

Pipeline . . . direct from the state . . .

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

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.mrdd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us; Visit us at www.mrdd.ohio.gov

***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, September 2, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 18

- 1. Senate Bill 79, "The Name Change Bill", Ceremonial Signing August 28
 - 2. Mount Vernon Developmental Center Celebrates a Century of Service
 - 3. Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others
 - 4. Ohio Self Determination Association Conference to Spotlight Housing Incentives
 - 5. National Preparedness Month Efforts, Statewide
 - 6. Providing Improved Safety in Residential Settings
 - 7. Changes Within Division of Medicaid Development and Administration
 - 8. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention/Awareness Month
- See Pipeline Postscripts* at the end of each issue for important news briefs and reminders.

Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community Attends Historic Ceremony

1. SB 79, 'The Name Change Bill', Ceremonial Signing



Historic Signature – Governor Ted Strickland signs Senate Bill 79 in a ceremony involving several self-advocates and other members of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community. The ceremonial bill signing commemorates the July 7 official signing of the bill that changes the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities,

(effective 90 days from signature) as well as the names of local County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

On August 28, the Cabinet Room at the Ohio Statehouse hosted more than 40 representatives of Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community, including several of the self-advocates from Athens County who spurred the proposal and eventual passage of Senate Bill 79.

Prior to the ceremonial signing, as attendees gathered for the group photograph, Governor Ted Strickland took a moment to recognize and thank the members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate who sponsored and supported the legislation removing the words 'mental retardation,' including Senator Jimmy Stewart, who introduced Senate Bill 79, Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Debbie Phillips, who jointly introduced House Bill 118 supporting the same efforts, and Senator Fred Strahorn, a long-time proponent of the bill who introduced similar legislation last year.

Governor Strickland reiterated his support of the bi-partisan legislation, stating,

"I applaud the legislature for working to pass this inclusive and respectful legislation, and I am especially pleased to see the strong participation of Ohio's self advocates in this process."

In addition to the actual signing ceremony, the Governor participated afterward in some more informal photographs and visited with attendees. Among them was Nicholas Miller, an eighth grade student at Marysville Middle School. He received services from a County Board when he was a toddler and, two years ago, had attended a Board meeting asking them to change the name of the agency. Later he attended a formal hearing where he provided public testimony.


According to his mother, "He also thanked the County Board for helping him when he 'had a disability.'" She added that probably the most exciting thing Nicholas had to tell his friends when he returned to school the following Monday was that the Governor wrote him an excuse for missing school to attend the ceremonial signing! (He did.)

About The Bill

[SB 79](#) MRDD ([Stewart](#)) To change the name of the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the name of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and to make similar name changes for the Joint Council on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Developmental Center Closure Commission and certain state and county funds.

[Full Text](#)



Why is Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Jody Harris, sharing a *Pipeline Quarterly* with Governor Strickland? Because, later in the day, the Governor was headed to Athens County to address a group at Diagnostic Hybrids, a company that employs several individuals with disabilities through PersonnelPlus. Interestingly, some of those very individuals had taken the day off work there to attend the ceremonial signing! See [Pipeline Quarterly Winter 2007](#) 

Congratulations to all who assisted in the passage of this important legislation.



[Mount Vernon Developmental Center, 1909-2009](#)

2. MVDC Celebrates a Century of Service

[Mount Vernon Developmental Center](#) (MVDC) is located in Knox County on 310 acres of land. There are nearly 200 residents at the center in 10 different living areas. The majority of people who reside at MVDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The facility serves 'Region 5' in Ohio, which includes the following counties: Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.

Aptly named, the large and many-windowed Great Room in the Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) Administration Building was pleasantly packed on August 19, as well-wishers gathered to commemorate the facility's 100 years of service to the community, and to launch the facility into its second century. According to MVDC Superintendent, Ernie Fischer,

"We are very proud of our 100 years of service to the Knox County community and to the State of Ohio. At Mount Vernon Developmental Center we have a dedicated and caring staff that focus on the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and will continue our mission ... to *'Provide each person opportunities to grow, gain independence, and enjoy life.'*"



The Great Room, exterior view, at the Mount Vernon Developmental Center, administration building.

Visitors ranged from local and state officials to a guest who was a patient at the facility during its days as a tuberculosis sanitarium* in the 1930s. The roomful of guests applauded a program that included some reminiscing, both formal and informal, followed by a general reception.

A Brief History

During its 100-year history, the facility has served four distinct purposes and had four different names. In 1909, the facility was opened as the 'The Ohio State Sanitorium' for people who had tuberculosis, and, in 1945 it would become the 'Mount Vernon State Hospital' (1945-1969), as care for the disease improved and the patient base broadened. In 1969 it became, 'Mount Vernon State Institute' (1969-1979), adding to the facility people with mental retardation and other conditions, and, in 1979 the facility was named 'Mount Vernon Developmental Center.'

Marlene Jones, secretary and long-time member of the MVDC Parents, Friends, and Volunteers Association, reflected on the changes the facility has seen in recent decades. In the 1970s, Jones was one of the founders of the parent support organization, which was designed to do things the state was not able to do, such as make the facility more home-like by providing things like bedspreads, birthday parties, televisions, and games. She noted, "Over time these touches and other activities have helped make the Center a warmer place for patients and families."

Ginnie Whisman, ODMRDD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, addressed the group adding that modernization of the state system has allowed the mission to change from one of 'custodial care' to one of community integration and habilitation. She saluted former and current MVDC employees, noting that although rarely acknowledged as such, they are a part of the civil rights movement by serving as advocates for the rights of people with developmental disabilities. Approximately 420 staff work at MVDC in a variety of service areas.

NOTE: Direct Support Professionals Week is the week of September 14!

A Community Resource

Steve Oster, Superintendent of the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities and MVDC's Citizens Advisory Council chairman, highlighted the importance of the facility as a home for long-term residents, as well as a needed venue to help stabilize individuals needing a short-term stay. And, ODMRDD Director John Martin spoke directly from his own experience of having a son with developmental disabilities. He acknowledged the anxiety involved in sharing a family member with a state facility for fulltime care -- an issue that thousands of families have worked through during MVDC's 100-year history.

Director Martin also read a Proclamation from State Senator Bill Harris, and others were presented by State Representative Mary Ann Ruhl, Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Mavis, and County Commissioners Teresa Bemiller and Robert Wise.

Answering questions from event attendees, Director Martin acknowledged that state budget difficulties remain a challenge and affect everyone. He noted,

"We continue to follow the progress of national trends, but we do not intend to close any Developmental Centers in Ohio. The Department will continue to support those who wish to stay in our facilities, and it will also provide slow, planned, and supported ways for individuals who wish to live independently – in the community – to reach those goals."



Representing the House – State Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl presented ODMRDD Director John Martin, Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman, and MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer an official Proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives.



In the gloriously sunny Great Room at MVDC – retirees and other visitors at the centennial celebration reminisce and enjoy the historical displays.

*For more information about MVDC: Ernie Fischer, Superintendent (740) 393-6225
ernie.fischer@dmr.state.oh.us*

** ‘Sanitarium’ and ‘sanatorium’ refer to the same thing, (an institution devoted to the care and recuperation of people who are ill) however ‘sanatorium’ is a British variant of the word, and is how the institution was named at the time.*

Acknowledgements to ‘A Century of Service,’ compiled and edited by Mary Alice Gordon, and to the Mount Vernon News, Mount Vernon, Ohio.



National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 14 **3. Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others**

This year, the week of September 14 is designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week* - recognizing the important contribution that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community throughout the nation. The designation also provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support

Professionals play every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

Looking around the state there are many examples illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities community -- including people generally 'behind-the-scenes,' but certainly in the forefront of peoples' lives.

PATHS, and Paths Followed

Throughout the state, direct support professionals describe their interpersonal relationships as mutually reinforcing, sometimes challenging, and often rewarding. Many have taken Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) courses, also supported within the ODMRDD Futures recommendations, and feel more prepared and empowered after completing the program:

“PATHS participation has made me more conscious of how staff need to do less for individuals and spend more time teaching them to do for themselves, and to have more full lives. That is what we are here for – to help individuals have full, and meaningful, and happier lives.”

- Carla Hugenberg, PATHS graduate



Getting Prepared to Vote – Erica Perkins (left), DSP, and Carol Jean Hughes, as they work together in Hamilton County to help Carol prepare to vote.

“Working with the PATHS program solidified my commitment to continue in this industry and to commit to improving myself as a professional. I believe that the more knowledgeable I am, the more empowered I am to teach and make a real difference in the lives of individuals I serve.”

Diane Gaither Thompson, PATHS CIP* graduate

***Certificate of Initial Proficiency**

“I am dedicated to the goals I have set for myself as a professional who works with people with disabilities. The success of these goals is not measured in dollars but in the satisfaction of knowing that as I traveled this road I was able to support, assist and help others who needed it.”

Phyllis Thomas, PATHS CIP graduate

And from another side of the same path, we have this from the Midwest Services newsletter in Massillon Ohio, where a resident's family member writes,

“We want to commend the direct care staff... Jamie... who has shown an amazing amount of perception and common sense in dealing with both staff and residents. ... The current staff is exceptionally patient, kind and competent in daily care. Angel and Amanda have been there for some time and we appreciate all they do. Last, but not least, Jessica & Jennifer have been invaluable to us from day one. We go to the house at least once a week, sometimes unannounced, and we always find [it] clean, it smells good, the food is good, the atmosphere is peaceful...”

Comments like these help to capture the essence of how much Direct Support Professionals can mean to a family. More in the September 16 issue of *Pipeline*.

“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”

- Sister Mary Rose McGeady

Look for articles illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community in

***Pipeline Quarterly**, publishing later this month.*

*Special acknowledgments to Amy Gerowitz and Debra Easely, representing Ohio PATHS.
For more information: <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>*



Ohio Self Determination Assn. Conference, Sept. 16 & 17

4. OSDA Conference to Spotlight Housing Incentives

On Wednesday, Sept. 16th, day one of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will host noted expert in the field of housing, Bob Laux, who will provide an in-depth training regarding utilization of incentives for housing, including:

- Trusts;
- Federal income tax credits;
- Individual development accounts;
- Shared equity programs;
- Equity investment pools; and,
- American Dream Funds.

In the current economic climate it is more important than ever to access all available funds that can provide supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The informational session is free, and the electronic registration form is at [2009 OSDA Conference Brochure.pub](#).

The Ohio Self Determination Association is making a long-term commitment to improving housing options in Ohio. Thanks to a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council, OSDA also will be hosting Bob Laux for three additional regional followup sessions.

Provider agencies, County Board Service and Support Administration (SSA) Directors, and Housing Directors are especially encouraged to attend.

Participants in the Wednesday morning session will explore the opportunities available using existing economic resources and incentives such as special needs trusts, home ownership in real estate, and individual retirement accounts. The afternoon will be an in-depth session to engage participants’ understanding of how housing and assets can be sought out and developed for people with disabilities.

According to workshop organizers, “This workshop does not have all the answers, but will clearly demonstrate steps and strategies that could work toward helping people achieve home sweet home!”

For more information contact Lee Wedemeyer at lwedemeyer@marioncbmrdd.com

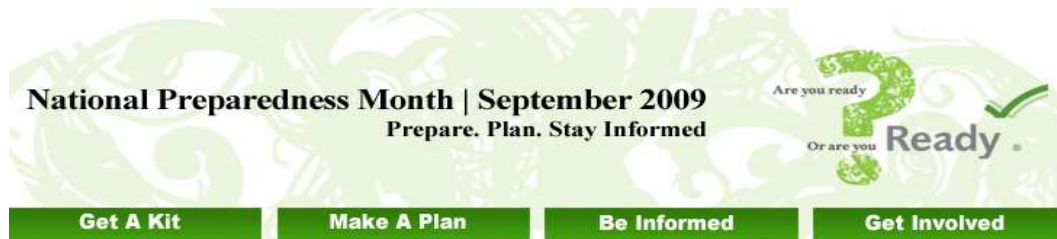


September is National Preparedness Month

5. National Preparedness Month ‘09 Efforts, Statewide

The Ohio Department of Public Safety -- in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security -- sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The overall effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The ODMRDD is among those supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations.



Again this year as last, preparedness opportunities for residents living at the ten Department-operated, community-based Developmental Centers will be emphasized as part of ongoing health and safety efforts, and provider-sponsored safety and preparedness efforts will be encouraged. (see article below)

Trainings for staff, individuals, and families via the national *Ready* campaign include activities that encourage individuals to have an *emergency supply kit*, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them.

Visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials.

More information at www.mrdd.ohio.gov



Speaking of Housing during National Preparedness Month

6. Providing Improved Safety in Residential Settings

North Coast Community Homes (NCCH), a nonprofit housing development corporation with 190 properties serving 928 tenants in Cuyahoga, Lake, Stark, and Summit counties, has created a fire safety committee comprised of parents of tenants, attorneys, residential service providers, insurance consultants, County Board staff, and fire safety experts that goes perhaps further than most such committees to develop a comprehensive fire safety policy for their properties. A specific focus on a fire suppression range hood to minimize the risk of kitchen fires is an example of an outcome for this group.

Focusing on Prevention

The committee adopted a fire safety policy in 1995 mandating that all of their community-based rental properties would have interconnected smoke detection systems, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers. Additionally, and in line with state and local codes, if tenants could not safely evacuate without physical staff assistance, residential sprinkler systems would be installed.

A tragic fire several years ago in a non-NCCH home caused the organization's safety committee to further explore their own record on fire safety, and the records for a nine-year period showed that approximately 80% of fires in their rental properties for people with developmental disabilities were directly the result of cooking.

Project Funding

After a considerable amount of review, the Board of Trustees adopted a policy to install range hood suppression systems in all of the NCCH community based rental properties that had stoves. NCCH committed to install 198 of these units in their properties over a two year period.

The average cost of installation of the Guardian Residential Stove Top Fire Suppression unit is \$1350, or \$259,200 for all 198 units. To help fund the project, NCCH went to the private sector, and to-date, the NCCH has received approval of \$96,000 from eleven Stark and Summit County foundations to support this effort.



How it Works: If a fire starts on a stove, a sensor in the unit activates two spray nozzles under the range hood directly above the surface of the stove. A colorless, odorless gas is discharged on the fire for 90 seconds, extinguishing the fire. Also, the electricity to the stove is automatically shut off. View a video at (http://iflss.net/Guardian_III_video.wmv).

Timing is Everything

According to Steve McPeake, President and CEO of NCCH, while the organization is still in the process of installing these units, it was too late for a home in East Cleveland on March 30, 2009, where a fire started on an unattended stove. He explains, “The fire consumed the kitchen cabinets and destroyed all of the kitchen appliances. The black smoke from the fire not only covered the entire kitchen, but affected all adjoining rooms.” He adds,

“The good news is that no one was hurt and the fire did not spread throughout the house. The bad news is that the extent of the damage was significant, and the estimated cost to rebuild the kitchen was \$34,000. When we rebuild the kitchen we will install a hood fire suppression unit over the stove!”

During September, National Preparedness Month, the focus on ways to improve the safety of individuals with developmental disabilities who are living in the community continues to be on

minimizing the risks involved in everyday living, as well as on being prepared for emergencies. While there are no guarantees, efforts such as these by an organized safety committee can result in an increased level of protection for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, statewide.

Contact: Stephen McPeake, North Coast Community Homes, (216) 662-1880, smcpeake@ncch.org



Department Update

7. Changes Within Medicaid Development & Administration

In order to provide better customer service and efficiency to the field, there have been some recent organizational changes in the ODMRDD Division of Medicaid Development & Administration (MDA). In reorganizing, MDA hopes to simplify processes in several areas, both within the Department, and when assisting others.

According to MDA Deputy Director, Patrick Stephan, “For example, the Department’s Claims Services Unit, lead by Debbie Hoffine, is now under MDA. In addition, we also have absorbed Provider Certification, lead by Sally Clingman. We are excited to have the opportunity to work more collaboratively now with these units in order to provide the best possible customer service to the field.”

For a list of specific contacts, visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/resources.htm>.

Also in line with a strong desire to provide improved support and assistance to the field, MDA has recently initiated a monthly recognition opportunity. Patrick Stephan notes,

“If there is a staff member in MDA who stands out to you as having provided excellent customer service, we would like to hear about it. Please contact Angel Morgan at Angelia.Morgan@dmr.state.oh.us, and simply provide the name of the person you are recommending and the reason why this person deserves positive recognition.”

For more concerning Medicaid Development and Administration, including an overview of Medicaid and other recently updated information, visit <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/medicaid/>.



8. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention/Awareness



These babies are happy to report that Governor Strickland has designated September as
September as
“National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and other alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery, Governor Ted Strickland has designated September 2009 as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio.

Ohio's FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is especially focused on raising awareness that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.

FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

FASD is 100 percent preventable!



Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of preventable birth defects, learning disabilities, attention deficits, mental retardation, and behavior disorders.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary disabilities such as substance abuse issues and disrupted school experiences, and help families better understand and cope.

The ODMRDD works closely with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) in support of Ohio's FASD Initiative to promote a message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies. In recognition of FASD Awareness Month, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities children's programs will be receiving from the ODMRDD a copy of the Governor's Proclamation.

Under ODADAS' leadership, several state agencies, including the ODMRDD, have formed the Statewide FASD Steering Committee. The Committee's primary goals are public awareness and specific education and training for agencies, organizations, and professionals.

The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from nine state agencies, providers, and parents. The mission is to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address and prevent FASD.

According to ODADAS Director Angela Cornelius Dawson, "Healthy children are the most important resource in the great State of Ohio. FASD Awareness and Prevention Month increases understanding for those individuals and families affected, and through greater awareness, seeks to minimize further effects, ensuring healthier communities across the state."

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

Each year, as many as 40,000 babies are born with FASD, costing the nation about \$4 billion, according to the FASD Center for Excellence. In Ohio, Department of Health officials estimate that FASD affects approximately one in 100 births at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300 million

annually for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and mental health services, foster care, and unemployment.*

**Larry Burd, PhD., noted FASD expert from the University of North Dakota has developed an FASD Prevalence and Cost Calculator for states based on 18 years of research. Using Ohio's population and the number of live births, the 1 in 100 figure and \$300 million/year cost were calculated. Source: www.online-clinic.com/Content/Materials/calculator.asp*



Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are online at the ODMRDD website event calendar, accessed from the lower bar 'calendar' on the homepage, at https://mrdd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. The ARC of Ohio Sponsors "It Starts with Me, Advocacy in 2009"

The ARC of Ohio is sponsoring an advocacy event on Friday, September 11, at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. 'It Starts with Me, Advocacy 2009' will feature keynote speaker, Dave Rastoka, with a presentation titled, 'You're Walking, Talking, and Breathing, But are You Really Alive? – 10 Rules to a Happy Life.' The full day of informational presentations includes, 'The System,' with The ARC of Ohio's executive director, Gary Tonks, providing a roadmap for getting what you need when you need it. The 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. event includes lunch.

For registration and more information: The Arc of Ohio, (614) 487-4720, arcohio@rrohio.com



2. Reminder: Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Grant Funds Available

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') has available \$608,000 in grant funds for 2010. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a variety of projects listed at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Grant/10COM.htm>.

Carolyn Knight, Acting Director of the DD Council, explains that all grant awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds. Applicants must provide cash or in-kind 'matching' funds of 33.33% in non-poverty areas and 11.11% in poverty areas.

Grant applications will be processed using a new online submission process, which will be made available on September 3, 2009. Training on the new submission process will be offered.

Deadline for submissions will be Friday, October 2, 2009.

For more information: Carla.Sykes@dmr.state.oh.us



3. Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS)

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) Annual Conference 2009, 'Stimulating Ideas for Challenging Times' is September 29-30 at the Westin Hotel in Columbus. The OAAS is a not-for-profit organization that represents member County Boards in the developmental disabilities community, statewide. Highlights of the conference include a keynote address by Patti Mitchell, internationally known Ohio artist/photographer formerly associated with the Athens County PassionWorks Studio, as well as several sessions on the subject of the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#).

OAAS provides a network of resources and technical assistance for the management and operation of adult services programs.

For more information or to register for the conference: www.oaas.org



4. Ohio SIBS Conference Information Online

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 6-7, 2009, in Columbus. Complete information will be shared as the event draws nearer, or contact Tom Fish at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, (614) 292-7550 or fish1@osu.edu.



5. 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 usage of the term will be gradually and appropriately phased out wherever feasible. Currently, in the interest of communicating clearly and respectfully, 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 ...

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 timely, relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us, phone (614) 644-0262.

ODMRDD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the ODMRDD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline, 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 also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/pipeline/odmrdd.htm>

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

[After October 5, 2009](#)

