

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

January 28, 2009

State of the State Address Highlights Education Plans and Approach to Budget Issues

Special thanks to the Governor's Communications Team and Gongwer News Service for timely information.

Governor Ted Strickland announced today that it is ... "Our duty to make something of this moment ..." and took the opportunity to do exactly that by focusing clearly on education, budget, and economic opportunity issues in his annual State of the State Address.

The Governor then described his comprehensive school funding and education plan, fulfilling a campaign promise. Governor Strickland acknowledged the challenging economy, and said the situation exemplifies what writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, once stated:

"This is a very good time if we but know what to do with it."

In his speech, Governor Strickland sounded warnings about the condition of Ohio's economy, and resulting challenges for the upcoming state budget process. He told lawmakers his budget proposal would be balanced without raising taxes, and he noted that the spending plan will include fee, fine, and penalty increases, and some funding reductions.

The budget plan, which will include \$3.4 billion in federal stimulus payments, will adjust Medicaid policies and will freeze community college tuition for two years. In addition, tuition at four-year institutions would be capped in 2010, and universities would be asked to limit 2011 tuition hikes to 3.5%.

The Governor also added that with funding provided in this budget, "... We will soon be able to say that healthcare coverage will be available to every child in Ohio," and that, "We will also provide more choices to Ohioans in need of long-term care, provided in the least restrictive environment possible."

Progress in Proportion to Teamwork

In addition to the specifics of the plans outlined today ([Text of Speech & Accompanying Materials](#)), ODMRDD Director John Martin was greatly impressed by the overall theme of teamwork presented by the Governor with respect to planning and decision-making.

Director Martin noted, “I listened carefully to Governor Strickland as he called on all state agencies to make government services simpler, faster, better, and less costly. He also challenged us to look at *how* things are accomplished, not just at the accomplishment itself. Believing in the power of collaboration and focusing on common goals is exactly what we at the ODMRDD have been engaged in doing, in concert with the MRDD communitys’ diverse and many stakeholders, partners.”

And, Director Martin reflected,

“As a person who enjoys a good story that illustrates a point, I especially liked the reference Governor Strickland made to why geese fly in a ‘V’ formation: The story explains the fact that the ‘V’ formation reduces wind resistance for the bird flying behind it, and is much more effective than the flock simply flying in a bunch, or side by side. The formation actually strengthens each individual bird, allowing the geese to fly greater distances together than could otherwise be flown alone. This is not unlike our approach to the ODMRDD Futures recommendations, and any number of other collaborative projects we are currently undertaking with our constituents, stakeholders, and staff.”

Director Martin emphasises that these collaborative efforts continue to focus on:

The ODMRDD Five Goals

- Less complex service delivery, with fair and logical payment systems;
- Good stewardship of limited resources;
- Quality outcomes, through a combination of people and processes;
- Service delivery models designed in response to choices made by people served, in alliance with community supports; and,
- A system-wide vision developed with stakeholders.

Wrapping up the State of the State Address, Governor Strickland was visibly pleased to see that, in addition to the simple truth illustrated by the “Geese Story”, the teamwork concept was not lost on the audience listening to the address at the Statehouse today. He stated, “My friends, surely we are as smart as the goose.”

In the coming days, Pipeline will report on the results of the Director’s budget conversations, and on Monday, the Governor’s executive budget will be introduced.



Pipeline Extra feedback

Questions? Comments? Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the MRDD arena. The regular Pipeline publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor’s Notes: ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the ODMRDD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the ODMRDD website, at <http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/privacy/odmrdd.htm>.* To subscribe to Pipeline newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@odmrdd.state.oh.us and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You may also read issues of this newsletter on the web at: <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.



Ohio.gov | MRDD