NASDDDS\)](#) join together in promoting National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, along with sponsoring national legislators. Nancy Thaler, Executive Director of the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services \(NASDDDS\)](#) notes,

"Dedicated and skilled Direct Support Professionals help people with developmental disabilities to develop and maintain critical skills that enable them to more successfully live, work and play in their communities. That is why NASDDDS' National Core Indicators system tracks state-level statistics pertinent to the recruitment and retention of this essential workforce."

Director Martin, a strong proponent of data-driven decision-making, echoes Nancy Thaler's enthusiasm for information provided by the National Core Indicators system, and recently underscored the importance of collecting and comparing information specific to DSP recruitment and retention. At a recent Family Advisory Council meeting he stated that the Department will be looking to see what effect(s) an improvement in wages, and an improvement in the availability of health care coverage will have on these professionals.



<In 2011, the First Annual DSP Recognition event was hosted at Xenos Center, seating about 300 DSPs. Many of the same folks have attended each year, however a whopping 500 attended this year, bringing many new faces to the venue to ... "Celebrate their awesomeness," as MC Scott Osterfeld would say.

Acknowledgments to ANCOR, a national trade association representing more than 800 private providers of community living and employment supports and services to more than 400,000 individuals.

More information at: www.dspath.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com

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3. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises 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

FASD is 100 percent preventable!

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments.

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. Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse, and help family members to better understand the issues at-hand.

DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) in support of [Ohio's FASD Initiative](#) to promote a message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies. Ten years ago, to help increase awareness of FASD and its life-long effects, the State of Ohio created a task force, which is composed of several state agencies, prevention professionals, educators and parents or caregivers of children with FASD. The task force continues to promote abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy to prevent FASD, urging women *not to drink a single drop*.



This baby says,
“Expecting? Remember, not a single drop!”

To learn more about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders,
visit the FAS Community Resource Center website,
www.come-over.to/FASCRC, and www.fasday.com



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On the National Scene

4. New Rules to Strengthen Opportunities for Employment

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) reports that two new rules soon will be published in the [Federal Register](#), and will take effect 180 days later. The rules will represent an historic advance for individuals with disabilities, and for veterans. By strengthening longstanding regulations under [Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act](#), and the [Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act](#) (VEVRAA) the new rules will ensure that qualified workers have more meaningful opportunities to find, secure, and keep good jobs.

For the first time, these rules provide metrics – management tools that inform decision-making and provide real accountability – to measure federal contractors’ progress toward achieving equal opportunity for people with disabilities and protected veterans.

- The Section 503 rule establishes a guideline 7% utilization goal for the employment of individuals with disabilities.
- The VEVRAA rule requires contractors to establish an annual hiring benchmark, either based on the national percentage of veterans in the workforce (currently 8%), or based on the best available data and factors unique to their establishments.

The rules will be published shortly in the [Federal Register](#) and will take effect 180 days later. It is hoped that, along with the improved individual employment outcomes, the rules may facilitate the success of companies that do business with the federal government by increasing their access to a larger, more diverse pool of qualified workers. For more perspective on the rules [Click Here](#).



Looking for more great
'Individual Employment Outcomes'
like this ...

Mark Kayes (left), an employee with
LaRosa's Pizza in Cincinnati, with
Mike LaRosa – a.k.a. 'The Boss.'

They illustrate the great relationships
that can be forged in the workplace
when hiring talent and ability is
foremost in mind. Mark is a highly-
valued employee who now has worked
more than seven years with
the company.

Additional information about the new rules at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

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5. Notes on National Preparedness Month 2013

September, [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM), originally was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And in conjunction, FEMA's resulting [Ready Campaign](#) was developed to educate people on how to prepare for many different kinds of hazards and emergencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and [ReadyOhio](#) note that this year's NPM theme is, "You Can Be the Hero," urging communities across the nation to take a pledge of preparedness. See: [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities](#)

One of NPM's key messages is to be prepared in the event that an emergency causes one to be self-reliant for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or local emergency services.

Preparing includes four key steps:

- ✓ *Be informed* about emergencies that could happen in your community. And access www.ready.ohio.gov for information on Ohio hazards and what to do in an emergency.
- ✓ *Make a Plan* to discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your household or in your care. For sample plans, visit www.ready.gov.
- ✓ *Build a Kit* that contains enough emergency supplies on-hand – water, nonperishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery-powered radio.
- ✓ *Get Involved*, especially before a disaster occurs. Community leaders believe that the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public, and increased support of emergency response agencies during disasters. Visit <http://ohioresponds.gov/>.

As Ohio honors the nation's First Responders during National Preparedness Month, [Hands on Central Ohio](#), and the [Ohio Emergency Management Agency](#) (EMA) each year organize an

event at the Ohio Statehouse West Lawn, placing 2,999 flags in the grass, representing the number of lives lost that day due to the terrorist attacks.



The Ohio Statehouse lawn, transformed into the Memorial Field of Flags.
The highly visual display of 2,999 American flags is arranged to signify the outline of The World Trade Center and The Pentagon, and to represent the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Of Special Interest to People with Disabilities

At www.ready.gov click the link “Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People With Disabilities” for information including a brochure specific to people who have disabilities and other access/functional needs that could affect overall emergency preparedness. While National Emergency Preparedness Month is observed each September, FEMA’s *Ready Campaign* promotes individual emergency preparedness throughout the year.

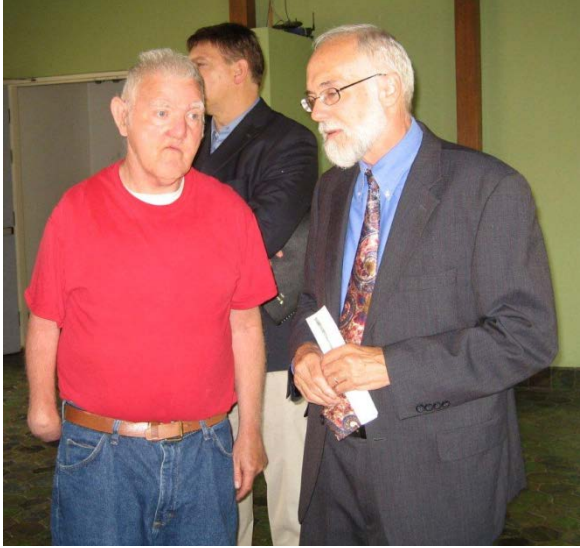
Additional information at www.ema.ohio.gov and at <http://www.ready.gov/>

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6. Coming Soon in *Pipeline Quarterly* ...

Transformational changes in residential services around the state will be the focus of a special edition of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon, and including articles featuring Pike County, Clinton County, and other geographical areas. The new residential services options result from DODD’s “Grand Bargain”-- a major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program. In response to input from the DD community, an historic agreement was negotiated with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals’ opportunities to live in community-based settings. This includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Transforming service delivery and transforming lives in that process is both challenging and rewarding for all involved. Read more in the upcoming issue. All issues are archived at *Pipeline Quarterly*.

**ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*



What are Isaac and Director Martin conferring about?

It must be money!

Isaac explains that he carries 'a little pocket change' around with him, and he's quite well-versed on the subject... knowledge he readily shares with Director Martin.

Meet Isaac's friends in Pike County in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*,



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PostScripts

∞ DHN Releases 2012 Housing Plan Analysis, Summary ∞

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis and Summary. The analysis is based on information contained within the Housing Plans submitted in 2012 by 55 of Ohio's 88 counties. DHN notes that the purpose of the Model Housing Plan is to provide a framework by which County Board and Housing Corporation staff can discuss current specialized housing operations, needs, and options for future housing. It is intended to also aid the development of future operational plans and budgets. To read the report, [click here](#).

∞ RSC to Host Town Hall Meetings ∞

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is hosting a series of 'town hall' style meetings to update partners, providers and other interested parties on initiatives that RSC is undertaking to assist individuals with disabilities. Director Kevin Miller will moderate the sessions and will be joined by members of RSC's executive staff who will provide updates and answer questions. Remaining meetings this month include: Sept. 11 in Toledo; Sept. 19 in Cleveland; Sept. 23 in Dayton, and Sept. 26 in Columbus. *More information at <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>, or contact Shirley Marchi at 614-438-1477.*

∞ Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, "Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery," encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. In addition a presentation on "Reentry and Supervision" by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County Board of DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals with DD through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. OJACC Awards nominations are accepted through September 20, [online](#), or contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; email tctaylor@mac.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4

The statewide *Synergy* conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of DD system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Sessions will provide useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The *Synergy* conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR. More at www.ohiosda.org.

COMING SOON! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

More information at: [DJS brochure 2013](#)

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/index/employers/disability-jobs-summit>

The 2013 Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit will be on October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center. The Summit will underscore the importance of job creation for individuals with disabilities as one of the top priorities of the Kasich Administration. Leaders from government and business will attend this event to discuss disability employment issues. It is RSC's goal for the event to bring together prospective employees and employers to forge a more mutually beneficial relationship.

Note: RSC is soon to be re-named, 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency'

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

Next Chapter Book Club to Hold First-Ever Conference, October 18-19

The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with developmental disabilities. Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each other's company and read aloud. (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009*, p. 8) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with DD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org.

Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be held November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus. To register for the Conference go to the link at: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA. Watch for the *full Conference Agenda*, available soon, and promises to build on last year's successful conference. Additional speakers will address the topic of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

The 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, one of the largest statewide housing conferences in the nation, will be held November 5-7, 2013 in Columbus. Join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) at the Conference, themed "Rising Towards Tomorrow." For reduced rates, register before October 4. Information and registration at:



SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

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