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Resources to Stay Informed

The announcement of Governor John Kasich's budget plan which would have phased out up to 13,000 independent providers and closed two developmental centers, has resulted in a firestorm of questions and concerns by individuals, families and providers.

The Ohio Department of DD (DODD) is working to respond to outside forces such as the Governor's 2015 budget plan and new federal regulations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The latest information concerning these efforts and changes with the system is being communicated through *Pipeline* and a new tool called *Direct Line*. While these plans appear to be put on hold, individuals, family members and independent providers should continue to follow developments as they occur.

You can access Direct Line at www.dodd.ohio.gov/OurFuture/

Additional resources to keep up with changes in the system include:

A "go-to resource" for Medicaid providers interested in learning more about areas of interest concerning the

provider community:

www.medicaid.ohio.gov/PROVIDERS.aspx

To keep informed of The Arc of Ohio's events, news, and recent updates access the Arc of Ohio and sign up for their email.

www.thearcofohio.org/

DODD Pipeline informs readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Receive this publication via email by signing up via the following link: www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx

If you have questions about Developmental Center closings or the budget bill you can call a hotline set up specifically for that purpose. The DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline is toll-free. 1-855-611-6446 or 1-614-728-5311

The Ohio Association of County Boards publishes a periodic email digest called the **OACB Insider**. *The Insider* contains news articles and clips from television, radio, and magazines/newspapers that discuss recent developments at county boards of DD in Ohio. It is distributed on an "as-needed"

basis to an audience that includes: board members and staff of county boards of DD, system stakeholders, government officials, reporters, and members of the general public. Anyone can receive a subscription to the OACB *Insider* by accessing the OACB's publications page and clicking the link to subscribe.

www.oacbdd.org/main/publications/

If you are interested in quick and easy to read System Summaries that provide overviews of key State of Ohio departments that serve families and youth, as well as Tip Sheets written by parents for parents that offer insights and suggestions on a variety of topics then check out Red Treehouse under Tips and Tools. They also provide a monthly email to which you can subscribe. RedTreehouse.org is a collaborative effort of the Ronald McDonald House® of Cleveland, Inc. and Ohio Family and Children First. For more information visit:

www.redtreehouse.org/

Payee Clients Being Accepted

The Representative Payee Service of Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) is accepting new clients. It now serves more than 60 clients from seven counties (Athens, Brown, Highland, Jackson Pike, Ross and Vinton.)

The service manages the income and bill paying of individuals who cannot do so for themselves. Bank accounts are set up for each person into which their monthly income from sources such as Social Security, SSI payments, Black Lung, wages and retirement are direct deposited. Bills for individuals are mailed directly to SOCOG and payments are issued on behalf of the clients in a timely manner. Bills include such items as housing, utilities, groceries, medical and dental expenses, personal care and clothing.

The cost is \$39 per month as set by the Social Security Administration. Individuals should contact their SSA to request this service.

Regional News

Rick Marriott Receives Kenneth Legats Award

Rick Marriott, superintendent of Ross CB of DD for 35 years, received the Kenneth Legats Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration during the OACB annual convention in Columbus on December 5, 2014. The award is presented annually to an executive who has been duly nominated by the board of trustees and who, over a career of more than 20 years, has shown high ideals, vision and moral leadership in administration of programs for people with developmental disabilities. Award is named for Kenneth Legats, former superintendent of the Muskingum CB of DD.

In his acceptance speech, he said "I am very appreciative of this award. It has been an



Rick Marriott, Ross CB

honor and privilege to serve our community."

Marriott is the only dual recipient of an OACB award. He received the Betty Macintoss award for advocating for individuals with DD in 2008.

Kay Davis Appointed Vice Chair

The Advisory Council of the OACB Health Care Plan and Trust held its annual meeting at the OACB Convention in December 2014. One of the purposes of the meet-

ing was to elect new officers of the Council for 2015. Those elected include Esther Baldrige, Superintendent Allen DD, as the Chair of the Council replacing Al Willis, Superintendent Auglaize DD, who retired in January. Kay Davis, Superintendent Meigs DD replaces Ms. Baldrige who was Vice-Chair of the Council. Laura Zureich, Superintendent Champaign DD/Shelby DD, will continue as Council Secretary.

This group of officers will advise, approve, and oversee the activities of the Trust and CBA Benefit Services. OACB works with the Advisory Council and with each of the 40 participating groups in the OACB Trust in implementing and maintaining quality medical and dental benefit programs for their employees and dependents.

Ross County Board of DD Moved Offices

The administrative offices, early intervention staff and case workers (SSAs) of Ross County Board of DD relocated in December 2014 to offices at 167 West Main Street in Chillicothe. Originally owned by Pioneer Center, the building was vacated

by First Capital Enterprises and renovated to accommodate the staff who had offices at Pioneer School and the Foulke Block building on Paint Street. The need for expanded services for school age children necessitated a need for more classroom and

office space at Pioneer School. The new offices on Main Street centralizes services for non-school age clients and consolidates staff who serve these needs in one central location with better access to the city transit system.

SOCOG Staff Updates

Cathy Primer joined SOCOG on January 20, 2015 as the representative payee. She replaces Marsha Ortman. Cathy is a resident of Kingston, Ohio, and had been employed in several positions with the City of Chillicothe, from 1997 through 2012 including Parks and Recreation director.



SOCOG welcomed **Travis Dresbach** in November 2014 as a part-time receptionist and advocacy representative at Pickaway County Board of DD. A resident of Circleville, Ohio, he has previous experience as a biller, dispatcher and receptionist.



Marsha Ortman left the position of representative payee to become an investigative agent. She has been with SOCOG since November 2013. Upon completion of training, she will cover Ross and Pike counties as an investigator for major unusual incidents.



Dave Burton joined SOCOG in January 2015 as an advocacy representative for individuals at Clinton County Board of DD.



Acknowledgments

- Amy Cartwright, SOCOG Executive Director, was one of 22 who graduated from the Ohio Association of County Boards' Good Life Training on December 20, 2014.
- Marsha Ortman, Investigative Agent, attended DODD's Civil and Criminal training in March 2015.
- Tiffany Stephenson, Jennifer Goodwin, Rachel Silvey and Marsha Ortman attended DODD Interviewing Techniques in March 2015.
- Amy Cartwright, SOCOG Executive Director, graduated from the Ohio Association of County Board's Executive Development Program.

SOCOG Regional Advocacy Meetings Successful

Advocates from ten counties in the region (Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pickaway, Pike and Ross) gathered in January and March at the Chillicothe-Ross Public Library Annex to discuss regional advocacy efforts. The objective is to invite advocates from across the SOCOG region and encourage them to network, share ideas and resources to become better advocates, as well as to create their own local advocacy groups.

Initially, the group is being led by Jesse Stock of Athens County

but the plan is for self-advocates to facilitate their own meetings with support being provided in the background as needed. The goal of the group in the first year is organizational, where they plan to set the framework for the group to grow, but they still discuss hot topics such as proposed budget bill changes (independent provider phase out) and their own personal experiences at the Statehouse for Legislative Advocacy Day.

If you, or someone you know is a self-advocate or is interested in learning more about how to advocate please feel free to invite them

to the next regional advocacy meeting. Persons interested in getting local self-advocacy efforts off the ground in their own counties also are welcome to attend.

The meetings are being held monthly on the following dates at the Chillicothe-Ross Public Library Annex Room B on Paint Street in Chillicothe: April 21 (Rooms D and E), May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15.

Call 740-775-5030, ext. 102 to sign up.



**126 East Second Street
Suite C
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601**

**Phone: 740-775-5030
Fax: 740-775-5023**

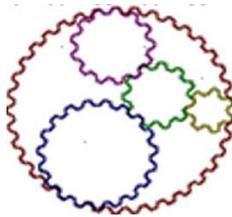
**Office hours - M-F
8:00AM-4:00PM**

The Southern Ohio Council of Governments was formed in March 1996 and began services in March 1997. The Council was created by Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in southern Ohio. The Council is a government entity created under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code, representing 15 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The Council provides administrative supports for County Boards in Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties.



SOCOG Mission Statement

- Do things together we can't do effectively and efficiently alone
- Offer members a trusted source of external expertise and feedback



April 2015