

# Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities  
Ted Strickland, Governor John L. Martin, Director

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Thursday, December 11, 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 25

- 1. Input to Drive Planning for Prospective Budget Requirements

**Note: The next issue of *Pipeline*, regularly scheduled for Wednesday, December 24, will publish on Tuesday, December 23, 2008. Happy Holidays!**

## 1. Input to Drive Planning for Prospective Budget Requirements



**It is important to note that no decisions regarding operational or spending plans for the coming year have been made.**

Governor Ted Strickland has released information today regarding possible scenarios in the event that state agencies need to operate at 70-75% of the originally proposed biennial budget. *Pipeline* follows with ODMRDD's efforts to plan for how we will operate in the current budget environment.

In addition, sharing this information helps the Governor to make his case to the federal government that, without federal assistance to mitigate some of Ohio's budget shortfall, serious impacts to MRDD programs, and the people MRDD programs serve, will be felt.

*It is important to note that no decisions regarding operational or spending plans for the coming year have been made, and that the information represents some examples of what might happen if those reduced funding levels become necessary, in terms of looking ahead to the continued difficult economic environment.*

ODMRDD Director John Martin, will host 'budget conversations' in five locations throughout the state, during the first two weeks in January 2009. Co-sponsors of the meetings include the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACBMRDD); the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD (OASCBMRDD), the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); The Arc of Ohio, and The League (formerly OLMR).

Director Martin will listen to any interested participants in the MRDD community -- including stakeholders, service providers, individuals, and families – as we look at ways to maximize available resources while maintaining quality services. As Director Martin has stated previously,

**“These are tough economic times, and we will be making tough decisions, but we will be doing that in a way that is guided by our focus on our essential mission – quality services for individuals and families.”**

Discussing the challenges ahead in planning for a significant reduction in the state’s budget, Director Martin addressed stakeholders at a budget-related brainstorming meeting on December 5, 2008. During the meeting stakeholders shared budget issues in their respective areas of interest, as well as their federal advocacy efforts. Director Martin stated, “We are open to discussing any and all ways that we can meet needs while helping the Governor to manage necessary state functions within the available level of spending. We need to look at every way resources are used today to make sure we get the most out of them during these difficult times, and serve the nearly 80,000 Ohioans needing services.”

**Schedule of Strategic Planning & Public Input Meetings  
- All Meetings will be from 7-9 p.m. -**

**January 7, 2009**

Guernsey County Board of MRDD  
60770 Southgate Road  
Byesville, Ohio 43723-9699  
(740) 439-4451

**January 8, 2009**

The Findlay Inn & Conference Center  
200 E. Main Cross Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
(419) 422-5682

**January 12, 2009**

Cox Arboretum & Gardens Metro Park  
6733 Springboro Pike  
Dayton, Ohio 45449  
(937) 434-9005

**January 13, 2009**

Holiday Inn Columbus/Worthington  
7007 N. High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
(614) 436-0700

**January 15, 2009**

Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls  
1989 Front Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221  
(330) 929-3000

Director Martin reiterates that, “ODMRDD staff remain committed to keeping the budget conversations open with the MRDD community, and focusing on the agency’s mission: To plan for and encourage *the continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.*”



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#### [Toll-Free Hotline](#)

#### [ODMRDD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents \(MUIs\)](#)

The ODMRDD toll-free hotline number for reporting abuse/neglect and other MUIs is **1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of MRDD, 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 that the hotline number exists, and is to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.



**1-866-313-MRDD (6733)**

#### ***[Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...](#)***

*Questions? Comments?* *Pipeline* is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of time-sensitive, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us about *Pipeline* at [feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us](mailto:feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us) , or contact Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us](mailto:sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us) , phone (614) 644-0262.

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