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View or Read Governor Ted Strickland's 'State of the State' Address,

given on January 26, 2010, at <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

Part V in a Series

1. Priority Work Involving Ohio's Ten Developmental Centers

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fifth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement with Ohio's ten Developmental Centers* is one of the ten priority areas, and already has seen demonstrated progress during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010.*

The two basic strategies that are driving this work are reducing the number of residents ('census') at the Developmental Centers by at least 194 people over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, and expanding community access to all of Ohio's Developmental Center facilities and staff by sharing technical assistance and expertise. Developmental Centers participating in the census reduction include Columbus, Gallipolis, Mount Vernon, Northwest Ohio, Tiffin, and Warrensville.

Action steps that will assist in these efforts and maximize limited financial resources include:

- Working with community partners to develop ways to receive federal matching dollars to serve individuals who do not easily qualify for services through an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR). *Note: This terminology and acronym continue to be the federal legal reference for this kind of facility. 'Intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities' will be the preferred descriptor Pipeline will use whenever possible in conjunction with the ICFMR acronym.*
- Continuing to work with local community partners to determine existing service gaps that Developmental Centers may be able to fill. It always has been a priority for DODD to maintain DC locations throughout the state to provide technical support and assistance 'closer to home' so that individuals can be supported within -- and eventually transition and return to -- their home communities.
- Assessing the need for 'crisis stabilization units' within Developmental Centers. Crisis stabilization units allow for specific populations to be served more appropriately and in crisis situations. An example would be the Warrensville Developmental Center, (Highland Hills) which initiated a specialized behavioral/forensic unit for individuals with developmental disabilities in September 2009.

Progress Shown

There has been demonstrated progress on the census reduction during the first six months of FY 2010 (July – December 2009), with 51 individuals moving to other community-based residential settings and receiving 'follow-along' services. This follow-up activity assists in the transition for individuals and their families or other caregivers, and is provided for approximately one year following a move. Follow-up activity may identify issues that are impeding success for an individual, and allow for appropriate interventions. It also may provide useful information on which to more effectively base future decisions.

According to Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director, Developmental Centers, it is important to note that census reduction is both gradual and incremental, and that when individuals want to move into the community from a DC, a range of supports is provided to meet their specific needs.

“ Staff members at our ten Developmental Centers are working closely with their local County Boards to ensure that steps are taken to assure successful residential opportunities for all individuals who are interested in moving out of a DC via these waiver-funded options. Our staff will continue to focus on supporting more people to transition back into their communities, in line with the realities of our budget, and in line with the evolving role of DCs in Ohio and across the nation. ”

She adds that in October 2009, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) surveyed agency officials in every state regarding the existence of plans to close or downsize large state-operated institutional programs within their respective states. “The resulting data indicated that 20 states, or approximately 39%, have plans to downsize and reduce the census at their existing facilities,” she notes, adding, “One of the recommendations of the (MR)DD Futures Committee in 2008 and 2009 was to encourage the

Department to put a greater emphasis on data-driven decision making, and this a focus that is helping us to gauge our residential service efforts against the national scene.

Following discussions with a broad range of stakeholders on the subject of the census reduction, an approach was developed that allows counties to select one of two options for the allocation of funds for individuals leaving a DC, (or an individual leaving an ICFMR to create a spot for an individual from a DC) who needs an Individual Options (IO) waiver. Briefly, these options are:

- The DODD will provide a set amount of funding per person, which would become a part of the County Board's allocation; OR
- The DODD will pay the non-federal share for the *actual* costs of the person, including day services. This amount would not be included in the County Board's allocation.

Once an option is chosen, it applies to all individuals the County Board might serve in this way.

More on rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

Almost exactly a year ago, DODD Director John Martin toured the state in alliance with various stakeholder organizations, hosting a series of community forums around Ohio, to openly and plainly discuss budget constraints. He asked individuals, families, and service providers to share their thoughts about ways to maximize available financial and other resources while maintaining quality services. Director Martin notes,

“One of the issues that surfaced as a priority in the minds of many of the people we spoke with was the need for Developmental Centers to be places where specialized populations could be served, because they have structure and they have resources. This was excellent feedback, and we needed to hear how people around the state valued our DCs, and hear their ideas about the role DCs can play in supporting needs within their local communities.”

He continued, “People at these forums also were somewhat fearful of DCs closing, and then not having this regional resource. We are mindful of these fears and issues. It's been our experience in the past year that the reduction in census has moved forward with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration from the County Boards in each geographic location. These efforts often require a great deal of work and planning by all involved to assure the health and safety of each individual, as well as that of the community in which they reside. By addressing needed supports for each individual served, members within Ohio's developmental disabilities system can take positive steps that make the best use of limited available resources.”

Ginnie Whisman echoes the benefits of the past year's efforts to rebalance resources and foster community involvement with the Department's Developmental Centers. She comments, “I'm especially excited about the new and different ways that we are reaching out to families, and to the individuals we serve.” She continues,

“We are moving forward with educational sessions that inform our families about waiver options, and about accessing services that they may either not know are available to them, or, that have never been explained to them in a way they fits with their situation. Some of our families have

been in the developmental disabilities system for decades, and a lot has changed just in the past few years that might interest them and provide an option they would want to consider.”

Whisman adds, “We want to provide services that allow individuals to stay in their community settings and prevent long-term DC admissions. Partnering with other agencies and stakeholders to provide services that stabilize or otherwise assist an individual is so important. We are looking at more of what we call ‘situational assessments’ with the goal being to serve individuals in the least restrictive environment possible while still maintaining their health and safety, along with and that of the larger community.” She explains that elements of the Positive Intervention Culture initiative [Read More](#), will be helpful in this overall effort, and notes,

“ Training staff and families in crisis intervention techniques, and better assessing challenging behaviors so that we can target effective supports for a person who is medically fragile or who needs to manage challenging behaviors – that’s the kind of resource development and sharing that DC’s can offer. Our Developmental Centers are partnering with communities to provide specific services so that individuals can continue to live and work in their own communities – rather than being sent to a DC whenever they experience issues or challenges in their lives. I’m proud of the direction we are going with this approach. ”

The expected outcomes in this priority work area also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s [Flexible Performance Agreement](#), which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

In 2006 there were 1605 individuals living in Ohio’s Developmental Centers community, and in 2009 there were 1423. We’ll take another look at this number again in July 2010.

- Developmental Center Glimpses -



At Gallipolis Developmental Center, (Summer 2008) residents refill the vending machines around the DC campus. The work crew here includes (l. to r.) John, Larry, and Jimmy.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Summer 2008 PDF



Mount Vernon Developmental Center opened its doors to the community in Sept. 2007 for a National Preparedness Month training for service providers. Shown here are representatives from People First of Ohio, sampling the preparedness kits.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2007  PDF

** See the Priority Work Status report at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/PriorityWorkQuarterlyUpdate01-19-10.pdf>*

For more information: National Core Indicators at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futuresmore/nci.htm>;

NASDDDS at: <http://www.nasddds.org/index.shtml>;

Developmental Centers: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm>;

Contact Ginnie Whisman at ginnie.whisman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (740) 393-6228.

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part VI, in a March issue of *Pipeline*.



[Improving Employment Opportunities](#)

2. Rehabilitation Services Commission Requests Proposals

Innovative projects to increase employment opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities are the top spending priority for up to \$7.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds invested in the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). RSC is accepting proposals for investing federal stimulus money for the provision of vocational rehabilitation community services and programs. A copy of the request for proposals is available at www.rsc.ohio.gov.

RSC Administrator Michael Rench notes,

"Workers with disabilities have been shown to be gifted with many talents and are, generally, extremely reliable. We are looking for creative, outside-the-box proposals to increase entrepreneurship, access to transportation, and more quality job opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities."

The agency specifically is looking for creative proposals that will target:

- Developing new and innovative entrepreneurial ventures ('microenterprises') that will create employment opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities;
- Developing affordable rural transportation resources to enable people with disabilities served by vocational rehabilitation programs to travel to obtain these services, and get to and from work;
- Vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities who are ex-offenders -- particularly projects that develop collaborations with multiple agencies;
- Vocational rehabilitation services for people with brain injuries, to include common co-occurring conditions such as substance abuse disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, and other mental health conditions. Priority will be given to projects that build partnerships to implement services;
- Specialized vocational rehabilitation services for Spanish-speaking individuals with disabilities;
- Rehabilitation technology services for the visually impaired.

The preferred range of awards for regional projects is \$100,000 to \$500,000 and for statewide projects is \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Interested applicants must submit an 'expression of interest proposal' at <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state>.

Click on "submit your proposal" and choose the program category "Work, Opportunity, and Poverty" and the subprogram "Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)."

**Expressions of interest are to be submitted by Feb. 12, 2010.
In addition, applications must be submitted by Feb. 19, 2010.**

Only projects that have submitted to RSC *both* the *expression of interest proposal* at <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state> by 5 p.m. on February 12, 2010, *and the full proposal* by 5 p.m. February 19, 2010, will be considered for funding. These federal stimulus funds were awarded to RSC through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), a part of the U.S. Department of Education.

*Contacts: Beth Ruth (614) 438-1417 beth.ruth@rsc.state.oh.us
Eileen Corson (614) 438-1476 eileen.corson@rsc.state.oh.us*



3. PATHS Winds Its Way to the North Central Region

PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Continuing the statewide path to enriched opportunities in the direct service field, the North Central Region's first PATHS graduation was celebrated recently by the region known as 'Clearwater COG' (Council of Government), where 14 candidates graduated with a Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

According to Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations, “The candidates that graduated -- along with the skill mentors, instructors and council members -- made the first class very successful. We are very excited to have PATHS in our Clearwater COG region!”

The North Central Region includes the counties of Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot. These nine counties form the Clearwater COG.

The 14 PATHS grads represent the following area agencies: Broken Arrow; Christie Lane Industries; First Choice of Ohio; Marion County Board of DD; Renaissance House Inc.; and, Sandusky County Board of DD.

Congratulations to all on completing what has become a finely-tuned curriculum designed to improve skills and opportunities for direct service professionals, and positively affect the people with developmental disabilities whom they serve.



First Grads of North Central PATHS – The North Central PATHS organization celebrated its first graduating class: (Front row, l. to r.) Joyce Ewing, Susan Janik, Christine Haley, Jennifer Jones, Laura Pendleton. Back row, l. to r.: Susan Wright, Geannie Bollenbacher, Shayla Habernigg, Rachael Jaynes, Dawn Pollock, Sherry Gladieux, Jodi Shaul, Patricia Hartley, Holly Binkley.

*Contact: Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations (567) 262-3151;
jcupp@cleanwatercog.org*



4. Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit, March 8th

White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett will keynote the event on International Women’s Day.

Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland this week announced *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit*, a statewide event to discuss and promote the status of Ohio women and girls in the areas of economics, education, and health.

In making the announcement, Governor Strickland said, “Women have made tremendous strides in recent decades and have become successful leaders in education, politics, athletics, business and other professional disciplines. However, much remains to be done to achieve gender equity in Ohio and around the globe. Momentum 2010 will provide an opportunity for Ohioans to engage with each other and discuss ways to advance the status of women and girls, statewide.”

The Governor’s Office for Women’s Initiatives and Outreach and First Lady Frances Strickland are hosting the forum on March 8, International Women’s Day, at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. The event will be an opportunity for women to network and discuss women’s policy priorities.

First Lady Frances Strickland notes, “I look forward to a day of celebrating Ohio women and their accomplishments, as well as taking a closer look at how we can further strengthen the power of women in today’s society.”

Momentum 2010 will include a series of workshops, panel discussions, and speakers, addressing topics such as access to higher education, women and leadership, violence against women, and the advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. The information focuses on helping women develop strategies to lead healthy, safe, and financially-stable lives.

Momentum 2010 is a timely opportunity to discuss women’s issues, considering:

- It will take place at the same time as the United Nations global conference on women;
- 2010 marks the 90th year since women in the United States gained the right to vote;
- 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day; and,
- March is National Women’s History Month.



Momentum 2010 seeks to engage diverse groups of Ohio women, including those of different ages, regions, race/ethnicity, and those with disabilities. During the afternoon of the March 8th event, a panel addressing challenges and issues of particular interest to women with disabilities is planned, and will be further detailed at www.ohiowomen2010.org as the date approaches.

Speakers will include Governor Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland, Pulitzer Prize winner and *Cleveland Plain Dealer* columnist Connie Schultz, philanthropist Mavis Leno, and diversity authority Audra Bohannon. Valerie Jarrett, White House senior advisor and assistant to President Barack Obama for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, will be the keynote speaker. She also serves as chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls.

In addition to the March 8th Summit, a statewide *Young Women's Summit* for girls ages 12-18 is planned at the Columbus School for Girls, on Sunday, March 7th .

The cost of registration for *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit* is \$25 through February 4, and \$45 after that date. Registration for the Young Women's Summit on March 7 is \$5. Registration and information for both events is at www.ohiowomen2010.org .



5. Reader Input: Residency Requirements for Guardians

Special thanks to Dave Zwyer, Pipeline reader, attorney, and former Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, who sent this information along.

“This past Sunday I attended a meeting of Friends and Family at the Columbus Developmental Center, and the topic of Guardianship came up. Specifically, someone asked me if someone who was resident of another state could serve as a guardian for someone here in Ohio. I replied that the law had changed to allow that in 2008 – and it was surprising to me that this was not more widely known, so I thought it might be helpful to include something in the *Pipeline* to share this information.

Ohio law has long respected the rights of parents to select guardians for their minor children, no matter where the guardians lived. However, not until 2008 was Ohio law changed to allow the parents of adult children with intellectual disabilities (the statute uses the legal term, "incompetent") to name guardians who lived outside Ohio. This nomination can take place in a specific "writing" (including a Will) or in a Durable Power of Attorney. [See Ohio Revised Code Sections 1337.09 (D) and 2111.121.] In addition, now when a guardian moves out of state, the court no longer is required to remove that person as guardian.”

More About Guardianship

This information also is included in the latest edition of the booklet, *Guardianship in Ohio* written by Dave Zwyer, and available on the Developmental Disabilities Council website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Pub/Guardianship7-2009.pdf> .

Dave Zwyer may be reached at zwyerd@yahoo.com



6. Update on Annual DD Awareness Month Kickoff Event

Sponsored by the DODD, Ohio Public Images, and the Ohio Association of County Boards, the March 4th *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus is just a scant month away, and will host several presenters from across the state. Among them:

- *People First of Ohio;*
- *Partners in Policymaking;*

- Representatives from Cuyahoga County's first-in-Ohio franchised retail employment opportunity, *Just-A-Buck*;
- Allen County self-advocate, *Joe Vance*;
- The *Ohio Association of County Boards*; and,
- Representatives from *Ohio PATHS*, providing accredited training for direct care staff in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

The program will run from 10:00 a.m. – noon, and will include short presentations by these groups and individuals, who have made significant strides in their communities, both personally and professionally. Also on the program will be welcoming comments from members of Ohio's General Assembly who have been active in legislation affecting the developmental disabilities community.

Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to speak at the DD Awareness Kickoff Event, and participants are hopeful that his busy schedule may permit participation in the program, as was possible last year. In 2009 the event hosted more than 300 attendees.

Individuals and groups will staff several information tables at the event -- including the OSU Nisonger Center's Next Chapter Book Clubs, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio SIBS, The Advocates of Dayton, and many others -- offering venues for attendees to explore new opportunities and network.



Governor Ted Strickland at the 2009 Kickoff Event, flanked by enthusiastic self advocates and members of Champaign Residential Services Inc.

“*Just Like You*,” the theme for this year’s Awareness Month activities, encourages people to think about the similarities among people, rather than their differences. According to Lon Mitchell, president of Ohio Public Images (OPI), a statewide information and advocacy organization involved in developing the annual DD Awareness Month theme and activities, “The theme encourages everyone to welcome people with disabilities into their communities as equal partners. Each year this event builds on this simple concept, and we see individuals and communities across the state positively benefiting from this kind of understanding.”

Attendance is free, and open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's Developmental Disabilities community.

Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 644-0262.

Pipeline PostScripts

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. 'All Technology All the Time' – A Hands On Experience

'All Technology All the Time' on May 1, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. will offer a half-day of hands on experience with a variety of assistive technology devices for people who are blind or have low vision. Four classrooms at Hagerty Hall on the Ohio State University Campus will be the venue for one-on-one and group demonstrations of products that enlarge, talk, display Braille, or otherwise make print accessible to individuals with vision impairments.

Here, you may learn to use a talking GPS device, get an introduction to Windows 7, discover the ease of using digital book players, and much more.

The event is presented by the American Council of the Blind of Ohio, in collaboration with The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired and The Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office, volunteers from ACB-Ohio will share their knowledge of the use of technology in daily living.

This educational opportunity is free, but pre-registration is required. Requests for demonstrations of specific pieces of equipment are welcome. Contact the ACB-Ohio office at 614.221.6688 or at Mary.hiland@sbcglobal.net.

Reminder

2. Disability Housing Network to Discuss Model Housing Plans

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference on Wednesday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide an opportunity to analyze specific housing plans and identify common themes, and then present collective findings that can be shared and possibly replicated elsewhere.

According to DHN Executive Director, Steve Farrell, "The Disability Housing Network is working with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) in coordinating our spring conferences and content. The DHN Spring Conference will be the 'housing track' on March 24, the second day of OPRA's two-day conference."

Please [click here](#) to see preliminary hotel and accommodation information.

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

Contact: DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell, stevefarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org
<http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/Default2.aspx>

3. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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

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