

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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***After October 5, 2009, we will be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

Until that time, we will continue to refer to the agency as currently legally named.

Our new acronym will be DODD (Department of Developmental Disabilities)

and will be used as seldom as possible, in favor of using the words.

(DODD is to be pronounced as the individual letters D-O-D-D, as was done with MRDD.)

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

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NEW!: *Pipeline Postscripts* at the end of each issue will include news briefs and reminders.

1. Governor Strickland Signs Executive Order Establishing Physical Restraint Policies for State Agencies

On August 3, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed an executive order that bans prone restraint across all state systems and sets specific policies for other types of physical restraints.

According to the news release of the same day from the Governor's Office, he stated, "Some state employees' job duties require them to handle situations that may pose potential injury to themselves or others, and may require their intervention through use of a physical restraint. It is critical that we protect the safety, dignity and respect of both the state employee and those in the care of the state." He continued,

"This executive order establishes minimum acceptable standards to make sure restraint is used properly, by a trained individual, and only when absolutely necessary to ensure safety and prevent harm."

This policy is the result of a seven-agency work group that studied the use of physical restraint at the respective agencies when providing services. ODMRDD was the lead on the work group

efforts and had banned the ‘prone restraint’ position in November 2008, due to the belief that it posed an unacceptable risk to health and safety. Prone restraint involves the restraint of an individual in a face-down position for an extended period of time. The November 2008 ban applies to all providers of services to individuals with disabilities who receive funds directly or indirectly from the ODMRDD to provide a service or support to an individual eligible for County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities services. The Department’s *Information Notice* is at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/Infonotices/08-11-03.pdf> .

The Governor’s Executive Order bans the use of prone restraint across all state systems, sets specific requirements for the use of ‘transitional hold,’ and limits the use of other types of physical restraints.

In addition, the Executive Order creates the Ohio Policy Committee on Restraint and Seclusion to ensure Ohio continues to establish best practices. Read the full text of the order at:

<http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Executive%20Orders/E0%2009-13S.pdf>



2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebrates 19 Years -United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Signed-

The 19th anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was celebrated on July 26. Signed into law on that date in 1990, this landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

In a Proclamation issued on July 24, 2009, President Barack Obama stated,

“Our Nation is once again poised to make history for people with disabilities. I am proud to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on December 13, 2006. The Convention is the first new human rights convention of the 21st century adopted by the United Nations, and it represents a paradigm shift in protecting the human rights of 650 million people with disabilities, worldwide. We proudly join the international community in further advancing the rights of people with disabilities.”

According to ODMRDD Director John Martin, “The signing on to the UN Convention is long-awaited news. It is very exciting to see this step being taken, and to see the progress being made since 1990.”

The President’s proclamation also noted, “More than ever before, Americans with disabilities enjoy greater access to technology and economic self-sufficiency. More communities are accessible, more children with disabilities learn alongside their peers, and more employers recognize the capabilities of people with disabilities.”

It continued, “Despite these achievements, much work remains to be done. People with disabilities far too often lack the choice to live in communities of their choosing; their unemployment rate is much higher than those without disabilities; they are much likelier to live in poverty; health care is out of reach for too many; and too many children with disabilities are denied a world-class education.”



Citing several of the Administration’s programs and initiatives designed to improve opportunities for people with disabilities, the proclamation also pledged a continued focus on encouraging communities across the nation to cultivate an environment in which the 54 million Americans living with a disability are valued and respected.

Further on the subject, U. S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius had this to say regarding the July 30 signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

“Today, the United States joins 141 other nations who have signed the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The signing of the UN Convention sends an important message that this country is committed to equal rights for people with disabilities, in the United States and around the world.”

In addition, she reports, “The Department of Health and Human Services already has begun to carry out the Community Living initiative by establishing an HHS Coordinating Council, led by the Office on Disability. Joining the Coordinating Council are: The Administration on Aging; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; the Office for Civil Rights; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Health Resources and Services Administration; the Administration for Children and Families; and, the Office of Public Health and Science.”

Link to the document: [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

With the support of the President and the collective expertise gathered within the HHS Coordinating Council, there will be a sharper focus on improved opportunities to ensure that living independently with a disability is a real choice.

*For more information: ADA-OHIO, adaohio@aol.com, 614-844-5410, <http://www.ada-ohio.org/>
Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov*



3. Provider Certification Rule Responds to Futures Recommendations

The ODMRDD is making preparations for implementation of the new *Provider Certification* rule (5123:2-2-01). The rule will implement, for the first time, the Department's existing statutory authority to time-limit provider certification and collect application fees for providers of Supported Living and Home and Community-Based Services waiver services.

The rule is responsive to several MRDD Futures Committee recommendations and represents a shared commitment throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community to create a better service delivery system. A copy of the rule is available at the Department's website (<http://mrdd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm>).

The rule streamlines and simplifies rules by replacing three existing rules regarding provider certification (5123:2-9-09, 5123:2-12-02, and 5123:2-12-06) with one rule.

Details regarding implementation of the rule are forthcoming and will be broadly disseminated.

Contact: *Becky Phillips* at becky.phillips@dmr.state.oh.us



4. Nisonger Center Announces New Director, Marc J. Tassé

The appointment of Marc J. Tassé, PhD, as director of the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University is effective August 3, and pending OSU Board of Trustees approval. Dr. Tassé replaces Dr. L. Eugene Arnold, who has served as interim director at the Nisonger Center for the past two years.

According to OSU officials, Dr. Tassé joins Ohio State from the University of South Florida (USF), where he was associate professor of Child and Family Studies and associate director of USF's Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.

The USF Center is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities as designated by the United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities, a distinction shared with the Nisonger Center and only 65 other centers in the country.

Dr. Tassé's appointment as director of the Nisonger Center is also a bit of a homecoming, as he completed his postdoctoral fellowship at OSU in 1995 under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Reiss. He received his PhD in clinical psychology research from the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Dr. Tassé has provided clinical services for more than 20 years to individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism, and other related developmental disabilities. He has lectured throughout the world, is widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and has co-authored several assessment instruments in the field of developmental disabilities, including the Supports Intensity Scale.

On the subject of the new appointment, ODMRDD Director John Martin, noted,

" The Nisonger Center is a tremendous asset to our community and the Department values and appreciates their leadership and technical support. I have had the opportunity to meet Dr. Tassé, and am excited about the vision and energy he will bring to Nisonger. We look forward to a positive working relationship with Dr. Tassé, just as we had with Dr. Arnold, who graciously gave of his and Nisonger's time during his term as interim director. "

For more information : <http://nisonger.osu.edu/>



Name Change Rollout, Statewide


5. Developmental Disabilities Community Begins to Embrace Statewide Change – Education is Key to Success

Following Governor Ted Strickland's July 7 signing of Senate Bill 79, state and county agencies supporting the developmental disabilities community are dropping the words 'mental retardation' from their names. Looking around the state, it is clear that the opportunity now presents itself to re-educate the public as to what developmental disabilities include, and to assure local voters that the agencies themselves have not changed their direction or their focus on individuals who need specific services.

Some County Boards already have completed the name-change process, some have just begun, and some are looking at various options to assist in a 're-branding' or identity for their organization. For example, in light of upcoming ballot issues in November, some counties will be phasing in the change along with local levy information, and reinforcing that the change is in name only, not in services or eligibility.

In southern Ohio, the Hamilton County Board of MRDD will officially change signage following the November 3 election, and is planning a celebration with advocates and families taking down the building's signs and replacing them with new ones on November 4. In their newsletter, 'Reflections,' it is noted that the name change will not occur until after the November election, "So as not to confuse voters about the name of the agency for which they will be voting."

Looking Around the State

In the Columbus area, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) has adopted a new logo to go along with its new name. The logo features a montage of faces depicting children and adults with developmental disabilities, representing people served by FCBDD. The illustration was drawn by artist Martha Perske, known worldwide for her drawings of people with disabilities and their friends, and replaces the identity used by the agency since 1997, which showed the letters "FCBMRDD" between two parallel horizontal lines. [Franklin County Board MRDD](#) 

According to Superintendent Jed Morison,

“Our basic approach has been to use the opportunity to reconnect with the community—whether one was for the name change or not – the fact is that the terminology has now changed in law, so let's use this as an opportunity to communicate positive messages about the services we provide and the people we serve. As you may have noticed, we are emphasizing 'Previously Franklin County MRDD—same agency—same eligibility—just a new name.'”

In Preble County, Superintendent Diane Knupp reports that the local community has been supportive of the change concept. She notes, “Spending time working this past weekend at our Preble County Fair booth, I spoke with several people who were supportive and understanding of the change. It also may help us by eliminating some of the confusion associated with the words ‘mental health’ and ‘mental retardation’ in differentiating our organization from the local Mental Health Recovery Board. In all, the reaction to the name change has been positive.”

Washington County was ahead of the curve in 1998 when it officially changed its name to the Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain is among those ‘early-adopters’ who can continue business as usual. She comments, “We have been very fortunate here, having the support of the community in our early efforts, and we look forward to the statewide adoption of the name change.”

And in Lucas County, the Board’s name change has been incorporated via the Ohio Public Images ‘Disable the Label’ concept: http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/Disable_the_Label.htm . Toledo-area broadcast and print media have generously covered the name change, and reinforce the free informational and educational tools available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org . Several other counties around the state have adopted the ‘Disable the Label’ message as well, according to OPI Executive Director, Lon Mitchell:

“It’s been one of the most effective messages we’ve seen, helping to encourage positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities. Ohio really is embracing this message.”

Overall Efforts

As noted in the July 22 issue of *Pipeline*, <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>, the ODMRDD is taking steps to complete the state agency name changeover by October 5, in accordance with the www.ohio.gov framework for continuity in communications among cabinet-level agencies. Thereafter we will be known as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, using the acronym DODD.

The Department is hopeful that with a gradual, common sense approach to the rollout, the name change will be fairly seamless at the state level, and will provide an opportunity to educate the enterprise-wide community regarding developmental disabilities in general.

Contact: Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us



6. Pilot Mentoring Program Developed in Hamilton County

The Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) has announced the development of a pilot mentoring program with the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Mentors will provide one-on-one mentoring for individuals referred to the CHRC Community Outreach Program by the Hamilton County Board.

A combination of best practice models for mentoring young adults ages 18-25 years old who are ex-offenders or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system will be used. Mentors will develop caring relationships with individuals to be mentored, building a foundation as positive role models and friends, as well as engaging the individuals in a combination of activities that enable them to practice healthy behaviors within a positive social relationship.

The goal of the mentoring program is to help individuals served to avoid mistakes and learn to make good decisions.

Mentors will coordinate activities with the Hamilton County Board's Service Facilitators to identify areas where individuals need to improve behaviors. The Pilot Mentoring Program began July 1, 2009.

According to Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent of the Hamilton County Board, "While we have great expertise in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, we don't have as much knowledge about how to work with individuals who have a combination of intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health issues, as well as involvement with law enforcement." She adds,

"We are excited about entering into this unique partnership with the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and its well-established mentoring program, to jointly and creatively serve individuals who have proven extraordinarily challenging to assist within our own service delivery system."



7. Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) Announces Conference, ESDY Award Information

As Nancy Richards, Executive Director of Clearwater COG in Northwest Ohio so avidly states, "Self determination is alive and well! And, the upcoming 'Life Without Limits' conference program is surely proof of that."

As the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) prepares for the 2009 OSDA Conference September 15-16 at University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, they are also preparing to honor those individuals, family members, and professionals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination across Ohio, via the ESDY awards.

According to Lew Hurst, also an OSDA supporter and Superintendent of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities, “ESDY Awards are presented to individuals who have played a role in advancing the concepts of self determination. Nominees are evaluated based on creativity, how they have supported the principles of self determination and their contribution toward system change. We look forward to honoring these individuals each year and thanking them for their efforts.” *Deadline for submission is August 21.* Send to lhurst@senecacbmrrd.org

Life without Limits

OSDA 2009 State Conference



**Looking back at the 2008 Conference we see ...
Ruben Garcia, Steven R. Cooley Award winner, with Christine Brown.**

The 2008 ESDY award winners were: Ruben Garcia, Evelyn Bachman, Linda Kunick, Willie Jones, John Romer, Vic Leanza, James Henrie, Kathy Cotman, Ann Thomas, Jason Waugh, Angela Williams and Daniel Woell. <http://www.ohiosda.org/ESDY/2008ESDYAwardWinners.pdf>

As of this writing, among the sponsors of the 2009 OSDA Conference are: The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities; the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD, Champaign Residential Services Inc.; Peterman Transportation; Dynamic Pathways; and, the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

For additional information on the Ohio Self Determination Association, the conference, and the ESDY awards, visit <http://www.ohiosda.org>



8. New Grants Available for Upgrading Buses

County developmental disability programs now are eligible to apply for grants from the *Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund*, due to a change in the law that was passed as part of the new state biennial budget bill.

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for the purchase and installation of pollution control equipment onto school buses of Type C or D, model years 1994-2006, that travel more than 5,000 miles per year. Application deadlines are March 1 and September 1 each year. The application is posted at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oef/html/schoolbus.html>



The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strongly encourages local developmental disabilities programs and school districts to *apply this summer*, while some additional federal 'clean diesel stimulus dollars' are available.

Questions about eligible equipment from USEPA's or California's verified technology lists may be directed to John Paulian (john.paulian@epa.state.oh.us) or (614) 644-4832. For general information contact Carolyn Watkins (carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us), (614) 644-3768.



9. Developing Successful Employment Opportunities

People with disabilities, their families, friends, and people who serve them are encouraged to attend an open forum titled "Developing Successful Employment Opportunities," on August 18th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus.

The forum, hosted by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, is designed to provide a venue to share thoughts regarding:

- Experiences concerning issues or circumstances that may be preventing them from getting a job;
- Suggestions that address how to improve services;
- Opinions or ideas regarding what changes could be made to improve Ohio's employment statistics for people with disabilities.



According to forum organizers, all testimony will be recorded and a summary of all comments will be prepared, as will a list of recommendations to improve gainful employment for people with developmental disabilities. This information will be shared with people who can make a difference, including service providers, legislators, government officials, and employers.

The forum is free and open to the public. Attendees should be prepared to provide brief oral or written testimony, and/or to support those who are presenting at the hearing.

Plans for the forum's program also include a keynote speaker, and lunch will be provided.

For further details and registration information, please send your name and email address to axiscenter@aol.com, or phone (614) 263-8076.



Pipeline PostScripts

Redesigned U.S. Department of Labor Website Focuses on Disability-Related Issues, Programs, and Services

The U.S. Department of Labor has launched www.Disability.gov, a redesigned federal website that connects the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities to thousands of resources on disability-related issues, programs and services. Formerly known as www.DisabilityInfo.gov, the site has been completely redesigned and updated with new social media tools, such as a blog and a 'Twitter' option, to encourage feedback and interaction among visitors.

The redesigned site is not only for Americans with disabilities, but also for parents of children with disabilities, employers, workforce and human resource professionals, veterans, educators, caregivers and many others. To link to Disability.gov, visit the 'Link to Us' page at http://www.disability.gov/home/link_to_us

Disability.gov features comprehensive information from 22 federal agencies, as well as educational institutions, non-profit organizations and state and local governments. Topics on the site include: benefits; civil rights; community life; education; emergency preparedness; employment; health; housing; technology; and transportation.



Ohio District Aktion Club Convention

Ohio District Aktion Club is gearing up for the annual convention August 28 and 29, 2009. According to Ohio District Aktion Club Administrator, Sande Johnson, the convention theme is "The Hero Within," and there will be a poster and speech contest on the theme topic, "How has Aktion Club made you a hero in your community?"

2009
Ohio Aktion Club
Convention



She notes, “This year’s convention theme, “The Hero Within,” is very important, and not just because it makes a great theme to build a convention around! -- but because individuals with developmental disabilities need to realize how important they are, as well as understand the importance of the self advocacy work that they do.”

“It never ceases to amaze me that our Aktion Club members do NOT see themselves as heroes, when we so clearly can see the work that they do in the community and in the lives of others! We look forward to seeing officers, members, and advisors from our five new Aktion Clubs, as well as the current 20 clubs.”

Ohio District Aktion Clubs have been working on developing members’ leadership skills, so this year’s conference will incorporate several training and discussion elements along that subject. In the spirit of the conference, one Aktion Club member described a hero as,

“Someone who cares, then does something about it.”

For more information: <http://www.ohioaktion.org/>; Sande Johnson at sande@gofindlay.com



Get Ready for the Buddy Walk!

Mark your calendar to join the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio and their friends for Buddy Walk, *held rain or shine* at Columbus Crew Stadium on Sunday, September 13th. The one-mile walk celebrates the abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome.

For more information call 263-6020 or visit www.dsaco.net.



Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (the “SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information, including the conference brochure and agenda, are now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.



Editor's Note: Terminology

The terms 'mental retardation' and 'developmental disability' are part of current clinically-accepted terminology. Usage of this terminology in ODMRDD publications is in no way intended to restrict or label any individuals based on their particular disability. Changes to accepted terminology are influenced by many factors, including research, accepted clinical definitions, and usage/social acceptance. 'Mental retardation' is one of many developmental disabilities, and the usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, the usage of the term 'retardation' may be seen in ODMRDD publications, and is never intended as negative slang.



ODMRDD 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-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.

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

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After October 5, 2009

