

**December 7, 2011**  
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## In the Next Issue of Pipeline - The Year In Review

- Publishing December 21, 2011 -

### 1. SELF Waiver Update – Formal Approval Expected this Month

DODD is in the final stages of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver policy and program approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service\* (CMS). With final program approval expected by mid-December, Ohioans with developmental disabilities soon will have access to a waiver that empowers individuals with authority to direct *how* and *from whom* they receive supports and services.

“We’ve been communicating with CMS pretty regularly, and are on track to receive formal written approval this month,” said Patrick Stephan, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Administration. He adds,

**“This is exciting news, and we’re grateful to all the organizations and individuals who have dedicated so much time and effort toward making the self-directed waiver concept a reality for Ohioans.”**

With approval finalized this month, DODD will complete administrative work and training preparation to start the new SELF waiver, which was named by self advocates at the 2010 Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference. The waiver, which offers a budget of up to \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults, will begin enrollment in July 2012.

Look for more information on the features of the SELF waiver in *Pipeline* over the next few months, as well as on the DODD website at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Look for the drop-down menu under the word 'Medicaid' in the horizontal menu bar at the top of the home page.

*\*CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. The review of a proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is one of the steps in the waiver approval process.*



## 2. OACB Conference Spotlights Ohio's Strengths, Leadership

At the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, at the Hilton Columbus/ Easton, the three-day agenda focused on ideas and information that could help attendees find ways to do what OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments – “Ways to change, to evolve, find new efficiencies, and continuously improve.” And there was plenty of interest from across the state, as OACB Event Manager Ann Neu reported that the number of people attending during the three-day conference exceeded last year’s record-breaking total number of 850.

**“What we are trying to do is to provide the tools for collaboration, and some initiatives to help you find ways to share services, partner with others in your communities, and look beyond what has been done before. Ohio’s DD leadership is nationally known, and growing stronger. We hope you leave here inspired and encouraged by what you experience here at this year’s Winter Conference.”**  
–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

DODD Director John Martin highlighted several points in his presentation under the general umbrella of ‘transformational change,’ indicating that to prepare for change is to act constructively. His observations included this comment on the fiscal outlook for 2012 ...

**“Where we are in terms of dollars available is probably not going to get any better for a long time. The ‘fiscal funk’ we are in is not a temporary funk. We need to continually focus on the sustainability of programs that benefit Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, and DODD is exploring different service models to help support the needs of families most efficiently and effectively. ”**

Director Martin also noted that County Boards will be hearing more very soon about the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) survey report (See [Pipeline Volume 5 issue 21](#)) which is being finalized this month, and will be shared, statewide, following its receipt by the Department. “We are very excited about the data that this report can bring us, and upon which we will plan for progress in the area of employment for people with disabilities in our state.”

He added that other important projects and initiatives in the works for 2012 and beyond include a ‘dual diagnosis’ pilot project for support in rural areas using ‘telemedicine’ -- an integrated system of healthcare delivery that employs telecommunications and computer technology as a substitute for face-to-face contact between provider and client; the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, now working its way through the approval process toward implementation; and, strengthening the ongoing conversations fostered by ‘parents as experts.’ He explains,

**“We know that those early conversations with families of people needing services, as they enter the system, are incredibly important. County Boards do an excellent job of building trust with families early-on, and we, as partners at the state level, will try to anticipate and simplify the tools needed to help you do this important work within the system.”**

For example, tools such as the soon-to-be available DODD ‘data warehouse’ will help County Boards make decisions based on a broad range of information, gathered from across the state and the nation, and organized in a user-friendly manner. It is intended to provide an unprecedented ability to pull data together from multiple sources, to create customized reports that will assist County Boards in the decision-making process at the local level.

### **A Few Brief Highlights**

The many annual award presentations this year included ‘Legislator of the Year,’ presented to Senator Dave Burke in recognition of exemplary legislative leadership on behalf of people with developmental disabilities; and, The Kenneth Legats Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration, presented to an executive who -- during a career of more than 20 years -- has exemplified high ideals, vision, and leadership in the administration of programs for people with developmental disabilities. The 2011 Kenneth Legats Award was presented to Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent, Mary Ann Chamberlain. *(Photos below, and more awards at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org) )*

The three-day conference included informative, motivational, and highly interactive sessions too numerous to mention (see programs [here](#)), covering subjects of interest to professionals within Ohio’s DD community, and presented by a host of County Board staff, DODD staff, other professionals from around the state and nation, and -- *most noteworthy this year were the many self advocates who presented on various topics.* They prove that the advocacy movement in Ohio is growing, and is driven by an increasing number of energetic individuals who want to make a difference in their communities. With their collective voice, they are doing just that.

### **- Listening in at the Conference -**

Noted by Marni -- one of the stars of a *Sprout Film Festival* (<http://www.gosprout.org/film/>) movie titled “*Lifestyles of the Poor & Unknown*” shown during the conference ...

**“Some people might not understand us, but one thing I can say about you, Kris, (her husband) is that you’re original. I love you because you’re original ... and you make me laugh.”**



Noted by Marni and Kris, same film...

**“And this is our living room, where we ... do our living.”**



Comment by Gerry Faust, former coach, Notre Dame University ...

**“The future is just a whole string of todays. What should you do today? Tell your family that you love them ... and tell your friends, too.”**



Stated by Senator Dave Burke in receiving the Legislator of the Year Award ...

**"I'm happy that in some way I can work with you to achieve some great things - Some positive things - to drive dollars to you when possible, and empower you to help Ohioans with developmental disabilities."**



During a session on 'Appreciative Inquiry' – the science of strengths as applied to organizations and life – this was demonstrated several times ...

**"Once you change how you look at things, the things you look at change. It's amazing what we overlook by focusing on the deficits and not the positives."**



*photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB*

**Legislator of the Year, Senator Dave Burke, Ohio' 26<sup>th</sup> District.**

**Senator Burke was introduced by Kim Miller, Superintendent of the Union County Board of DD, within the Senator's service area (Crawford, Logan, Marion, Ottawa (part), Sandusky, Seneca (part), Union, Wyandot).**

*Story at: [www.marysvillejt.com/web/index.php?sid=50&id=13460&m=&y=&d=&pg=1&archive](http://www.marysvillejt.com/web/index.php?sid=50&id=13460&m=&y=&d=&pg=1&archive)*



*photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB*

**Recipient of the Kenneth Legats Award, Mary Ann Chamberlain.**

**OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler is at right, as Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain accepts the award, stating,**

“My peers around the state have supported me always, and helped me to grow through their encouragement.”



To say that DODD Director John Martin’s informative ‘Administration Update’ sessions were ‘well attended’ is an understatement.

Rooms were packed, and discussions were lively. He commented,

“Through my participation in NASDDDS (National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services) I am constantly made aware of the importance of certain factors in service delivery. One of these is ‘sustainability’ – how can we continue to provide quality services in the face of shrinking dollars.”



Self advocates were in leadership roles as presenters throughout the 3-day conference.  
From Licking County, Diana Shannon (in back) Kyle Howell, and Tonya Dillon.

“What’s our action plan? Well, *People First’s* ‘Employment Call to Action’ plans to come up with ideas to help people work in their communities all around Ohio. We need your help and your ideas to do that! Contact us at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org).”



We've come along way but ...

An extensive and detailed disability history display stretched across five tables, and told a story of progress and challenges from early civilization through 2005. More at <http://www.selfadvocacy.org/>



### 3. Transformational Change – Community Employment



The national Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Assistant Secretary Kathy Martinez hosted a briefing last month to discuss the agency's Integrated Employment toolkit, an online resource that provides comprehensive information on jobs held by people with disabilities in typical settings, where they earn at least minimum wage and are paid directly by the employer.

The Toolkit offers a collection of resources, reports, papers, policies, fact sheets, case studies, and discussion guides from a variety of sources. It is organized by different audiences or perspectives, and within each audience, there are commonly-asked questions to guide the user to the appropriate materials. The kit is designed to accommodate a full range of users, and increase understanding about the value and potential of integrated employment.

- Use the Integrated Employment Toolkit
- Read the story in the DOL Newsletter

DODD Community Policy Advisor Teresa Kobelt, leading the Department's *Employment First Initiative* as well as its participation in the *State Employment Leadership Network (SELN)* comments, “ODEP has developed a great resource, and I think everyone in the field could

benefit from taking a look. We want to offer everyone the opportunity to pursue integrated employment, and these are the types of tools that will help us do that.”

### **More Resources – Series Addresses Organizational Change in Providers**

Also on the subject of national resources encouraging transformational change, Kobelt notes that the Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University has published a set of documents called the *Organizational Transformation Series*. These reports and articles relate to organizational change from traditional facility-based, group-based services to individualized supports.

The case studies and reports are based on site visits to organizations offering supports for community living, and for community employment, that are engaged in initiatives including closure of facility-based services and the development of new, individualized support services. These studies and reports document strategies, lessons, and challenges related to organizational transformation.

Kobelt adds that the project is funded through a subcontract with the Research and Training Center on Community Living and Employment at the University of Minnesota, supported by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the US Department of Education.

Resources are at <http://disabilitystudies.syr.edu/resources/transformation.aspx> and include:

- *Organizational Change: Approaches and Strategies* -- A PowerPoint presentation reviewing the change from traditional, group based, facility-based services to individualized, person-centered, self-directed services.
- *Getting a Life in Wayne and Oakland Counties, Michigan: Using Self-Determination as a Foundation for Organizational Change* -- Describes the organizational transformation that has taken place at Michigan provider, Community Living Services, Inc., based on the principles of self-determination and involving a shift away from group homes, sheltered workshops, and a medical model of services, and toward self-determination, home ownership, and community employment.

*For more information: Teresa Kobelt at [Teresa.Kobelt@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Teresa.Kobelt@dodd.ohio.gov)*



## **Health & Safety**

### **4. Encouraging Winter Safety Awareness**

The Family Advisory Council (FAC), in conjunction with the DODD Office of Legal & Oversight, provides the following information in recognition of the primary importance of ensuring individuals' health and safety during winter weather and the holiday season. In addition, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages all Ohioans to prepare their homes and practice their safety plans for the upcoming cold months. The following suggestions are recommended:

- *Prepare your home for winter.* Remove dead tree branches. Ice, snow, and strong winds can cause tree limbs to break and fall. Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Review your homeowner's insurance policy.
- *Prepare winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle.* Refresh nonperishable foods and bottled water stored in your winter emergency kits. They should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, a battery-operated or hand-crank radio, First Aid kit, and enough water (one gallon per person, per day) and nonperishable food to sustain each person for at least three days. Have food, water, and supplies for pets, too. Maintain a least a tank half-full of fuel in vehicles to lessen the risk of fuel line freeze-up.



**This scene is only 'picturesque' if you are warm and safe!**

- *Update disaster preparedness plans.* Every home, school, business, and organization should have written plans for disasters. Review plans with family or staff. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, a flood, or fire. Practice drills that require sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Update emergency contact lists, and be sure any new phone numbers are entered into your cell phone contacts directory.

For more information on winter weather safety and severe weather preparedness, the Family Advisory Council suggests a visit to the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness' website at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

### **More Holiday Safety Tips**

**From the TAC Journal, Clark County (TAC Journal December 2011)**

TAC Enterprises Nurse, Victoria A. Chase, notes that during the holiday season, "...our enthusiasm sometimes causes us to forget to keep ourselves safe." She shares a few reminders:

- Never use lighted candles near an inside evergreen tree ('live' or not!), or near wrapping paper, or where candles can be blown or knocked over.
- Before lighting a fireplace, check to see if the flue is open, and keep a screen in front while the fire is burning and/or sparking. Never burn wrapping paper - it ignites quickly and burns intensely.
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety. Check old lights and cords for cracks, frays or bare wires – if you find any, discard! Do not overload extension cords. Turn off lights when you leave your house and before going to bed.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, and keep “bubbling” lights away from children -- they are a temptation.
- Practice an escape plan in case of an emergency.

A helpful chronological listing of seasonal and other Health & Safety Alerts, covering areas in which DODD has identified a risk to people (and what can be done to avoid or minimize that risk) is at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Pages/Health-and-Safety-Alerts.aspx> .



## 5. ADA Advisory Committee Members Needed

The Ohio Secretary of State’s Office is seeking people with disabilities, advocates, disability organizations and other interested parties to serve on an ADA Advisory Committee. This is an excellent opportunity to offer advice to the Secretary of State’s Office on issues pertaining to people with disabilities.

**The ADA Advisory Committee will be responsible for meeting quarterly during the year to provide recommendations to the Secretary of State’s office regarding disability-related issues.**

The committee will provide guidance to establish and implement programs that ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in the electoral (voting) process. This could include, but is not limited to, providing recommendations on poll worker training, voter education initiatives, polling place accessibility, and other disability related activities.

ADA Advisory Committee members may be asked to serve on project-specific workgroups or other, broader disability-related issues.

**To indicate interest in participating on the ADA Advisory Committee for a one-year term, submit a letter of interest and a short resume by December 19, 2011 to:**

Ohio Secretary of State  
*Attn: Brett Harbage*  
 180 E. Broad St., 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Columbus, OH 43215  
 Fax: (614) 485-7070

*Contact Brett Harbage, ADA Coordinator for the Ohio Secretary of State’s office at (614) 387-6039, or email [bharbage@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov](mailto:bharbage@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov)*

## 6. Ohio Public Images 2012 Awareness Theme Announced

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Ohio Public Images (OPI) will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* (March) *Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 1, 2012, from 10 a.m. – noon. The month’s “*Together*” awareness theme has been continued for 2012, encouraging everyone to welcome people with disabilities and help them to engage more fully in their communities.



The event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and is expected to draw more than 400 attendees from across Ohio.

OPI Executive Director Lon Mitchell remarks, “Self advocates are an important part of the event program, sharing their challenges and successes. And the camaraderie exhibited by presenters, speakers, and the individuals and families who attend this event is always energizing -- it gets this month off to a great start.” Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov); phone (614) 644-0262.

**Reminder! OPI 'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 6, 2012**

**Click on: Awards Call for Entries**

The Ohio Public Images ‘Call for Entries’ for the annual *Media and Awareness Awards Call\_for\_Entries\_2009.pdf* deadline is *January 6, 2012*. Awards will be presented at a luncheon on March 19, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference. The awards event honors individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2011. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates, elected officials, and employers who champion efforts that assist people with developmental disabilities.

*The Public Images Network, and parent organization Ohio Public Images, a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. Contact Mary Pat Riker at (419) 380-4049; e-mail: [MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org](mailto:MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org)*



## **7. ADA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mural Displayed in Lancaster ‘til Mid-2013**

**The Answer to, “Where Did Ohio’s Traveling Collaborative Mural Wind Up?”**

After traveling around the state for more than a year, the Americans with Disabilities Act 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mural titled, “*Liberty, Justice, and Access for All*” (As seen in *Pipeline Quarterly Summer 2010*) is on loan to Ohio University/Lancaster, and may be viewed at the school’s Hannah V. McCauley Library, until August 2013.

According to project organizer VSA Ohio, OU-L was selected to display the mural on a long-term basis due to, “...the commitment to *access* and *inclusion* demonstrated by Ohio University/Lancaster and the Fairfield County community.”





## Second Just-A-Buck Store Opens - in South Euclid



Photo courtesy, Lula Holt-Robertson

Shoppers in South Euclid, Ohio (Cuyahoga County) have a new place to save money and support people with developmental disabilities at the same time. A new *Just-A-Buck* store has opened in the Maymore Shopping Center at the corner of Mayfield and Green Roads. The Parma, Ohio, Just-A-Buck store was *the first of its kind* in Cuyahoga County, and was profiled in *Pipeline Quarterly* in Spring 2009\*.

Read more in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in late December.

\**PQ* is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx>

## *PostScripts*

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### 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 your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at [feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov), or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone Sherry Steinman at (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.*

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