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Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar

Survey!

We’re redesigning *Pipeline* and want your feedback. Complete this short [survey](#) to tell us how we can better meet your needs. Please only complete the survey one time. Thank you.



April is Autism Awareness Month

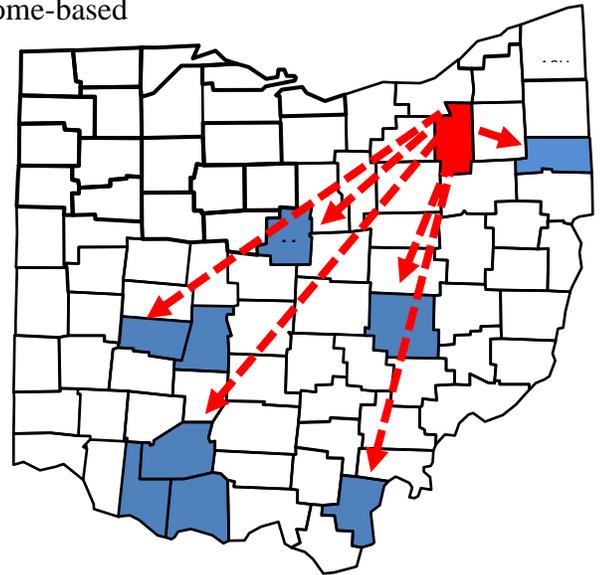
1. Grant Offers Tele-Options for Early Intervention, ASD

Improving services for children and youth with ASD and other developmental disabilities

An innovative project using Tele-Health technology is offering a unique approach for Ohio families with children under the age of three and newly-diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The project is piloting ways for virtual home-based services to provide Early Intervention (EI) and bringing a much-needed specialized service to families that they otherwise might not be able to access close to home.

Coordinated by the [Family Child Learning Center/ Akron Children's Hospital](#), the project, “Tele-Early Intervention for ASD” (Tele-EI4ASD) – is supported through a federal grant awarded to DODD in collaboration with a host of partners – a *State Implementation Grant for Improving Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

As illustrated in the map at right, through the Tele-EI4ASD pilot project, the Family Child Learning Center (FCLC) has been able to provide virtual home-based services for children in nine counties, including Mahoning, Morrow, Muskingum, Gallia, Clark, Madison, Adams, Brown, and Highland counties.



This innovative and cost-effective approach to tele-health delivery provides families and providers with:

- Evidence-based intervention in a family's home, where the child and family are most comfortable;
- In-the-moment coaching and ongoing support/information between visits; and,
- Enhanced collaboration and sharing of expertise between all involved with the child and family.

The process is simple. Once a toddler receives a diagnosis of ASD, and if the family agrees, the county contacts FCLC to begin tele-Early Intervention services. The FCLC Early Interventionist virtually meets with the family at least twice per month to discuss concerns and progress. During each virtual home visit, a laptop is taken into the home by a local *Help Me Grow* service coordinator or Early Intervention service provider, and connected to FCLC via a mobile broadband connection.



The camera loves her!

During each session, the child and the child's interactions with the family and environment can be viewed, which gives the FCLC Early Interventionist a good snapshot of everyday life for the family.

Each of the project's partnering counties are trained on the technology and the intervention approach, and provided with a laptop, speakerphone, webcam, and WIFI device. Together, the interventionists and family practice [Responsive Teaching](#) (RT), an evidence-based child development curriculum for parents and caregivers who spend a lot of time interacting with and caring for young children. RT is based on the philosophy that children spend most of their day with their families, and by using RT techniques, families are more able to support and enhance their child's development and address challenging behaviors.

Each session is recorded and made available for later viewing by the family. This allows a parent who could not be present during the visit to review the sessions at a later time, and perhaps share the session with other service providers, such as a pediatrician. Through this service model, local professionals viewing a session also are expanding their knowledge of ASD.



Almost like being there ...

Erika Karazsia, M.A., an Early Intervention Team Leader at the Family Child Learning Center, coaches a family 100 miles away.

In surveying families involved with Tele-EI, the approach has received a rating of “Extremely Helpful” in terms of offering useful information about ASD, listening, respecting their choices, giving them ways to help their child learn new skills, sharing ideas on how to include their child in daily activities, and helping them observe their child’s progress.

One mother had this to say, “Each week we were presented with new strategies that built on the last one, and each week we were able to execute the plan and return with progress – new words, actions, or turn-taking play.” She continued,

“Our son went from playing only by himself to seeking us out to read books, play cards, or just to sit with us and spend time together. Overall, this program has helped us learn ways to play and interact with our son. Thank you!”

Additional Information

During Autism Awareness Month, DODD and the ARC of Ohio invite you to view and share a [new video](#) about Autism NOW, and to [read the personal stories](#) of people with autism in a series of guest blog posts. In addition, as noted in the [April 2 issue of Pipeline](#), in a [report just released](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*, the prevalence of autism appears to remain on the rise. The report indicates that *one in 68* children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**The complete CDC Report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsautismdata/>*

More resources at www.ocali.org/ and at

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/puzzle-piece-project-tool-kit>

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[State & National News](#)

2. Ohio’s Mid-Biennium Review; Rhode Island’s Settlement

Governor John Kasich’s Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) continues to move forward including several legislative initiatives, as well as programmatic and regulatory changes made as part of the budget review. The MBR process has been proven to allow the Governor and his Cabinet to find operational savings during the second year of the budget biennium. In addition, the process has been used to propose several significant changes that reform outdated policies, close tax loopholes, reduce bureaucracy, end duplicative programs, and make good use of technology.

Proposals in the Governor Kasich’s original MBR for fiscal year 2015 have been divided and introduced as 14 separate bills in order to facilitate legislative deliberation. Some highlights of the legislation include creation of the *Workforce Training Pilot Program for the Economically*

Disadvantaged, providing \$3 million in FY'15 for this purpose; and, providing an additional \$10 million each for various adult protective services and children services in FY'15.

For current status and detailed information regarding each MBR bill, visit <http://obm.ohio.gov/SectionPages/Budget/FY1415/MidBudget.aspx>

National Scene

NOTE: At the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group forum on April 1 (Pipeline, April 2, 2014) presenters included Andrew McQuaide, Rhode Island's State Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Interim Settlement Agreement, who was preparing for a meeting with DOJ that same day. Here is an update on the outcome ...

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced last week that it has entered into the nation's first *statewide settlement agreement* vindicating the civil rights of individuals with disabilities who are "unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs." The [agreement with the State of Rhode Island](#) will resolve DOJ-cited violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for approximately 3250 Rhode Island residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This first-of-its-kind statewide agreement addresses the rights of people with disabilities to receive state-funded employment and daytime services in integrated settings, such as *supported employment* and *integrated day services*, rather than in traditional sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs serving only other people with disabilities.

The agreement also addresses transition-age youth at risk of segregation in facility-based programs. Under the agreement, transition-age youth will have access to an array of transition, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment services intended to lead to integrated employment outcomes after they leave high school.

More state agency information at <http://transforming.ohio.gov>

For more general information about the Justice Department's ADA Olmstead enforcement efforts, visit [Community Integration for Everyone: http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/index.htm)

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[The Movers & Shakers](#)

3. Family Advisory Council Offers Fresh Perspectives

Yesterday's Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#) explored several topics of interest, and offered fresh perspectives on such subjects as the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home-and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rule; Ohio's Developmental Center downsizing initiative; a review of the new Service and Support Administration (SSA) Rule; and, learned more about [Disability Rights Ohio](#) services from presenters Allison McKay and Liz Paprocki.

DODD Director John Martin and Deputy Director Patrick Stephan reviewed the new [HCBS rule \(5123:2-9-01\)](#) as had been requested by FAC members, many of whom were ready with questions, including inquiries about how CMS specifically defines "community inclusion." The

answer to that was, “An individual receiving federally-funded waiver services must experience life in the community just as anyone else would expect to – however, we know that each state will be struggling to identify what that is in each community, and for each person. Patrick Stephan noted, “We are well-aware of the importance of community inclusion and providing services in the least restrictive environment – and states will be held accountable to keep that priority in mind for every individual receiving HCBS dollars.” He added,

“Through our Strategic Planning Leadership Group and other similar collaborative efforts, we have started down the path to position ourselves for change – to assure compliance with the key elements described in the new HCBS rule.”

Director Martin also noted that DODD will be using data gleaned from several years of participation in the [National Core Indicators](#) initiative to support HBCS rule compliance efforts. National Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the system wish to attain, as well as the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. He observed, “We have asked questions and received answers from participants through NCI surveys that can help us to demonstrate whether or not Ohio is in compliance with HCBS rules. This NCI data will be very helpful, and has become an integral part of our planning and management work.”

Also on the FAC meeting agenda, Gary Tonks of The Arc of Ohio, and DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin presented information on the new [Service and Support Administration rule \(5123:2-1-11\)](#) for which there has been a number of training opportunities across the state. FAC attendees asked many questions, and were appreciative of the online opportunities for training and feedback that are now offered at www.dodd.ohio.gov, helping to inform people who may not be able to attend the various trainings. In addition, Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman presented an update to FAC attendees regarding DODD Division of Residential Resources initiatives, including Developmental Centers’ downsizing efforts.



Parent-advocate Despina Bourbakis (right) asks Director Martin, “How will we be held accountable for addressing these changes?”

Peggy Martin reminded the group that [Family Chat](#) is an online resource for families who are served by Ohio's developmental disabilities system, and is another good forum for discussions such as those that occur during Family Advisory Council meetings. The online discussion group is considering a move to a Facebook format in the future, facilitating additional interaction.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

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4. Ohio Provider Resource Association Spotlights Professionals

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, provided updates and new information on subjects of interest to the statewide community of service providers, as well as showcased the providers and direct support professionals themselves. During opening comments, OPRA Executive Director Mark Davis observed, "When it comes to working with individuals with developmental disabilities, Ohio providers know their people! And because of that, we will be focusing on what we can do to shift from *activities* to *outcomes* in serving people – we need to leverage the close relationships we have with them to assure better outcomes."

Also during opening remarks, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Greg Moody accepted an award on behalf of Governor John Kasich, which recognized him with an OPRA *courageous leadership award* for his work toward assuring the state's extension of Medicaid coverage, despite opposition. Davis noted,

"We appreciate the Governor's persistence and leadership in this area. He never wavered in his support of Ohioans who earn low wages, including many of the state's direct support professionals."



Spotlight on Service Excellence

Director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Greg Moody stopped by the OPRA conference to present an award to Cassandra (Cassie) Chapman, a direct support professional at the Heinzerling Foundation. Cassie earned the prestigious service award for 'above and beyond' service to Heinzerling residents – including walking three miles to work in deep snow this winter when her car wouldn't start. He noted,

"We need to create an environment that rewards these workers – both financially and otherwise."

Included in the two-day conference were tracks and training on subjects such as using tele-health options for improved health services; Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) downsizing and conversion; new ways to think about person-centered planning; and, updates on changes to the [Service and Support Administration Rule](#). DODD appreciates OPRA's collaborative approach toward informing conference attendees of the many Department initiatives, as well as on state and national trends in the developmental disabilities system. Supporting the statewide provider network in these efforts to help our system to be better-informed, the system can become stronger and more responsive to change and growth.

More information at www.opra.org; and <https://www.facebook.com/OhioProviderResourceAssociation>

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5. Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Retreat Explores Transition

Each year, the *Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend when students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants in the age group transitioning from high school students to young adults take time to get to know their siblings better, and develop self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, team-building challenges, and advocacy. The retreat is held at YMCA Camp Willson in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

This year's [Ohio SIBS](#) (Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters) retreat focused on ways for siblings of young adults and students with disabilities to help their brothers and sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment.



Ohio SIBS

Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters

DODD strongly supports the efforts of Ohio SIBS to foster supportive family relationships throughout the statewide DD community. As the Department's Family Advocate, Peggy Martin attends the event each year, and observed that this year she was especially gratified to see how much respect there was among the siblings who were there to support their brother or sister with disabilities. "They truly showed an interest in their future plans, and engaged wholeheartedly with the process," she said.



Caring and sharing at the SIBS retreat ...

Far Left: Joseph and Allison Hinkle; Center: Cory and Andy Lynch; Right: Amanda and Lizzy Miller. Joseph and Allison, and Cory and Andy are twins – Amanda and Lizzy are sisters, but not twins.

SIBS event organizers Katy Ettinger and Sarah Hall noted that the sibling pairs practiced advocacy skills by sharing a ‘person-centered description of each other’ with the entire group. They added that the best outcome of all for the event is that ...“Many participants shared that they felt ‘less alone’ and left with new information and new friends!”

Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu for more information.

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[DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review...](#)

6. OPSR Issues 2013 Annual Report

The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, has issued its [Annual Report](#) for calendar year 2013. The publication provides information regarding the Department’s reviews of service providers, including data noting common areas of non-compliance and other findings. New this year, the publication reports on OPSR efforts concerning the Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) Waiver which served approximately 2900 individuals with developmental disabilities, and was transferred to DODD from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) beginning in 2013.

[Click Here for the OPSR Annual Report](#)

The Report highlights DODD’s continued work on several major initiatives regarding the operation of licensed residential facilities, including:

- *ODH to DODD License:* This effort relates to the transfer of the administration of the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) program to DODD, and the transfer of licenses from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to DODD for 12 facilities that had remained licensed by ODH. A DODD Technical Assistance Team provided training and support to these providers during the first year of operation under the new license.

- *ICF Voluntary Conversion:* This initiative offers ICF providers the opportunity to voluntarily convert an existing ICF-funded bed to a waiver-funded bed for people who would prefer to receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in a community-based setting. The effort assists DODD in long-term care rebalancing efforts, and provides people with opportunities to receive services in their preferred setting.

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Mosely-Miller observed, “Keeping these initiatives at the forefront of our efforts in 2013 has allowed us to make good progress in each of the areas, and strengthened our collaborative efforts with state agency partners. Also, the addition of the TDD waiver reviews was integrated well into our overall review and oversight processes. We believe that this 2013 Annual Report reflects that.”

*The URL for the OPSR Annual Report is
dodportal.dodd.ohio.gov/PRV/compliance/Documents/2013%20OPSR%20Annual%20Report.pdf*

7. May 6 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

The Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains information about the May 6 ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.

On May 6, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available online [here](#), and at MyOhioVote.com. There will be eight levy issues on May 6 ballots affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. They are:

- Hamilton County: 4.13 mills, renewal
- Hancock County: 2.5 mills, renewal
- Hardin County: 4.0 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1.6 mills, replacement
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional
- Mercer County: 1.94 mills, renewal
- Morrow County: 3.0 mills, replacement
- Putnam County: 1.6 mills, additional



To be well-informed about issues that matter to you, and to learn more about your rights, as well as *when* and *where* you can vote, visit the Secretary of State website www.sos.state.oh.us/. The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

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PostScripts

CMS Issues Guidance Toolkit

See it at www.medicaid.gov/hcbs.

The new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule on Home- and Community-Based Services took effect March 17 (See [Pipeline, March 19, 2014.](#)) To assist with the rule roll-out process, CMS has released new guidance in a toolkit at www.medicaid.gov/hcbs. It includes: A summary of the regulator requirements of fully-compliant HCB settings and those settings that are excluded; additional

technical guidance on regulatory language regarding settings that isolate; exploratory questions that may assist states in the assessment of residential settings; and, additional helpful information.



Health Policy Institute of Ohio Releases New Information

HPIO has released a new brief titled “[Health and disabilities basics: Overview of health coverage, programs and services](#).” The brief is the first in the HPIO’s three-part analysis of health and disability. In this installment, HPIO presents the current landscape of health coverage, programs and services for people with disabilities, including an overview of the state entities that provide, coordinate and/or fund public services. The paper also explores demographics and eligibility criteria. The second brief, to be released later this year, will look at challenges for people with disabilities in achieving optimal health. A third brief will examine current state and federal policies.



Disability Pride Festival and Parade, April 26

The Columbus Disability Pride Parade is April 26. This Festival is a celebration of physical and ‘neurodiversity’ that makes the community unique. Individuals with and without disabilities will parade side-by-side through OSU’s Fred Beekman Park. Events run from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.. Speakers and presenters include several self-advocates from the Franklin County community.

More at disabilitystudies.osu.edu/disability-pride-parade-and-festival

Contact: Rebecca G. Monteleone, monteleone.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu



PAR Regional Trainings Continue in April and May

Upcoming PAR ([Professionals, Advocates, Resources](#)) regional trainings include: *Transition: Life Beyond School* at the Delaware County Board of DD on April 17, and *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training on April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. *Registration at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>.*



Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting May 7, 8

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will meet May 7, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., and May 8, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need special accommodations, contact Donna Foster at donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov or at (614) 438-1394.



APSI Accepting Nominations for Ron Kozlowski Award

Nominations will be accepted through April 30

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Nominations are being accepted for this year’s recipient now *through April 30*, and the award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June. To access the APSI nomination form, click [here](#).*

URL is www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award



Adult Services Provider Fair, Franklin County, May 14

The second FCBDD Adult Services Provider Fair will be on May 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Aladdin Shrine Center near Easton, at 3850 Stelzer Rd., Columbus. This large informational and networking event will focus on Adult Day Waiver Services for the

Individual Options (IO), Level One, SELF, and TDD waivers. Certified providers for all of the following services will be on-hand: Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, Supported Employment, Integrated Employment, Adult Day Health Center, and Non-Medical Transportation. Organizers note, “We hope that this event is helpful for individuals and families looking to meet new providers and gain more understanding of the array of waiver services available in Franklin County.” Contact Lilian Beck or Anne Watson at the Franklin County Board of DD, (614) 464-2743 if you have any questions.



Spring Employment Conference, April 23

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of “*Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*,” at www.voice.voiceamerica.com. For more information or to register, email ODEA2013@gmail.com



COMING SOON! OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23

Mark your calendars! The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is pleased to announce their 2014 Spring Conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration is now open. More information at www.oacbdd.org.



ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9

Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, June 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway in Powell, OH. Cost is \$50/person (includes lunch). Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about the implementation of technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight usage of assistive technologies in school environments, including low-cost resources.



The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point,' May 22

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, “Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date.” Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



SAVE THE DATE! Annual Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).*

URL is <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5uAy0zzkGgoc3FHbGRWTTlPc2s/edit?pli=1>



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or 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.

Pipeline Feedback ... from You to the State

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov 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://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>



**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**

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