



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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1. Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Issues Final Rule on** **Home and Community-Based Services**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Fire Academy
8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

DODD is pleased to announce an open forum and presentation on Tuesday, March 11, regarding recent changes to the CMS rule ([CMS-2296-F](#)) that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for home- and community-based services (HCBS).

[Robin Cooper](#), Director of Technical Assistance at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), will explain the potential impact of the rule on Ohio's Developmental Disabilities system. A national expert on HCBS waivers, Ms. Cooper works with state, county, and local governments as well as advocacy and provider organizations on issues concerning long-term community-based services for people with disabilities.

The Forum is free and available to the general public. Registration is required, and begins on Monday, February 24. Seats are limited, and will be available on a first come/first served basis. Registration must be completed via this link: <http://www.planetReg.com/E122312294512964>
Questions should be directed to Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129; melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov

On January 10, 2014, CMS issued its final rule on Home- and Community-Based Services, which includes a definition of community settings. The rule addresses several sections of Medicaid law under which each state may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for HCBS. In announcing the rule, CMS stated that its intent is to “...*ensure that individuals receiving services and supports through Medicaid’s HCBS programs have full access to the benefits of community living, and are able to receive services in the most integrated setting.*”

Also, in the new rule, home- and community-based setting provisions establish a more outcome-oriented definition of those settings, rather than one based solely on a setting’s location, geography, or physical characteristics. CMS explains that the changes related to clarifying the definition will maximize opportunities for participants in HCBS programs to access the benefits of community living, and receive services in the most integrated setting. In addition, the changes further enable the law’s intention for Medicaid HCBS to provide alternatives to services provided in institutions.

The new rule was published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2014, and will become effective on March 17, 2014. CMS has posted information related to the rule, including several fact sheets, on its website: <http://www.medicaid.gov/HCBS>

All home and community-based settings will be required to meet certain qualifications under the new rule. These include that the setting ...

- Is integrated in and supports full access to the greater community;
- Is selected by the individual from among setting options;
- Ensures individual rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint;
- Optimizes autonomy and independence in making life choices; and,
- Facilitates choice regarding services and who provides them.

The rule also refers to home- and community-based settings in new requirements for person-centered service plans. In these plans, states must assure that the setting chosen by the individual is, “... *integrated in, and supports full access of individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS to the greater community, including opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS.*”

In addition to excluding “institutional settings” as defined in statute, the rule identifies other settings that are deemed to have institutional qualities, and thus do not meet the threshold for Medicaid HCBS. According to CMS, these include those in a publicly or privately-owned facility that provides inpatient treatment; on the grounds of -- or immediately adjacent to -- a public institution; or, that have the effect of isolating individuals receiving Medicaid-funded HCBS from the broader community of individuals not receiving such services.

The rule also includes additional requirements for provider-owned or provider-controlled home and community-based residential settings, as well as clarifies issues associated with rates for bundled services. In addition, CMS indicates *that the rule applies to all settings where HCBS are delivered, not only to residential settings.* More information will be provided by CMS prior

to the March 17 effective date, as to how states should apply the standards to non-residential settings, such as day programs and pre-vocational training.

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2. Administration Update: Office of Health Transformation Telemedicine – HB123

The [Governor's Office of Health Transformation](#) (OHT) reports that the Ohio Senate has moved forward with legislation ([HB123](#)) to expand opportunities for medical professionals to provide health care services through remote communication technologies, thereby expanding access to care for Ohioans across the state, especially in more rural or remote geographical areas.

The legislation directs the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to set a payment schedule for services delivered through interactive audio and video technologies. The bill has moved through the Ohio House of Representatives, and has been sent to Governor John Kasich for his signature. DODD has been active in the development of a broader and more accessible telemedicine network across the state, and the resulting additional services available to people with developmental disabilities. More about remote technology in [Pipeline Quarterly January 2014](#).

Medicaid Expansion Information, OPRA

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) has prepared a booklet on the subject of Medicaid Expansion that explains in simple terms the benefits of the expansion of coverage, and what it can mean for Ohio's Direct Support Professionals. In releasing the new document, OPRA's Director of Government Relations Jeff Davis noted that, "Expanding Medicaid health care to individuals earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level can mean life-altering insurance benefits to many of those newly-eligible. We have had many questions from members about what Medicaid Expansion means for providers, and what it may mean for staff who might now be eligible. This guidebook for providers answers many of these questions and will help to educate and inform staff who may now qualify for Medicaid benefits." See the booklet at [Medicaid Expansion Guide.pdf - Google Drive drive.google.comRe](#)

Next Week! Governor Kasich's 'State of the State' Address in Medina, Feb. 24

Governor John Kasich will deliver his third State of the State Address in Medina, again taking the speech on the road and 'to the people.' The annual address is the evening of February 24, at the Medina Performing Arts Center. The speech precedes the Governor's unveiling of the Mid-Biennium Review budget. The [Medina County Board of DD](#) and other agencies in the Medina area are gearing up for a rousing welcome to the Governor's visit in their community. More about this on DODD [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts, and in a future issue of [Pipeline](#).

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3. Strategic Leadership Group Gathers Momentum

DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. As a part of that process, a Strategic Planning Leadership Group is now meeting regularly to plan and provide oversight for this work in 2014 (See [Pipeline, November 6, 2013](#)). The group is comprised of approximately 20 people

representing more than ten organizations, and including people participating in services, family members, people providing services, and agency staff.

The third meeting of the group was held February 11 at the State of Ohio Library in Columbus, and included presentations by DODD Director John Martin; Tami Grogg of People First of Ohio; and, Carolyn Knight of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council -- each focusing on key issues and utilizing new data, some of which was gathered by a recent DD Council-funded Waiting List Survey. In the process of drafting some 10-year benchmarks establishing a vision for the future, the group designated several key areas for small-group discussion:

- Nursing Facilities and Comprehensive Services
- Supports & Services – Service Models for Those Leaving Home
- Waiver and Other Changes
- Future Waiver Needs
- Planning for the Future

Stressed by several group participants was the importance of support for families, especially those headed by aging caregivers, to help prepare for the future -- asking people what they need, and aligning resources to meet those needs, as well as anticipate them. Director Martin noted,

“We want to challenge our service delivery models, and develop benchmarks – keeping in mind the natural and more informal networks that also exist.”



Planning Underway
At the November 2013 meeting, the first for the Strategic Planning Leadership Group, a brainstorming exercise yielded several good ideas to build upon in the coming months. At forefront, clockwise from left, are Dana Charlton, Diana Mairose, Judy Murray, Barb Sapharas (standing) Zach Haughawout, and Sadie Hunter.



Tami Tells It Like It Is.

At the February 11 meeting, Tami Grogg – representing People First of Ohio – clearly described “Why I Don’t Think We Should Live in Nursing Homes.” She shared information regarding situations affecting individuals with DD who are living in such facilities due to lack of other available appropriate facilities. She stated, **“Not all people in a nursing home are old – but you could become older before your time by being there. You could lose your skills or get depressed. It should be a last choice (for health reasons) for people with developmental disabilities.”**

To offer timely information on the work of the Strategic Planning Leadership Group, an [online webpage*](#) has been developed and features meeting presentations, discussions, and other materials. It serves as a transparent resource throughout the 2014 timeframe. Feedback on content is welcome, and may be addressed to Chris Murphy at chris.murphy@dodd.ohio.gov.

The next meeting of this group will be on March 11 – See article #1 in this issue.

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4. Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project Continues to Reach Out

Collaborative Efforts Help to Serve Individuals with Dual Diagnosis

Now serving 254 people – 168 adults and 86 children – representing 44 counties

DODD funds an ongoing collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and Dr. Julie Gentile at Wright State University’s Coordinating Center of Excellence (CCOE) to expand quality services to people who experience both mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities (dual diagnosis).

In a February 10 announcement, DODD Director John Martin stated, “There is a growing need for specialized professional services for those with complex needs within Ohio communities. We are fortunate to have access to psychiatric services through Dr. Gentile and her colleagues who focus on working with people having co-occurring issues, including the Telepsychiatry Project launched in 2012 - which currently serves 44 counties - to reach people across the state of Ohio.” (See [Pipeline](#), January 16, 2013). He added,

“I am pleased to announce that, through Dr. Gentile’s continuous recruitment efforts, the CCOE has secured the services of additional psychiatrists/clinicians through a newly-formed collaborative effort with Access Ohio Mental Health Center of Excellence. The change in location for Dr. Gentile and her colleagues will allow stability in the continuation of current services, and potentially, expansion.”

Director Martin further explained that the additional infrastructure and resources will go a long way toward addressing the current gap in services to people with a dual diagnosis around the state. Individuals can receive care at [Access Ohio](#) offices and, for those counties currently eligible for the Telepsychiatry Project, remote appointments also will be available. All people currently being served will continue to receive services with seamless coverage during the location transfer, which will take effect March 11, 2014.

New referrals and questions may be directed to Tina Evans, MI/DD Project Manager at (614) 752-9028 or tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov

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5. Employment First: Project Transformation Initiative

Next month, Ohio will recognize the two-year anniversary of the signing of Governor Kasich’s Employment First Executive Order (See [Pipeline, March 28, 2012](#)). Spotlighting the work done since that time is a newly-released document, *“Ohio’s Path to Employment First,”* which summarizes the activities and projects that have been implemented, statewide. The publication notes future activities planned to support the ongoing shift within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community -- to a culture that recognizes and embraces the contributions and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

The logo for Employment First features the words "EMPLOYMENT" and "FIRST" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. To the right of the text is a stylized red and white pennant flag with a blue circle in the center containing a white dot, resembling the Ohio state flag.

Project: Transformation

The *Project: Transformation* initiative has been developed to support selected provider agencies in the transformation to more integrated services. Application deadline is March 7. [Download Application: \(Here\)](#).

Also announced this month is a new initiative, [Project: Transformation](#), which will support selected provider agencies in the successful transformation from segregated to integrated services. Public and private provider agencies are encouraged to apply for this technical assistance from expert consultants. Application deadline is March 7. ([Apply Here](#))

Through this initiative, the consultants will support facility-based provider agencies in learning fiscal strategies designed to more effectively include competitive and integrated employment options as a viable and sustainable funding stream.

Since the outset of the Employment First Initiative in 2012, continued improvements in state policies have been put in place enabling Ohio’s local communities to be better prepared to transform services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for improved community employment outcomes. During this time, the state has made a key revision to ensure youth with developmental disabilities can prepare adequately -- and early enough in their educational

careers -- to make plans for employment success after completing school. Additional changes have been made to encourage the same consistent expectation for those who are already working-age adults.

DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative Kristen Helling observes, “As we work toward shifting our culture to one that supports community employment as a *preferred* outcome, more and more individuals will be empowered to identify their own interests, and seek jobs that match their skills. This approach will enable them to participate more fully in their communities. These efforts, along with initiatives such as *Project: Transformation*, should make 2014 a very strong year for Ohio’s Employment First initiative.”

More information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>

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6. Just Around the Corner! DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

The March 4 Event Theme is, “What Are You Waiting For?”

Deadline to register was February 14 – Registration is now closed!

For more information, ‘like’ the event’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness

This year’s *Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day* event, March 4 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase many self-advocates’ stories of personal growth and achievement. The program has been shortened from previous years to approximately one hour, beginning at 10:00 a.m., allowing more time for self-advocates to meet with legislators, and informally network with peers and others within Ohio’s statewide developmental disabilities community.

The theme for the event is *What Are You Waiting For*, and refers to the release of a recent study that evaluates the state’s waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. The day will begin with check-in and refreshments at 9 a.m., the program in the Statehouse Atrium begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings will start immediately following the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment. Participants will have opportunities to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including accessible parking, [visitation](#), what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities, and related legislation.



In 2013 we packed the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, overflowing to the catwalks above.

Inset: Franklin County self advocate Christine Brown was among the nearly 600 people who attended the 2013 event. She'll be a presenter this year, at the March 4th DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.

Among the speakers will be DODD Director John Martin, as well as several self-advocates from around the state. Sponsors for this year's kickoff event to Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month include many partners in the statewide developmental disabilities community: DODD; Ohio DD Council; Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters; The Arc of Ohio; Disability Rights Ohio; Ohio Association of County Boards; Ohio Provider Resource Association; Ohio Self Determination Association; People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; Disability Rights Ohio; and, the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

See more information about the event in updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness; and 'Like' on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.

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Now, in the newest issue of
Pipeline Quarterly ...
read about

**How Cory uses remote monitoring to increase
his independence at home.**

Go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

PostScripts



Nisonger Center 'InSights' Photo Contest – Enter by March 1!

As part of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center's efforts to promote positive images of people with developmental disabilities, a [photography contest](#) has been launched. The Center is seeking photographs of persons of all ages who have a developmental disability, in everyday activities. The photographs selected as winners will be presented prizes: 1st Place = \$500; 2nd Place = \$300; 3rd Place = \$100. Submit photos online at: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/photocontest>. Deadline is March 1. For more information, call: 1-(855) 983-9955 toll free, or email: nisongeradmin@osumc.edu



Arc's Center on Criminal Justice & Disability Webinar, Feb. 27

The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD) is hosting a webinar featuring Dr. Nora Baladerian's presentation, "*Crime Victims with Disabilities: An Overview for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System*," on February 27 at 1:30 p.m. This is the second in a series of more than 20 webinars planned over the next two years. It will present an overview of issues surrounding victimization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and where various professionals fit into the solution. Topics will include incidence and prevalence, risk reduction, prevention, parent preparation, disclosure or discovery of abuse, reporting, law enforcement/first responders, forensic interviewing, investigations and prosecution, victim services, and more. Contact NCCJDInfo@thearc.org with any questions. To register, use this [link](#).



Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meets, March 3

You are invited to attend and provide input at the March meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities on March 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., At the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Attendees needing special accommodations should contact Donna Foster at donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov, or call (614) 438-1394. Parking is free and available in front of the building.

Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7

The *Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities*, in partnership with *The Arc of Ohio*, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#). *Applications must be received by March 31.*



PAR Regional Trainings Set for March, April, and May

Several PAR ([Professionals, Advocates, Resources](#)) regional trainings are set for March, April, and May. They include: *Trauma Informed Care: Facilitating Healing, Resiliency and Hope* on March 26 at the Delaware County Board of DD, and March 27 at the ESC, Valley View (Cleveland area). Presenters for this training are *Mary Vacario* and *Carol Hudgins-Mitchell*, Certified Trauma Specialists; *Transition: Life Beyond School* on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are *Connie Morris*, Creative Life and Work Services, *David Zwyer*, Community Fund Management Foundation, *Chris Filler*, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and *Suzanne Beck*, Independent Consultant. Lastly, *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is *Randy Shively*, Vice President/Clinical Services, Alvis House.

For registration, visit www.par-ohio.org. More info at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>



OADSP Sponsors First 'DSP Summit Conference,' April 29

The [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP) newly-established Council is working to better support Ohio's DSPs, and has planned the very first Direct Support Professional Summit. Not to be confused with the DSP Recognition event each September, this new Summit will focus on training and information, rather than recognition. The Summit will be held at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 29. Sessions for the day-long conference are currently being planned, and will include tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Registration is \$35 for the day, and includes lunch, six hours of credits, *a one year OADSP/NADSP membership*, and more. [Register here!](#) According to OADSP Credentialing & Outreach Coordinator Bethany Toledo, "We feel that that for the Direct Support field to be recognized as a true profession, we must provide these kinds of learning opportunities, as well as establish a strong membership base. A lot of DSPs work as independent providers, and may have a difficult time accessing quality training." Contact: pcbethany@prodigy.net



People First Conference, March 13-15

Ohio's 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center, Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is, "*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*" The agenda this year includes self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

[Look for registration and program information online at www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org)

People First of Ohio will be celebrating their 15-year Anniversary at the three-day conference, and there will be many surprise guests and unique activities. For example, many organizations in attendance will decorate a chair representing their mission, and illustrating ‘Why they want to be at the *People First* table.’ Opening ceremonies begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 14th. More information at www.peoplefirstohio.org.



Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Offers Grants

Application deadline is March 1!

Ohio EPA’s [Clean Diesel School Bus Fund](#) offers grants of up to \$300,000 to retrofit diesel school buses with pollution control equipment and ‘idle reduction equipment’ such as pre-heaters, to save fuel and reduce student and driver exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. *The next application deadline is March 1, 2014.* Applicants should note that a five percent cash or in-kind match is required.

Public School Districts and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are eligible to apply. The 2014 grant application is posted at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>

In addition, Ohio EPA’s [Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant](#) program offers grants covering 80 percent of the cost to retrofit or replace older diesel school buses with newer clean diesel technology, or alternative fuel technology. These grants are funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars, and are available only to applicants in 35 eligible counties and two additional eligible townships. A map of the eligible counties is posted [here](#). Contact Kristopher Weiss, Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov, (614)644-376



2014 Statewide DD Awareness Month Theme is ‘Ability@Work.’

Each year [Ohio Public Images](#) creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org. OPI encourages a year-long DD awareness effort, and provides sample ideas and information both online, and at events to be scheduled in 2014.



Goodwill Columbus: Building an Independent Life, March 8

On March 8th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a “Life After School and Beyond” workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus. Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus is presenting their annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Jobs and Employment with presenters Meg Griffing of COVA, and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill
- Financial: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne Russell of FCBDD
- Future Planning & Employment with presenter David Zwyrer, Esq. of Community Fund Management Foundation
- Defining Strengths & Safety Nets with Marilyn Messina, LISW

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available). To register contact Pat Karshner, pkarshner@columbus.rr.com, (614)885-2291.



‘The Fatal Five’ Training – March 20

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one-day conference with two topics that may be of interest to nurses, SSA’s, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. On March 20, *The Fatal Five*:

Preventing Preventable Deaths in Community Settings will be presented by Karen Green McGowan, RN, CDDN. Karen has 35 years of experience in the Developmental Disabilities field, and will focus on the five subjects of bowel obstruction, aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and dehydration. In addition, *Medications Used in the Geriatric Population* will be presented by Nanette Wrobel, RPH, a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her presentation will look at medications frequently used in the geriatric population and specific concerns in that process. For information and registration: <http://highdd.org> -- look under 'News and Info.'



Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at The Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to maintain a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. Training will feature Master Trainers Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer"; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and, network with peers. Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; erica.coleman@cchmc.org



Disability Housing Network, Technical Assistance, April 8-9

Through partnerships with DODD and the Ohio DD Council, the Disability Housing Network (DHN) is offering technical assistance to County Boards and Housing Corporations in these areas:

- County Housing Planning
- Housing Development
- Property Management
- Master Contract Standards
- Exploring Alternatives to Current Housing Model

Contact Jaclyn Slemmer at jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org to schedule technical assistance. In addition, DHN will offer a track of housing sessions at the 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference on April 8 & 9. Look for more information at www.opra.org.



Ohio Disability and Health Program Needs Disability Advocates

Representing the disability perspective on a public health committee is a crucial step to improving inclusiveness, and ensuring that people with disabilities are considered in public health matters. The Ohio Disability and Health Program is dedicated to raising awareness and improving knowledge regarding the needs of Ohio's disability community, specifically among staff at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Building relationships with the leaders of state-level public health committees within ODH is important to this effort, and the disability community must be represented on these committees. By appointing people with disabilities and their guardians, caregivers, and/or other disability advocates as members on these committees, the Ohio Disability and Health Program will be better informed to do its work. There are six committees currently requesting a representative from the disability community, and most committees meet bi-monthly or quarterly. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact health policy specialist, Anureet Benipal at ODH-- (614) 644.9848; Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov.



Absolute Care to Host Paint-A-Palooza, April 26

Absolute Care invites you to join them for *Paint-A-Palooza 2014* on Saturday, April 26th, 12-6 p.m. at [Absolute Care](#), 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd, in Worthington. This is a day to demonstrate that individuals with disabilities can do anything! This agency flies in an artist from Wisconsin, who brings with him *special adaptive art equipment that allows all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create their own print design* and paint it on a 100-foot canvas. Along with this large masterpiece to be created throughout the day, [TAASC](#) an adaptive sports coalition, will provide kayaking and bicycling. Also, the Bill Foley Band will be on-hand, and there will be games and food. Visit www.absolutecare.org for more details, or contact Caitlin Weasel at cweasel@absolutecare.org. Just prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza on that day, Absolute Care will host a "Walk for Wounded Warrior Project." The walk starts at 10:30 at Absolute Care. Funds raised will go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register by April 20 at www.absolutecare.org.



Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are at: www.differentneedzfoundation.org. Grant awards will be announced in May. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: info@differentneedzfoundation.org (216) 904-5151.



Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>



Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9

Planning is currently underway for the [Ohio Provider Resource Association \(OPRA\)](#) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference will provide updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio's statewide community of service providers, as well as showcase providers, themselves, during the two-day conference. More information at www.opra.org



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, 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 ... from You to the State

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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