

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 12

In This Issue ...

- 1. Family Advisory Council: Empowerment Through Information
- 2. *Montgomery Developmental Center*: Superintendent Greg Darling to Retire with 34 Years of Service
- 3. In Wood County: Rededication Event Underscores Meaning of 'Home'
- 4. OCALI Staff Earn 'Autism Champion' Award
- 5. PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism
- 6. Two Ohio County Boards of DD Earn National Achievement Awards from NACo
- 7. Summer Safety: When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!
- 8. *Pipeline PostScripts*: Several New and Timely News Briefs and Calendar Notes

[DODD Family Advisory Council](#)

1. Empowerment Through Information – Service Monitoring, Building a Positive Culture, Group Purchasing, and More

“Positive Culture is not a project – it’s a way of life. It’s a never-wavering and disciplined focus on quality of life, including all of our conversations and actions. It can make a positive difference in all care relationships.”

- Willie Jones, Ohio Association of County Boards

DODD Family Advisory Council members gathered last week in Columbus to participate in another packed agenda, kicked off by DODD Director John Martin. The regularly-featured ‘Director’s Chat’ focused on information gathered via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (see [National Core Indicators Report 2008-2009](#).) Director Martin also shared his “Chat Time” with presenters Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn, who, from their own experiences with family members, discussed advocacy with the accent on persistence – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

During his presentation, Director Martin noted that the data in the most recently-compiled NCI report is intended to provide states across the nation a look at how questions were responded to concerning services -- and perceptions of services -- compared to all others participating in the initiative. “We’re very interested in keying in on areas where we can make a positive impact for individuals and families as we review and share this information.” He adds,

“One thing we know for sure is that families staying as involved as possible as partners in the DD community will help Ohio’s developmental disabilities system identify and maintain the quality elements that are most important to individuals served.”

Families Staying Involved

And, ‘families staying as involved as possible’ is exactly what Cleveland-based advocates Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn so enthusiastically presented next. Sharing the experience of forming a ‘monitoring committee’ comprised of family members and others in their former home state of Michigan, the Alikahns have applied the concept in Ohio. While the monitoring teams are somewhat informal, they follow strict guidelines as to what to look for in community placement situations -- with the over-riding desired outcome of ensuring that the best possible care is given to individuals with developmental disabilities who are living in the community.

Cheryl explained, “We look for things like ... Is there fresh food in the house and not just a bunch of canned or frozen meals? ... Are service providers living up to what they told you they would do? ... Are diet, general cleanliness, care, and safety their main concerns, as family members would wish them to be? We also make it clear that this is not a review to see if paperwork is in order – or an opportunity to gossip about service personnel – but an assessment designed to assure quality care and look out for the best interests of people served.” Visits to service providers are coordinated collaboratively with County Boards.



Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn

From their own experiences with family members, Saadi and Cheryl focused on advocacy with an accent on persistence to gain results – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

“Families staying involved with their family members – it’s so important!”

Saadi and Cheryl also shared with FAC members several examples of excellent care, along with a few less than satisfactory reports, noting, “This is another ‘check and balance’ type of thing, in addition to state (Medicaid) and self-monitoring evaluations that organization may have. It gives us another tool, as families, to feel comfortable that we know more of what’s going on with our family members when they are no longer living with us.”

Further echoing these concerns, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, added,

“The number one thing parents are concerned about – and I talk with a lot of people! – is, ‘What’s going to happen to my (adult) child when I’m gone?’ It’s a parent’s number one concern, especially as the years go by.”

Positive Culture

Willie Jones, representing the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), next addressed FAC members regarding the statewide growth of the Positive Culture Initiative ([read more](#)). He noted,

“A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.”

Jones provided several examples of how thinking situations through in different ways can produce positive results. An example: Redirecting a person’s anxiety over routine fire drills, explaining that when a staff member shifted the focus from the noise and collective movement that was anxiety-producing, to a calm invitation to ‘walk outside together for a few minutes,’ the individual responded favorably. He explained, “By observing carefully and making even small changes in how we treat people, many positive outcomes can be reached.”

Health & Safety

Also on the packed FAC agenda, DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips presented an energetic and information-filled program on the subject of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations, within the overall realm of assuring individuals’ health and safety. He stressed the following two points:

- The timely reporting of MUIs allows for immediate action to occur, notifications to be made, a thorough investigation be completed, and an effective prevention plan developed. Families, providers, and County Boards, in cooperation with the DODD, have embraced these efforts to protect Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- MUI investigations in Ohio have -- through procedures that are both thorough and consistently applied -- shown steady improvement over time. That improvement is characterized by an increase in the identification of a situation’s causes and contributing factors during the investigation, allowing more detailed and comprehensive prevention plans to be developed.

More Purchasing Power

FAC meeting attendees also learned more about Empowered Group Purchasing, presented by The Arc of Ohio’s Executive Director Gary Tonks, and Fran Wesseling, Executive Director of the Columbus-based Foundation For the Challenged (FFC).

The Arc and FFC have partnered to create *Empowered Group Purchasing*, a new entity that will help individuals, families, nonprofit groups, provider service organizations, government agencies, and others in the developmental disabilities community to realize significant savings on the cost of frequently-purchased goods and services. (See article #4 in [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 6](#), March 17, 2010)

To benefit from and join this new program, membership can be completed online at The Arc of Ohio’s website www.TheArcofOhio.org or by calling (800) 875-2723, or a local Arc Chapter office.

Wesseling explained, “Empowered Group Purchasing functions like a discount club without walls. Research and development for the concept was funded by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and identified the need for a ‘group identity’ that could lead to purchasing power for the developmental disabilities community.”

The Next Family Advisory Council meeting is August 31. All meetings welcome new attendees!

NOTE: FAC meetings are generally hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy that we greatly appreciate! Any meeting location changes to accommodate needs will be announced well in advance.

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



[At Montgomery Developmental Center ...](#)

2. Supt. Greg Darling to Retire After 34 Years of Service

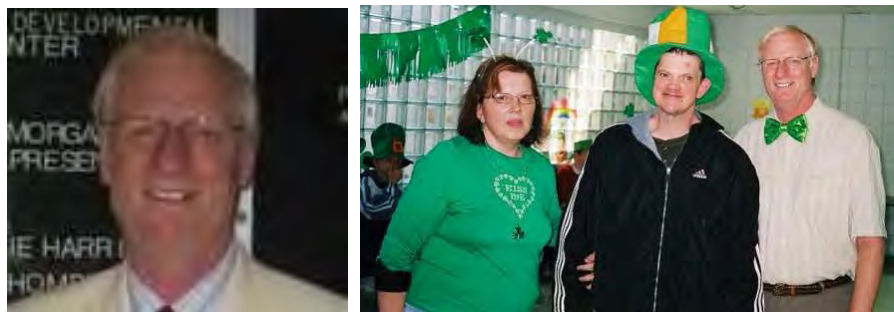
Superintendent Greg Darling is closing the book on 34 years of service in Ohio’s Developmental Centers. Effective July 31, he’ll be retired – and missed!

In a letter to staff this month, Greg stated,

“For the past 34+ years I have worked in Ohio’s Developmental Centers. I feel extremely fortunate to have had an incredible journey serving the men and women entrusted to our care. My first position in 1976 was at Apple Creek Developmental Center*, and then my journey took me through Youngstown as part of that Center’s opening team. Next it was back to my youth home in Cleveland ... then to Broadview DC* before coming to Montgomery Developmental Center in 1989.”

*** (since closed)**

He adds, “Before my working career I began volunteering in 1967 at Cleveland State Hospital and Gallipolis State Institute, as they were called then. I learned so much from everyone I worked with. And for the past 21 years I am proud to say I have called Montgomery Developmental Center my home. In those many years -- the past seven as your superintendent -- I have found this family to be very much a part of the fabric of my life; a part of me ... I have to tell you, the opportunity to see this staff develop, improving your skills, bringing your passions to our clients and your co-workers – is what has brought me to work every day.”



Greg Darling: Alone, and with friends, Sheila and Luke, at Montgomery Developmental Center.



Greg, flanked by MDC residents, Tom (left) and Bradley (with dog) volunteering at a local animal shelter.

The letter to staff concluded, “Simply put, I have loved being a part of this family ... Now it is time for me to go. That said, I am hereby today announcing my retirement effective July 31. As soon as I know more about transition plans I will, of course, share them.”

Looking back over a career spanning 34 years, Greg also notes that the ‘blending’ of Springview DC into Montgomery DC in July 2005 was a multi-faceted two-year effort, involving many residents, staff, and the local community. “That whole process of how everyone worked together stands out to me as something I look back on and feel pretty good about.”

A Positive Impact

On the subject of Greg’s retirement, DODD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, Ginnie Whisman comments,

“Greg has dedicated his entire career – and his life – to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. He volunteered at two Developmental Centers before working for Applecreek DC in 1976, and worked at several Centers throughout the state. Greg has had a positive impact every where he went. His commitment and dedication to the State of Ohio and the Developmental Centers is remarkable.”

She continues, “Greg is known for his quick wit and sense of humor even in the face of adversity. He will be missed by the individuals, staff, families, and all of his colleagues throughout the DD community.”

Discussing ‘what’s next’ after July 31, Greg Darling thoughtfully responds, “There’s never a perfect time to retire – everything’s always in motion. MDC is a busy place *all* the time and I think we are in very solid shape right now. I feel good about my decision, and we have a dynamic staff with lots of positive energy and ideas to keep things moving forward.” Apparently that energy comes from the top.

If you’d like to wish Greg Darling well, there will be events to attend in his honor during July. Contact Lisa Hutchison Lisa.Hutchison@dodd.ohio.gov for more information. To send a message to Greg: Gregory.Darling@dodd.ohio.gov.



Following Up In Wood County

3. Re-Dedication Event Underscores Meaning of 'Home'

Sometimes an event becomes something greater than the sum of its parts. Such was the case last week in Bowling Green.

As noted in [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 12](#), (June 9, 2010) in a news brief titled, "*Wood Lane to Dedicate Homes Honoring Five Influential Individuals*," a ceremony was held on June 16 in Bowling Green (Wood County), dedicating five existing homes to five influential individuals who have helped carry out the mission of Wood Lane Residential Services Inc. and Wood Lane Residential Properties Inc..

The homes were re-named from more traditional location-based names to the following:

- The Delbert Brown Home (formerly 'Sandridge');
- The Jane Quinn Home ('Middleton Pike');
- The Ellen Williams Home ('Weston');
- The Larry Klein Home ('Bourgogne'); and,
- The Doug McVey Home ('Bobel')

It sounds simple and straightforward, but because 'there's no place like home' the event meant much more to attendees than just the names changing. Delbert Brown, Jane Quinn, and Ellen Williams are valued Wood County Board Members; Dr. Larry Klein was a strong local advocate for individuals with disabilities; and, Doug McVey was Superintendent of the Wood County Board of DD from 1976-1998.

Further illustrating the meaningfulness of 'home' is an excerpt from an article written by Dr. Klein, which has been published online at "This I Believe" <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/11159/>, in which he shared what 'home' meant to him (below). Dr. Klein, who had multiple sclerosis, has since passed away. However, attending the re-naming event was of great importance to his daughters, who traveled to Ohio from Chicago and Ann Arbor, and his sisters, who came from Flint, and Farmington Hills, Michigan. In addition, Dr. Klein's fiancée traveled from Windsor, Ontario, to attend the home dedication.

Excerpt from An Article by Dr. Larry Klein

"Like Dorothy in *'The Wizard of Oz*,' I know that 'There's no place like home.' Nothing ever made that clearer than a recent, prolonged absence...

While I lay idle in hospital and nursing home for nearly a year, my real home seemed so far away. I had lost a lot of linkage to the world. A ventilator did my breathing for me. A tracheotomy prevented me from speaking for months on end. I was fed through a tube inserted into my stomach, and a bed sore ironically prevented me from leaving bed. Quadriplegic as a result of multiple sclerosis, I feared what else might I lose?

Home was the place where I continued to work despite my illness, still striving to contribute. Home was the place where a voice recognition computer enabled me to read and write when my hands could neither turn a page, nor hold a pen. Home was the place adaptive technology and transportation made it possible for me to join my family and friends in vibrant pursuits in repose and away. Fortunately, my job as a clinical psychologist does not require any heavy lifting. So, the satisfaction of a good day's work could yet enliven the spirit in a depreciated vessel.

My heroes: Michael J. Fox; Stephen Hawking; Dominique Bauby; Christopher Reeve; Rebecca Campbell -- all neurologically impaired individuals who would not be halted -- each of them contributing mightily to the welfare of others. I wanted in my own way to continue on that path. Getting home was a necessary requirement.

The final roadblock was the bed sore ... some legitimate wizardry was required. A gifted plastic surgeon performed a skin graft, and as though with the clink of a pair of ruby slippers I was home again.

Dorothy's simple truth is affirmed by my sense of good fortune at being restored to a life I love. A tender corner of my heart is reserved for this, my own Kansas. Since returning I've resumed my practice. Now and then, I have the honor of making a real difference in the lives of the people whom I serve. Unexpectedly, I've been able to get off the ventilator and had my trache removed. It's not a rainbow exactly, but from this place like no other, I am able to see a future I look forward to." - *Dr. Larry Klein*

Sometimes an event becomes something greater than imagined when planned. Such was the case last week in Bowling Green.



A Very Personal Honor: (left to right) Delbert Brown with James Mercer; Jane Quinn with Jesse Fitch. James and Jesse live in the homes now named after Delbert and Jane.



Dr. Larry Klein
(photo courtesy, the Klein family)

For more information: Liz Sheets, lsheets@woodlane.us.



4. OCALI Staff Earn ‘Autism Champion’ Award

The National Autism Society has named Director Shawn Henry and the staff of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) as one of this year’s 2010 Autism Champions. An excerpt from the prestigious award announcement letter reads:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Autism Society, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to inform you that you and your colleagues at OCALI have been awarded a 2010 Autism Champion award by the Autism Society. Autism Champion awards are given by the Society for organizations or persons who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of those affected by autism. The leadership of OCALI has played a critical role in creating top quality programs in technical assistance, training and support to children with autism in Ohio – service that is emulated around the country thanks to your organization’s example.”

The letter goes on to note, “Through OCALI’s long-time membership in, and support of NATTAP – the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Project – the members of NATTAP were able to convene, share best practices, and develop leading-edge educational programming that would not have been possible without your support and participation. For your agency’s leadership and commitment to bringing the educational standards and practices for those affected by autism to the highest level, the Autism Society salutes you.”

In earning the award, OCALI joins the company of five other Autism Champion recipients: Dr. Gary Mesibov, former director of ‘Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication-challenged Children (TEACH)’; Anna Hundley, Director of the Autism Treatment Center; Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.; U.S. Representative George Miller (D-CA), and author Rupert Isaacson.

Autism Champion awards will be presented at the Autism Society 41st National Conference in Dallas, Texas, July 9.

Congratulations to OCALI on earning this prestigious and well-deserved recognition of their ongoing work to improve the lives of families living with autism every day.

For more information: <http://www.resnaprojects.org/nattap/> and http://www.autism-society.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=16230&news_iv_ctrl=1882



For Direct Support Professionals

5. PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has announced a new PATHS Specialized Certificate Course, “Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Direct Support Professional.” The new, four-session course is offered for professionals who have completed the PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP). Course instructor is Jan Cline, an expert in the field of autism, and the course will include:

- Four on-site class sessions;
- Review of a variety of websites and written materials so that candidates can learn at their own pace;
- Completion of independent study questions and activities;
- Completion of a portfolio, including three work samples that reflect integration and application of learned information; and,
- Communication with a mentor knowledgeable in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Course tuition is \$250. The four class sessions will be held at the Columbus Center for Human Services, 540 Industrial Mile Rd., Columbus, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m..
Class dates are: July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19.**



To register, or for more information, contact Scott Osterfeld: sosterfeld@cinci.rr.com or (513) 300-7038, or see registration details in the ‘Breaking News’ section at <http://ohiopaths.org/>



6. Two Ohio County Boards Earn National Achievement Awards Recognizing Exemplary, Innovative Programs

The National Association of Counties (NACo) promotes efficient, responsive county management and administration. Founded in 1935, it is the only national organization that represents the 3068

county governments in the United States. The organization advances issues before the federal government with a unified voice, improves public understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save taxpayers money.



Achievement Awards

Begun in 1970, the NACo annual Achievement Award recognizes innovative county government programs. Awards are given in a broad range of program categories, including: arts and historic preservation; children and youth services; community and economic development; emergency management; environmental protection; and health and human services.

Among the 2010 Achievement Award winners this year are two Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities – Hamilton and Montgomery. In Hamilton County, six projects were awarded (three of which were submitted by the County Board) and in Montgomery County, one project - submitted by the County Board - was awarded. Information regarding the Ohio awardees is listed in the table below.

OH	Hamilton County	Convention and Visitors Bureau Performance Matrix
OH	Hamilton County	Co-Occurring Resource Group (County Board)
OH	Hamilton County	Greater Cincinnati Emergency Preparedness Initiative (County Board)
OH	Hamilton County	One-on-one Chats
OH	Hamilton County	Social Media Strategy
OH	Hamilton County	Vision 2014 (County Board)
OH	Montgomery County	Mental Health Supports and Services Program in Partnership with the ADAMHS Board

As an example, Hamilton County’s Co-Occurring Resource Group is a unique partnership of human service professionals, successfully filling gaps in a challenging area of service delivery for individuals served by various agencies who have a disability diagnosis and behavioral health challenges -- or ‘co-occurring’ diagnoses. The group, through Hamilton County DD Services, has developed a cross-disciplinary team of skilled professionals working in multiple agencies across the county that serve people with co-occurring diagnoses.

The team’s purpose is to strengthen the interest, willingness, and ability of local health and mental health care staff to effectively support identified individuals. Team representatives include staff from Hamilton County DD Services, as well as from the local offices of Job and Family Services, Legal Aid, Hamilton County Schools, Juvenile Court, Mental Health and Recovery Services, and Ohio’s Coordinating Center for Excellence in Dual Diagnosis -- supported by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Wright State University, and The Ohio State University.

According to Hamilton County DD Services Communications Director, Jenny Dexter,

“Seriously, I cannot tell you how thrilled we are about these NACo awards. The staff members attached to these efforts are phenomenal, both within our agency and within the dozens of other agencies in the county – plus some highly-skilled and professional volunteers! It’s great to see them recognized on a national level for the vast number of cooperative, professional efforts going on throughout our community to support what matters most for individuals with disabilities and their families in Hamilton County.”

And in Montgomery County, the County Board’s *Mental Health Supports and Services Program* -- in Partnership with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, and Wright State University -- was awarded a NACo Achievement Award recognizing an effective and innovative program that was established to address mental health treatment for individuals with the diagnosis of mental retardation and a mental illness (‘dual diagnosis’).

While the original program had been effective in serving more than 1000 people with dual diagnosis, the local partnership to deliver services through mental health clinics had been somewhat difficult to maintain. Due, in part, to some individuals requiring in-home services and not typical in-office sessions, the Montgomery County Board of DD Services had been bearing the majority of the financial burden. “With a change in the way the funding is handled, appropriate services are now available, and a more effective system has been created,” according to Tim Pfister, Montgomery County Board of DD Services’ Community Relations Specialist.

Congratulations to all of the 2010 Achievement Award winners! For a nationwide list of winning programs, please click [here](#). Additional information at <http://www.naco.org/>

More on the Subject of ‘Dual Diagnosis’

Meeting the needs of individuals who have been dually-diagnosed* with a mental illness and a co-occurring developmental disability was the subject of a recent teleconference sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). State strategies for meeting the various needs of this population were shared with participants, nationwide, focusing on efforts in the states of Washington and Ohio. At the invitation of NASDDDS, Kevin Aldridge and Lara Palay, representing the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support, discussed critical issues in serving dually-diagnosed individuals, and responded to questions regarding treatment, support, community living, and funding. According to Aldridge, Ohio’s participation was requested as a leader in the subject area. We are pleased to be included in, and learn from, this ongoing conversation.

**Editor’s Note: ‘Dual diagnosis’ and ‘co-occurring diagnosis’ are terms that mean essentially the same thing. In Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, the terms generally refer to a diagnosis of both mental illness and a developmental disability.*



It’s Great to be Outdoors in the Summer, but ...

7. “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”

Governor Ted Strickland recognizes June 20-26 as ‘Lightning Safety Awareness Week.’

In a coordinated effort with the National Weather Service and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, Governor Ted Strickland has recognized June 20-26 as, ‘Lightning Safety

Awareness Week,' encouraging all Ohioans to practice lightning safety and storm preparedness during this week, and throughout the summer.

The National Weather Service notes that lightning is one of nature's most dangerous weather phenomena. In 2009, there were 34 reported fatalities caused by lightning strikes in the United States. And, while Ohio had no lightning-caused fatalities for that year, to-date in 2010, of the five national fatalities, one was an Ohio man.

All Ohioans, including individuals who live in the community in congregate settings and those who care for them, are encouraged to learn more about lightning safety and storm preparedness tips, and know how to protect themselves during thunder and lightning storms.

Have a severe weather safety plan. Check weather forecasts daily, and plan outdoor activities accordingly. Remember ... 'When thunder roars, go indoors.'

For additional information on lightning safety, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov and www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

During an electrical storm, don't take shelter under a tree!



At Downsize Farm in Woodstock, Ohio, there's not a storm cloud to be seen on this beautiful May day. Read more about Downsize Farm Support Services in...

Pipeline Quarterly DODD's feature publication, Spring 2010 issue coming soon!
If you receive the regular *Pipeline* via email, you will automatically receive this publication, as well.

8. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! An ADA 20th Anniversary Celebration, July 26 ...** Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature the

creation of an art mural on-site, and coordinated by VSA Ohio. The public is invited to attend, and more information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline*. Contact for the event is Eileen Corson, (614) 438-1476, Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.

⇒ **SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...**

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Association of County Boards, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is being planned for September 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!

Knowing how difficult it is to schedule time away from work, sponsors are encouraging Ohio's DSP's to *plan now* to attend this first annual Recognition Event. It will be *free* to all DSPs, and will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, as well as speakers including DODD Director John Martin. Also on the program will be comments by Direct Support Professionals – live, and via video. More information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline* as plans develop. Contact for the event is Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **Coshocton County Board of DD Plans 'Freedom Fest' ...** Mark your calendar for July 7th if you think you'd enjoy a good old fashioned patriotic event that features live music, a cake auction, vintage car show, wood crafts, comments by dynamic self advocates .. and much more! Senator Jimmy Stewart is also expected to be on board around noon. Freedom Fest will be at the Hopewell Industries parking lot in Coshocton, 637 Chestnut St., from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information: Bob Nicholson, Director of Adult Services, Coshocton County Board of DD, (740) 622-3563, or visit <http://coshdd.org>.

⇒ **What Is the Parent Information and Resource Center? ...** PIRCs are the only federally-funded programs that provide information on the subject of parental involvement, as well as offer related training and support to families and schools. PIRCs were funded initially by the Department of Education in 1995, and bring together families and schools to reform and improve education.

The mission of the Ohio Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) is to empower all parents and families by providing information, resources, and training to support children's learning and enhance the environments in which they grow.

Ohio PIRC's 'family engagement' strategy provides parents with access to information and support through a toll-free information line at 1-888-OHPIRC9 -- with trained call specialists available 24/7 -- and through a wealth of on-line resources at www.ohiopirc.org.

⇒ **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**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at

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

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

