



Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

Celebrating the abilities of Ohio's 85,000 individuals with developmental disabilities

Legislators Honored For Leadership in DD Issues

The *Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People With Developmental Disabilities (OACB)* recently announced its 2010 "legislators of the year".

State Senator Shannon Jones and State Representative Debbie Phillips were chosen for their outstanding leadership, advocacy and accessibility to the people in their districts and statewide who have developmental disabilities.

"Both of these legislators have made helping people with developmental disabilities and their families a priority," said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.

"We are pleased to be able to recognize Senator Jones and Representative Phillips for their efforts, and our entire membership is looking forward to thanking them personally later this year," he said.

The legislators will be honored during opening day activities of *OACB's* 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION December 1st – 3rd at the *Hilton at Easton Hotel*. Last year, about 700 people from

throughout the state attended the annual event.

Senator Jones served four years in the *House of Representatives* before being appointed to the *Senate* in 2009. During that time, she has supported numerous legislative issues on behalf of constituents with developmental disabilities.

Mostly recently, Senator Jones introduced legislation (SB220) that would give autism assistance dogs the same rights and regulations as guide dogs. That bill is pending in the *Senate* and in the *House* (HB399).

Representative Phillips is finishing her first term as a Representative. She co-chaired a measure in the *House* that removed the words "mental retardation" from the name of the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as all *County Boards of DD*.

Both Senator Jones and Representative Phillips have participated in the *OACB's* Call2Action trainings, where advocates are trained on how to interact with their legislators.



State Senator Shannon Jones



State Representative Debbie Phillips

Does Anyone Own a Crystal Ball?

By Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director

What do you think is going to happen next year? Over the past several weeks, I have lost track of the number of times I have been asked that question. There are a number of ways to view that inquiry? Are we talking about the general over-all economy; the troops in Afghanistan and Iraq (i.e., hard to believe the war is over when we just deployed more troops overseas); the future of the Developmental Disabilities (DD) system; or, the state budget? More often than not, folks typically are asking about the DD system or the state budget; specifically, the deficit and how it might be filled.



Over the past few years, Ohio has weathered the worst economic climate seen since the days of the Great Depression. Is it over yet? Probably not. There are economic indicators that the worst is behind us, but when one considers that after an individual has been unemployed for more than six months they are no longer considered unemployed (insert your own logic here), then it is pretty clear that numbers do not always tell the tale of the tape. Does anyone reading this column not know of a friend or family member that is looking for a job? Not just a teenager perhaps seeking holiday or summer employment, but an individual that typically would have been the primary bread winner for their family. Does anyone reading this column not know of someone who is underemployed? By that I mean working, but at an income less than what they had been earning in the past. Does anyone know someone who has been under a salary freeze or salary reduction for the past few years?

The DD system has fared quite well during this economic downturn. There are three primary reasons for that: 1) the commitment of lo-

cal citizens to support property tax levies; 2) the support of the Governor & Director Martin in keeping state cuts to DD at the lowest for any social service agency; and, 3) the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (i.e., the federal bailout). That tells about the immediate past and present, but what about the future? Projections call for up to an \$8 billion deficit for the State and no federal bailout is expected or likely this time. The President did sign HR1586, which means the Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) will continue, albeit not at the same rate, through June 30, 2011. Early estimates are that will result in \$10 to \$15 million in eFMAP for *County Boards of DD*. After that, it would appear Ohio reverts back to a more standard FMAP rates. After all, we have a President with sagging approval ratings that will be running for re-election in two years and a Congress that may well change in party leadership come January.

At press time, the election is about a month away. Poll numbers can certainly change and it "ain't over 'til it's over" (i.e., Dewey defeats Truman). But across our country there seems to be an air of not voting for the incumbent, regardless of political party. No matter who wins on November 2nd, beginning November 3rd, the difficult discussions on how to fill an \$8B hole will begin with more meat than what has been publicly stated to date. Those discussions will not just take place in Columbus. Many *County Boards of DD* have been requested to roll back their levies, others are having a more difficult time receiving permission from their *Board of County Commissioners* to go on the ballot, or to seek the level of millage they would prefer.

Two things I have absolutely learned are that there is no Crystal Ball and you cannot stop change. Simply look in the mirror. Human beings cannot stop change. What we can do, both personally and profession-

ally, is make a decision of whether to embrace change or fight it. A decision to be proactive in implementing change or reactive and attempt to implement the changes thrust upon us (i.e., likely after staging a fight about changing). There are things in this State that are broken. Look no further than the loss of nearly 400,000 jobs and a deficit approaching \$8B. Local public offices are laying off staff, or cutting to four-day workweeks. Private companies are shutting their doors and/or moving to other states, in some cases other countries. Something is not working. Is that the fault of any single public figure or political party? While some might argue it is, the reality could not be further from the truth. It also does not matter because it is where we are in Ohio. In examining where we are, I can and do make lots of arguments – many successful – that one thing that is not broken in this State is the DD system. As evidence I point to a continued passage of levies at nearly an 80% clip, despite the poor economy. I talk about the addition of over 10,000 individuals to home and community based waivers, fueled primarily with local dollars being used as match to draw down eFMAP. That occurred because we were proactive in obtaining legislation to permit that to occur.

In the weeks ahead I expect to continue to be asked, "What do you think is going to happen next year?" I wish I had that Crystal Ball that the rock group STYX made famous in the song of the same name. I do not (if anyone does, please step forward). I will continue to give as informed of a response as I possibly can, as I know all of our system's leaders will do. But I also have a question: What are we going to do to be proactive in helping our elected officials figure out how to solve the State's budget woes? While our system is not part of Ohio's problem, the funds raised by *County Boards of DD* will be in the cross hairs of those looking for quarters under every rock.

Spotlight on Laurie Benintendi

In an effort to better acquaint you with the volunteers who serve on the OACB Board of Trustees, we will profile a Trustee who is a County Board of DD Board Member each month. Profiled this month is Laurie Benintendi of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Board Member of the OACB.



How long have you been a Clermont County Board Member? I have been a County Board member for Clermont County Board of DD since the fall of 2005.

How long have you served as a Trustee on the OACB? I started serving on the OACB Board in January, 2010.

My family: I am married to a wonderful husband, Robert Benintendi, and I have three active children. Sebastian is 12 years old; Dominic is 10; and Gabriella is 9. We live in Cincinnati. We also have two dogs, Clover and Bosco, one bearded dragon named Rocky, and a hamster named Skittles. Bob and I come from very large families so our children have plenty of cousins (15 on one side and 12 on the other). We enjoy spending time with our extended families.

Occupation? I am an attorney at WellPoint Inc.

Education? I graduated from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio in 1986 with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. I attended Law School at Emory University in

Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduating from Emory in 1991, I moved to Cincinnati.

Proudest moment as a Board Member? Watching our community come together and support Clermont County Board of DD at the Dancing with Stars fundraiser last fall. I was amazed at the number of people who dedicated their time and talents to benefit a very worthy cause.

Three people (living or dead) you would like to have dinner with? My husband, because we have such little alone time; my parents because I do not see them often enough, and Sean Connery because he is one of my favorite actors. I love his accent, and I always wanted to meet him in person.

One thing I would like to accomplish: Raising three happy children that are respectful, accountable, and hard working, and look back on their childhood with happy memories.

People would be surprised to know that: I was a Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse at Birmingham

Children's Hospital prior to being an attorney.

My favorite thing to do is: Sit on my porch swing on a beautiful day and listen to nature around me. However, if it is cold, I like to sit in front of a fire and read a good book or watch a movie without interruption.

My favorite snack food is: Any salty snack.

This irritates me: When my kids leave dirty clothes on the floor or when my husband practices his electric guitar in the same room where I am trying to sit in front of the fire and watch a good movie without interruption.

Last book I read was: Eat, Pray, Love.

My favorite movie is: The Sound of Music.

Mairose Honored With National Award

At the recent 2010 *Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)* National Conference, Diana Mairose of Cincinnati received the very prestigious Roland Johnson Award. This award is given once every two years to a self advocate who has supported Roland's work of having a place called "home," opportunities to make your own choices, have friends in the community and even your own mistakes. Roland, who died in his 90s, lived at *Pennhurst State Institution* (PA) for most of his life and was a founding member of *SABE*. He died in the 90's.

"I believe Diana is the 7th person in the country to receive this award. This is very cool and very well deserved," said Essie Pederson, of *Southwest Ohio's Partners In Policymaking*.

Diana also was elected first alternate for Region 5 to serve on the Board of Directors. She is a 2006 graduate of *Ohio Partners in Policymaking* and the Co-Statewide Coordinator with Pederson.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

Individuals and businesses throughout Ohio were honored at the recent *Governor's Council on People with Disabilities' (GCPD)* annual meeting at the Statehouse Atrium.

Michael Rench, Administrator of the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission*, gave the opening address, and introduced Senator Ray Miller, who also spoke to the crowd of more than 100 people.

The three-hour event highlighted the work of the *GCPD*. *OACB* Director of Advocacy Services Linda Oda is a second-year member.

"This awards ceremony was one of the culmination projects for council members," Oda said. Award recipients were chosen by council members based on pre-established criteria. The criteria can be found at www.gcpd.ohio.gov

"I hope that all of our *County Boards of DD* look at these applications and consider nominating people or businesses in their counties for 2011 awards. It is a great way to honor people from your county, as well as educate the rest of the state on new and innovative ways to help people with developmental disabilities," Oda said.

Award winners included:

Karla M. Lortz Scholarship – Andrew Chern

Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award – Tracee Black

Advocacy Award – Marla Root

Best Practices Award – *Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries*

Small Employer of the Year – Angie Shred

Medium Employer of the Year – *Dorothy Lane Market* and HMS Host *Dayton International Airport*

Large Employer of the Year – *OhioHealth*

Key Speakers Announced For SIBS Conference

Ohio SIBS is proud to present the 10th Annual *Ohio Adult Sibling Conference* on November 5th and 6th at the *Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel*.

Siblings with and without disabilities and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend to meet and partner with other siblings, become better informed decision makers, and gain the tools to prepare and secure the future health and well-being of indi-

viduals with a disability and their families.

Topics to be covered include siblings as care providers in a Medicaid environment, the role of siblings during transition periods, and understanding and building the sibling relationship.

Featured speakers include Judy Karasik who published a graphic novel, *The Ride Together* with her brother

Paul who has autism; Cynthia Chambers who has focused research and efforts on sibling issues from *East Tennessee State University*; Vicki Snyder from the *Lucas County Board of DD*; Lew Hurst, Superintendent of the *Seneca County Board of DD*, and Peggy Martin, a family advocate for the *Ohio Department of DD*.

To learn more or to register go to <http://www.ohiosibs.info/Conference/Brochure.pdf>



A new *Special Olympics* license plate is now available for purchase at all state Bureaus of Motor Vehicles. The cost is \$25 more than a typical license plate, but \$15 will be given to the *Special Olympics Ohio* fund. This is a great way to support an organization that has given so much to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Horn Walter Outstanding Achievement in Special Education Award

The OACB was one of five organizations that recently sponsored the annual Horn Walter Outstanding Achievement in Special Education Award Banquet in August at the *Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center* in Columbus.

Students and teachers were honored for their achievements by a collaborative group of educators. Other statewide organizations participating included the *Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA)*, *Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA)*, and *Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)*. The *Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD)* organized and sponsored the event.

Also recognized were Dr. Franklin B. Walter, the family of the late Dr. Raymond A. Horn, and Dale DeGirolamo, the master of ceremonies.

Dr. Horn was a longtime member of the *Franklin County Board of DD* and served as an OACB trustee. This is the 22nd year this award has been given in Dr. Horn's name.

Both Dr. Horn and Dr. Walter were leaders at the *Ohio Department of Education (ODE)*, and were instrumental in effecting policy changes so that children with developmental disabilities could receive edu-

cational opportunities like their typical peers. Dr. Walter was a former ODE superintendent. This is the 20th year that an award has been given in Dr. Walter's name.

Brittany Goble provided the event's entertainment. Miss Goble was the 2010 *Very Special Arts (VSA)* first place winner, and sang three songs.

R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients included Clarissa Rodriguez, *Swanton High School*; Andrew Dodd, *Meadowlawn Intermediate*; John "Jack" Desmond, *Shaker Heights High School*; Michael Georskey, *Chardon Middle School*; John Prokup, *Howland High School*; Jessica Scott, *Sidney High School/Upper Valley JVS*; Jordan Slarb, *Madison High School*; Mathieu Arotin, *Crestwood Primary*; Stevieray Cognion, *Ida Sue School*; Jordan Paul Jones, *Piqua High School*; Courtney Conley, *Baldwin Road Junior High School*; Kayla Lucas, *Harrison Westgate Elementary School*; Ryan Korengal, *Madeira Middle School*; Melissa McQuitty, *Western Brown High School*; Adam Salmons, *Wheelersburg Middle School*; and Tonie J. Schrader, *Logan High School*.

F.B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award Recipients included Linda Doering, *Lakota Local Schools*; Tara Greiner, *North*

Ridgeville City Schools; Jeff Sidaway, *Brecksville Broadview Heights City Schools*; Willoughby-Eastlake Autism Team; Shannon Miller, *Warren City Schools*; Jennifer Kristoff, *Allen County ESC*; Nancy L. Mowry, *Madison Local Schools*; Valerie Croghan, *Akron City Schools*; Sharon Overbey, *Stark County Board of DD*; Tammy Broughton, *New Lebanon Local Schools*; C. Drew Milligan, *Columbus City Schools*; Colleen Scheich, *Mid-East Career Technology Centers*; Jim Hertenstein, *Madeira City Schools*; Robert E. Evans, *Adams County/Ohio Valley Schools*; Waverly High School Autism Team; Stacey Eddy, *Warren Local Schools*.



The late Dr. Raymond Horn

Ms. Wheelchair USA

There are many things Dianna Warren has accomplished in her life, and becoming First Runner-up in the *Ms. Wheelchair USA* pageant is a crowning accomplishment.

In addition to her runner-up title, Warren who was crowned *Ms. Wheelchair Ohio* in February, also received the Ms. Congeniality award and the Mona Johansson Spirit award. Ms. Phaedra Marriott-Olsen, *Ms. Wheelchair-Missouri* won the national crown at the July pageant held in Green, Ohio.

“My experience at the national pageant was amazing and unforgettable. It was a great honor to represent my state and to be able to get out and share my life experiences with having a disability and all that I have accomplished,” Warren said.

Warren, 49, was diagnosed at age six with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and uses a motorized wheelchair for daily use. She has not let that stop her from living a normal life and still continues to set goals and accomplish new things. Warren receives services through the *Stark County Board of DD Supported Employment*.



According to Warren, one of her greatest accomplishments is being married to her husband, Howard, for 30 years. Warren has also been a secretary and treasurer of a bowling league for people with disabilities for over 20 years. She has received several Volunteer of the Year Awards and is the recipient of the Quality of Life award from the *Ms. Wheelchair Ohio* competition. Warren resides in North Canton, Ohio and also enjoys camping, swimming, traveling, bowling and being outdoors.

Since the national competition, Warren and the other finalists have made several appearances at events, including the August Pro Football Hall of Fame festivities in Canton.

Warren said she personally has traveled around Ohio doing speaking engagements, parades, community events and news appearances. Warren will also be involved with upcoming events for the *Muscular Dystrophy Association* such as; The Stride and Ride Fundraiser, MDA Camp, the Jerry Lewis telethon and a bowling event for people with disabilities.

The *Ms. Wheelchair USA* program is designed to acknowledge the accomplishments of women with disabilities. There is no age limit, although contestants must be at least 18 to compete. In one aspect of the competition, participants present their platform and commitment to a social issue or charity of their choice. The contestants are judged in a private interview, round robin interview, evening wear, platform presentation and on-stage interview.

“Thanks to the *Ms. Wheelchair USA* program this gives me an opportunity to share my platform with others about the importance of having a positive attitude and good outlook on life,” Warren said.

“I believe if you can image, you can achieve. Ability is what you are capable of doing and motivation determines what you do. It is attitude that determines how well you do it,” she said.

To learn more about the *Ms. Wheelchair USA* organization, visit www.mswheelchairusa.org.



Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse

Representative Jay Goyal, Senator John Carey, and *OACB* Board President Dean Fadel are pictured with Carmen Shelton, a self-advocate who chaired this year’s Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse. All four individuals spoke to the 350 people in attendance.

Meet OACB Staff Member Barb Lambert



Barb Lambert is the administrative assistant for the *Bridges to Transition* project at the OACB. In an effort to give our members the opportunity to get to know our staff better, we thought we would share a little insight into their personal lives.

Family: I live in London with my two awesome kids, Adam, 15 and Kate, 14.

Favorite restaurants: I don't really have one favorite restaurant. Seafood in general is my favorite, but I also love Chinese, Italian and a great steak.

Guilty Pleasure: Getting lost in a great book, lounging all weekend at my family's cottage and anything chocolate. I usually do all three at once to reduce the guilt!

What I do when I'm not working: It's hard to tell what I might get into when I'm not working. I love to play golf and last summer I joined a rowing team. Right now I spend a lot of time on home renovation projects. The kids and I love to hike, bike and play on the water.

Favorite moment working with individuals with developmental disabilities: It's hard to commit to one favorite moment as I have enjoyed so many over the years. For me it is an honor just to be in a position to help improve the quality of life of others. I have seen so many individuals achieve greater independence, improved living conditions, greater access to community resources and more choices in employment and leisure activities. Assisting with those things, even in a small way, is a big reward for me.



The first ever Posipalooza was an amazing success. More than 260 people were in attendance. They visited about a dozen different mini seminars on the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI). The professionals were the students, and were taught by many self-advocates from throughout the state. Above, the PCI consultant from the OACB, Willie Jones, is surrounded by friends from the Belmont County Board of DD. This group talked to people about what they as consumers liked and disliked about people who provided them services and supports.

Brad Stephens shows up the positive "culture" letters that he and his friends from the Belmont County Board of DD made, using magazine photos and other objects that made them feel good about the Positive Culture Initiative at the Posipalooza event. Also pictured is Greg Kazmirski, who along with his wife Lisa, own *Tomorrow's Corner*.



The *OACB* recently began offering Affiliate Memberships to people and companies that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities. In an effort to better acquaint you with our Affiliate Members, we will be showcasing an Affiliate Member in each newsletter.

Farris Family Always Has Room For James

Sheryl Jo Farris lives in Oak Harbor in Ottawa County, but her story could be told from just about any of Ohio's 88 counties.

Sheryl Jo provides Medicaid services and supports to a 39-year old man named James. Like many independent providers, she describes James as "part of my family."

"Anything he needs, he calls me," Sheryl Jo said.

With the exception of three years from 2003 to 2006, Sheryl Jo and James have been together for the past 16 years. She tried her hand as a third shift baker for a grocery store, but then the *Ottawa County Board of DD* called her back, and she couldn't refuse. Sheryl Jo describes James as "part of my family".

"I told the *Ottawa County Board of DD* staff that I wanted to be James's provider, but I didn't want to work for another company. I either wanted to work as an independent provider or I wouldn't do it," Sheryl Jo remembered, adding that the people at the *Ottawa County Board of DD* helped her get her provider certification from the state.

She works with James about 30 hours a week. She reminds him to do his chores, but finishes up the ones he doesn't get to. "He's a really good guy, but he hates to do dishes. I don't blame him – I hate to do dishes too," Sheryl Jo said.

She is very proud of James and his accomplishments, noting he was the only person Camp Perry, a facility where rifle matches are held, called back to work during the off season. James does routine janitorial services there, cleaning restrooms, sweeping up spent pellets in the air gun facility, etc.

It doesn't stop there. James also works at a local bed and breakfast, where he vacuums and cleans bathrooms.

"James is not wanting for anything. He's very happy. Every time I see him, he says 'There's Mrs. Farris!' and gives me a big hug!"

A good day for James? Visiting Tony Paco's in Toledo, buying cabbage rolls and then enjoying them with his sweetheart of 10 years, Mary.

"I feel good because I can do what he wants, and I make sure he has a decent life, his medication and food. I really enjoy working for him," Sheryl Jo said.

Advocates Continue to Drive System Forward

by Dustin McKee

One of the reasons why we have such an exceptional developmental disability service system in Ohio is because of the tireless efforts of our advocacy community. I was lucky enough to witness the skills of our advocacy community again when Congressman Wilson met with self-advocates from Athens while touring the outstanding community employment (*PersonnelPlus*), sheltered workshop (*ATCO*) and art studio (*Passion Works*) programs of the *Athens County Board of DD*.

During the visit, representatives from *PersonnelPlus Advisory* and *Advocacy Council (PPAAC)* and the *Developmental Disabilities Center Council on Public Policy (DDCCPP)* sat down with Congressman Wilson. They thanked him

for his ongoing support and urged the Congressman to support the ABLE Act (H.R. 1205), which would allow people with disabilities to maintain eligibility for Medicaid, SSI, and other federal benefits while building tax-free savings to pay for their unique life necessities.

Congressman Wilson was inspired by the caliber of the Athens County programs and the engagement of the advocates. He stated that he would urge more of his colleagues to take the opportunity to meet with advocates like the representatives of the *PPAAC* and *DDCCPP*.

The grand finale of the visit came in the form of a reception at the *Passion Works Art Studio* where Representa-

tive Debbie Phillips, Senator Jimmy Stewart, County Commissioners Larry Paine and Lenny Eliason were all in attendance. As we move forward into one of the most challenging budget cycles in Ohio history, it is good to know that all over our state our advocates and stakeholders stand ready to ensure that our system continues to thrive.



Congressman Wilson pictured with Eric Young, Athens County Board of DD Superintendent, local legislators and representatives of PPAAC and DDCCPP.

10 DD Ballot Issues November 2

More than 10 percent of Ohio's *County Boards of DD* have levies on the November 2 ballot.

With the exception of the *Medina County Board of DD*, which is on its second try, this is the first attempt for these *County Boards of DD* at passing this specific levy. If the *OACB* is missing any levies on the November 2 ballot, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting Linda Oda at loda@oacbddd.org or 513-218-4851. Also, if the following information is incomplete or inaccurate, let us know as soon as possible as we will be sharing this with the news media.

Ashtabula: 1.33 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$2 million annually for seven years.

Athens: 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.65 million annually for eight years.

Defiance: 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.35 million per year. First time on the ballot as a replacement.

Mahoning: 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$11.9 million annually for five years.

Marion: 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate TBA for five years.

Medina: 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$5 million annually for 10 years.

Montgomery: 6.03 mill Replacement Levy. \$4.5 million new money to offset losses in tangible personal property and CAT tax dollars. (NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children's Services, Elderly support, etc.)

Portage: 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$3.9 million for five years.

Putnam: .5 Replacement Levy. To generate \$322,727 each year for 10 years.

Vinton: 2 mill Renewal Levy. To generate about \$284,270 for each of 5 years.

Williams: 2.5 mill Replacement and 1 mill increase for a total of 3.5 mill on a continuing basis.

DSPs Make It Happen

The *OACB* was one of 22 sponsors that helped honor Ohio's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) with an event that included an all day film festival and party to celebrate their important work.

The theme of the event, Action - DSP's Make it Happen tells the story. Almost 300 DSPs from all over Ohio came to Columbus. The event featured the Sprout Touring Film Festival, whose theme "making the invisible visible" with films featuring people with developmental disabilities was a highlight. Participants laughed as a young British man put his very inept DSP in his place and cried as they watched the heroic work of DSPs after Hurricane Katrina.

John Martin, Director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities, presented a proclamation from the Governor recognizing DSP week. Scott Osterfeld served as master of ceremonies, and Fatica Ayers from the *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council* wowed the group as she gave out the awards for the DSPs videos.

There were souvenir photos, with and without Elvis, video interviews, door prizes and terrific lunches. The most important part was that people had fun, and DSPs had a day where they were the stars. They were honored for the amazing work they do, and their videos and the films of Sprout Film Festival showed their impact on people's lives each day. The videos are available for viewing at www.youtube.com/oadsp
(Story contributed by Amy Gerowitz)

Across Ohio - News In A Nutshell

Adams CBDD is excited to be part of a multi-county VRP3 grant, a new RSC grant to place transitioning students and DD consumers into competitive employment.

Allen CBDD moved *ArtAbility* from ArtSpace Lima to the Veteran's Memorial Civic Center. This move results in artists being able to work in the store front on town square rather than being tucked away upstairs at ArtSpace. We believe there will be much greater visibility which will enhance community understanding and appreciation, as well as sales.

Ashtabula CBDD has received a three-year CARF accreditation award. This achievement is an indication of the organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the individuals served.

Athens CBDD congratulates *Passion Works Studio* and Melissa Godoy for receiving an Honorable Mention in the category of Animation for its competition in the Athens 2010 International Film & Video Festival. You can watch the video at our YouTube channel.

Auglaize CBDD is involved in several projects to upgrade its buildings. A new air conditioning system was installed at *Auglaize Industries* this past summer and a large storage building is in the process of being completed at the *ABC Center* for Administration and the Early Intervention program.

Belmont CBDD is sponsoring two appearances in October by Kathie Snow, parent, author, trainer and creator of Disability is Natural. Kathie will speak at *Ohio University Eastern* on October 21, 6-8 p.m., and again at *Belmont CBDD's* Fall In-Service October 22. *Belmont CBDD* is promoting the Thursday night appearance because it is tailored to public school teachers, parents, and the general public. There is no admission fee and all are welcome.

Carroll CBDD's Positive Intervention Culture continues to be a success as evidenced by aversive plans being reduced from 65 to 16; unapproved behavior supports also have reduced by 5. The transportation department continues to be under budget and was successful in reducing 6 bus routes to 3 buses for students, while adults are transported on vans.

Champaign CBDD hired a new Adult Day Habilitation Director due to the retirement of Janna Brown. Barbara Faulkner began her service with the Board on September 1. Barbara was previously employed by *Goodwill*. The adult day habilitation center also completed all training in Caretracker and have fully implemented the documentation system.

Clinton CBDD held its annual picnic September 9 at the local park in Wilmington. The weather was beautiful and the turnout was great. Individuals served, families, providers, and staff enjoyed time together, shared a wonderful meal, and played some competitive games of Bingo!

Coshocton CBDD is proud to announce its Level 1 waiting list is gone! For the past year, they have been reviewing their waiting lists and serving as many people as possible. Every person on the waiting list was contacted to see what their current needs were and the Board tried to meet their needs with a variety of options and funding sources. Through diligent work of staff, the list is now clear.

Jeff Turner, who is served by the *Crawford CBDD* is a driving force in advocacy. Jeff recently interviewed with Governor Strickland with hopes to be appointed to represent Crawford County on the statewide *DD Council*. Jeff also has been elected to be on the first Aktion Club Convention Council. The council consists of six people who will be in charge of planning that *CBDD's* next convention.

Cuyahoga CBDD had more than 30 volunteers create a labyrinth on the grounds of the East Cleveland Adult Activities Center. The construction, which has a diameter of

70 feet, incorporates bricks repurposed from a building demolished on the Board's urban farm. During the coming months, artists from the center will apply mosaics to the labyrinth bricks. Next spring, the grounds around the labyrinth will be landscaped. The labyrinth will be dedicated in memory of Gary Fusco, who once served as the manager of the center, and later became the superintendent of the *Geauga CBDD*.



Darke CBDD has just remodeled a home and made it accessible for wheelchairs using Neighborhood Stimulation Program (NSP) monies. This is the fifth such project for *Darke CBDD*.

Defiance CBDD is participating in the Bridges to Transition project. Chris Palmer is coordinating this project for Defiance County.

Delaware CBDD moved all operations except transportation, to 7991 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035. October 1 will be a day of in-service to orientate the employees to the new building and communication systems. The first day of full operations will be October 4.

Fairfield CBDD announced it has been named one of the six demonstration sites by the RSC for the Ohio Microenterprise & Customized Employment Demonstration Project (MCED), which is designed to support people with disabilities in their efforts to start businesses and create employment opportunities.

Fayette CBDD recently finished its summer preschool at *Fayette Progressive School*. The Board has operated a summer preschool for children with intense special needs for the past two summers. Sixteen families were invited to participate. The program ran for six weeks, and the children participated in an individ-



ualized schedule with an aide. Goals include increased communication and social skills. Funding for the program was secured by the agency's Early Childhood Director from outside local sources. Parents must provide their child's transportation and were given an incentive of \$60 in gas cards upon their child's successful completion of the program. The response to the program was overwhelming. Parents were very enthusiastic and said they saw tremendous increases in social and verbal skills. The preschool team with head teacher Trish Thibert and aides Kristen Whitmer, Mary Hidy, Linda Mickle and Debbie Yoho received an educational achievement award in May in recognition of their dedication and success with the program.

Franklin CBDD will host an advocacy day for adults served by the Board on October 13. More than 100 people are expected to participate in sessions designed to help individuals responsibly advocate for themselves.

Gallia CBDD celebrated Grandparents Day on September 13. Each class made a craft or card with grandparents and shared a tailgate lunch with them.

Geauga CBDD will hold its annual Quilt and Craft Auction November 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Amish-made quilts and woodworking items highlight the event, which raises funds to support the *Metzenbaum Center* programs. In addition to the live auction, a silent auction, bake sale, Christmas shop, and lunch round out the day. A pancake breakfast begins at 7 a.m. for those early risers.

Guernsey CBDD traveled to the Statehouse and met with State Senator Jimmy Stewart, who recently sent letters of commendation to the group for being chosen to have their artwork featured in "Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010," a traveling exhibit organized by *VSA Ohio*. This exhibit gives people with disabilities the opportunity to celebrate life through the arts.

Hamilton CBDD hosted a conference about supporting people with co-occurring mental illness and disabilities in June. The event was attended by nearly 300 people from five counties.

Hancock CBDD recently held its second annual "Lunch on the Lawn" event. The purpose of the event was to thank the community for its support of the *Blanchard Valley Center*, and those served by *BVC*. A picnic-style lunch was served to staff, clients, families, providers, Board members and to anyone wanting to attend.

Highland CBDD hosted *Ohio Legal Rights*, who presented an in-service for individuals served by *Highco*. Attendees learned about *OLRS* services and the voting registration process.

Hocking CBDD completed an Adult Services program redesign over the summer. Individuals served and families are giving the program high marks. Our SSA Department is busy with implementation of the Essential Lifestyles Planning process. The Early Childhood Department is working through the process of rolling out a new autism assessment process.

Holmes CBDD's preschool operations were successfully transitioned to *Tri-County ESC* this school year. Their dental clinic is open to the public and continues to serve as a safety net clinic. Their booth at the County Fair in August was very popular. More than 200 people attended the open house/ice cream/social pig roast, sponsored by the parents' association.

Huron CBDD had five representatives participate in the 2010 Legislative Advocacy Day. The group met with the offices of Representative Terry Boose and Senator Sue Morano to discuss the importance of home and community based services, rural transportation issues and the upcoming biennium budget concerns for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Jackson CBDD took advantage of the hot August as both *Hope Haven School* and the *J-Vac Adult Services Center* attended swim parties hosted by the local *Fairgreens Golf Club*. Also, our newly established Jackson County Trotters Golf Team is practicing at this beautiful facility.

Knox CBDD welcomed the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*. The County Board has teamed with the *United Way of Knox County* to be a major sponsor of this initiative. This is a way for children birth through five

to get free age appropriate books in the mail every month, in English or Spanish. All of families who receive Early Intervention services have signed up for the books and have begun receiving them. The *Knox CBDD* is also co-sponsoring a "Play to Talk" session with the *ESC*. This will give parents, educators and other community members the tools to better communicate with their children through reading and playing. The training is free to families, and they will get a free book instructing how to communicate with their children through play.

Lake CBDD is grateful to all the different companies and organizations that have chosen *Lake CBDD* as their volunteer site. It is a humbling experience to witness first hand how people joining together make a difference in the community. This spring and summer *Lake CBDD* was the fortunate recipient of the generosity of *Sigma Nu Fraternity*, *Leadership Lake County's* youth programs, *Willoughby-Eastlake Technical Center's* welding students, *Keller Williams Realtor*, *Lubrizol Corporation*, *Western Reserve Junior Service League*, *Mentor Rotary*, *West End Exchange Club*, *PNC Bank*, *ABB Corporation*, *Charter One Bank*, *Selman & Company*, *Tecmark Corporation* and *St. Gabriel Church's* youth summer camp. Everyone's efforts provided intangible gifts to individuals served by the *Lake CBDD*. **Lawrence CBDD** has added a new preschool unit to its Early Childhood program, and have hired Tiffany Williams and Hollie Haney as the Instructor and Instructional Aide.

Licking CBDD recently held three informational meetings to kick off a *Licking County People First Chapter* - Ohio's 60th chapter. *The Licking CBDD* is very proud to host this group, which is run BY and FOR people with developmental disabilities. Thanks to the *Knox County chapter of People First* for their guidance in getting the Licking County chapter off the ground. Learn more by visiting www.LCountyDD.org.



Sadie Hunter and Vicie Wallace help Todd Williams with his campaign poster for Treasurer

Logan CBDD recently had a no passing zone instituted on the stretch of State Route 47 West that fronts the *Discovery Center Early Childhood Center* and the *RTC Industries* building. Superintendent Dr. Joe Mancuso said this has been a long term goal. Thanks to the combined efforts of State Senator Karen Gillmor and the city and county officials. *ODOT* agreed to grant a no passing zone and further established a 20 MPH school zone for the *Discovery Center*. The new flashing light system is operational. "While the new restrictions may be a slight inconvenience to some motorists, Logan County has just become a safer place," Dr. Mancuso said.

Lorain CBDD is proud to offer individuals with limited use of their arms and legs the opportunity to join other Work/Activity Center participants in Wii bowling, thanks to the persistence and ingenuity of Equipment Specialist Keith Rawlinson. By writing a new computer program and connecting a single head switch to a standard Wii bowling remote, Rawlinson has engineered a way for these individuals to participate in the popular game. In his 18 years with the agency, Rawlinson has created hundreds of such adaptive innovations for *Murray Ridge*.

Madison CBDD announced that Mike Mast has been named Children Services Supervisor. As an All-State running back for West Jefferson High School in the early 1980's, Mast was known for doing what it took to make his team better. After a dozen years in the classroom as a preschool teacher, Mast takes over the spot vacated when long-time educator Peg Johnson retired from the *Madison CBDD* facility in July.



After a dozen years in the classroom, former *Fairhaven Preschool* teacher Mike Mast takes over as Children Services Supervisor this academic season. Mike enjoys some time on the playground with some of the children under his charge.

Maboning CBDD recently invited some fine feathered and furry friends to visit. Alpacas, ducks, ponies, rabbits, donkeys, goats and sheep migrated to the front yard as part of "farm week". The menagerie entertained the seniors and provided a warm, fuzzy feeling for enrollees and staff.



Mercer CBDD recently added a Nature Center to the Adult Program. In a small shaded they have added a couple of paving stone patios with picnic tables, a large platform swing designed for individuals using wheelchairs and a beautifully landscaped miniature pond and waterfall, which is already drawing butterflies and hummingbirds. Funding came from donations and stimulus money. It is a wonderful asset for anyone who cares to use it - or just sit and watch!

Miami CBDD's Angie Bevington had the surprise of her life when she learned she received the Small Employer of the Year Award from the *Governor's Council for People With Disabilities*. Angie owns *Angie Shred*, a shredding company located in Troy. She employs five other people with disabilities, paying above minimum wage. A group of excited family and friends attended the ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Thanks to Representative Adams and Senator Strahorn for their resolutions to Angie Shred in honor of this great accomplishment.

Montgomery CBDD recently had more than 200 individuals, young and old alike, attend the Dayton Dragons Baseball Camp, coordinated by the *Montgomery CBDD*. Participants were treated to a variety of baseball related activities, opportunities to run the bases and pass the ball with players, as well as quality time with Heater and Gem, the Dragons' Mascots. It was a beautiful day and many great memories were made. Special thanks to the Dayton Dragons for hosting an incredible camp.

Morgan CBDD made it a goal in their Annual Action Plan to "find"

a group of underserved individuals in the county. Since beginning that search, the number of individuals served has risen by 10%. The County Board also joined with Pathways from Washington County and has just completed its first summer youth program.

Pickaway CBDD Pickaway Haiku Randy Beach is back

Not much has changed, same old stuff

Med leave not all bad

(The *OACB* staff welcomes Randy and his poetry back. He was sorely missed.)

Pike CBDD recently hosted the 8th Annual Fun in the Sun event at the Walnut Street Park in Waverly. Fun in the Sun is open to the community. Elvis impersonator Brian Ward provided wonderful entertainment for everyone.

Portage CBDD recently completed a replacement of the 30-year old therapeutic swimming pool at its *Happy Day School* and will shortly initiate a capital project for modification of the roof and additional office, restroom, and driver lounge space at its bus garage. Both the pool replacement and bus garage addition/renovation will be completed at approximately 30% below architect estimates. Freed up match, resulting from enhanced FMAP, was used for both of these capital projects.

Preble CBDD met with Joe Otte, assistant to Senator Faber in September. Pictured are (front l-r) Margie Reckers, Ellissa Baron; (middle) David Halsey; (back row) Otte and Ricky Birkhead. They explained to Mr. Otte the importance of working in the communities where they live and having their own home. They also discussed the importance of state funding for programs. Sherry Holsapple, recreational coordinator, accompanied the group.



Putnam CBDD recently held its annual open house. This year the open house coincided with the dedication of the complex to their long-time superintendent Terry Leopold.

Terry was superintendent in Putnam County for 31 years until his untimely death in 2008. Family and friends joined in the celebration of his life and dedication to his profession.

Richland CBDD recently hosted the president of the *Ohio Senate*. Senate President Bill Harris, whose 19th District includes Richland County, toured *Richland Newhope's* Early Childhood Center. President Harris visited with children in Appleseed Child Care and also discussed the state budget and other issues with *Newhope* representatives.

Ross CBDD helped *Frontier Community Services*, with headquarters in Ross County, celebrate its 30th anniversary this summer with an Open House. *Frontier Community Services* was established as a private not-for-profit corporation. The agency provides habilitative and support services to adults and children who are enrolled in the I.O. or Level One Waivers and Supported Living Alternatives. Their web site is www.frontiercommunity.com.



Scioto CBDD has received nearly \$75,000 in ARRA money. We are investing these funds in new playground equipment for our school program.

Shelby CBDD saw its Special Olympics softball team placed third in the state championships. This was the first time in five years the Shelby team earned a berth in the championship series. They all had a great time there.

Stark CBDD will have more than 500 runners competing in the 13th Annual Great Pumpkin Race on Saturday, October 30. All proceeds from the 1-mile walk/run and the 4-mile competitive run will benefit *Stark CBDD Special Olympics*. Register online at www.ohiochallengeseries.com. Stark DD artist Bambi Barnhardt designed this year's

Pumpkin Race logo.

Summit CBDD has a campaign that spotlights program participants. One parent wrote to their SSA, "Ben says that he is famous yet again." The Board is running a commercial that says "I am Summit DD." Ben's picture is one of many that flashes on the screen. He is the guy in the red striped shirt, smiling, sitting at his desk. Check out Ben's PSA commercial on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzVnvqo4LUE>

Trumbull CBDD is proud to announce the promotion of Lisa Casassa from her former position as an early intervention specialist to our Early Intervention Director. We had many candidates and Lisa proved to be an exceptional and obvious choice. We wish her well and all the best as she assumes her new responsibilities!

Tuscarawas CBDD benefited from the hard work of volunteers this summer. A group of teens from Gospel Road came to Tuscarawas County to do service projects. Gospel Road is a Catholic ministry made of up teens from around the state who travel to a central location each summer. The teens worked diligently on two projects for *Tuscarawas CBDD*. One group went to the home of a single mom whose daughter receives services from our *Starlight School*. The teens cleaned up, painted, and overall spruced up the home. The family couldn't be more pleased. Another group worked on new bocce courts for use by consumers on the campus of the *Starlight School and Workshop*. The photo shows the teens who worked on the bocce court, their team leader and Dave Wood and Angelo Pirolozzi, *Tuscarawas CBDD* maintenance staff who went above and beyond to make this a great experience for everyone!



Union CBDD is proud to announce *WorkNet's* participation in 'LIFE Works' (second year) and 'Bridges to Transition' (first year) as of October 1. Both programs are a part of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission's VRP3 Program. *WorkNet* is the community employment division of the *Union CBDD*.



Warren CBDD hosted a Family Fun Day at the Miracle League of Warren County and Greater Dayton Baseball Park. "Food and Fun" was the focus of the day, as everyone enjoyed lunch and participated in karaoke, face painting, the dunking booth, a juggler and magician as well as several games and events. In addition to spreading the word about the County Board and the services and supports it offers the residents of Warren County, the event showcased the Miracle League and the great opportunity it presents for children and adults with disabilities to be able to join a team and play baseball.

Wood CBDD saw Board members fulfill part of their required training hours where they received detailed information about transportation services. After the presentation, Board members were able to get real life experience on one of our new propane fueled buses! Attached are two photos. It was a great in-service!

Wyandot CBDD hosted *OACB* Positive Culture Initiative consultant Willie Jones as part of an all staff in-service before the school year began. This County Board also is using federal stimulus money to place SMART technology in all classrooms. Additionally, Art Connections, the art studio affiliated with *Angeline Industries Inc.*, hosted an exhibit and sale at the Wyandot County Fair.