

Pipeline Quarterly

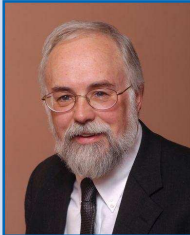
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Director's Update The Priority Work Plan

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In my last message to you in *Pipeline Quarterly*, I announced the DODD's development of a basic framework to impact specific priority issues. This 'Priority Work Plan' has helped us work more effectively with system stakeholders, to pursue a course of action that actively serves the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities as effectively as possible.

I am pleased to share with you an update on one of those defined areas: "Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers."

The biennial budget, passed in summer 2009, required DODD to submit a plan to the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) with recommendations to ensure the fiscal sustainability of DODD-administered HCBS waivers. We convened a workgroup of stakeholders representing individuals, families, providers and County Boards to help answer the question, (cont., p. 11)

"...Our error/return rate is zero.
That's right, zero."
p. 5

More than just words ...

Awareness ... Appreciation ... Participation



(left to right): **Brady Sellet**, representing Hamilton County and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, earns a Self-Advocate of the Year merit award at the Ohio Public Images Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon in March; **Joe Vance**, Allen County self-advocate speaks via adaptive technology at the Ohio Statehouse in March; **Lindsay Krieger**, employee of Chattanooga Bistro & Public House in Logan County, prepares a stack of menus for the lunch crowd. Each of these individuals represents the energy of self advocacy in action around the state.

Awareness ... Appreciation ... Participation. While gathering information and photos for inclusion in this issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* these three themes became apparent. The importance of fostering a greater *awareness* of peoples' needs to assure quality of life ... an *appreciation* for the many abilities and talents that individuals with developmental disabilities possess ... and, the opportunities that can provide people real *participation* in their communities. In this issue, articles from around the state illustrate an emerging collective strength within the developmental disabilities community, driven by individuals who want to realize their potential, *Just Like You*. This Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme is shown on the celebratory cake below, served at Mount Vernon Developmental Center.

From Developmental Disabilities Awareness Events across the state ...

"My life got much better with assistive technology."
"The most important thing is customer service!"
"PATHS helped me think about my job as a career."
"They like to be friends – at home and at school."
"Our families trust us."



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Scrapbook: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event Ohio Statehouse, March 4, 2010

The DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI) collaborated with the Ohio Association of County Boards serving people with developmental disabilities (OACB) along with other statewide organizations, to host the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, on March 4.

More than 350 participants gathered in the Statehouse Atrium to celebrate DD Awareness Month, and traveled from at least 29 counties, including large cities and small towns from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties. Self advocates, families, care givers, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community were joined by legislators and other governmental and elected officials to recognize and appreciate diversity, strength, and change.

Just Like You

Joe Vance, a self advocate from Allen County, took a place near the podium and told his story of shopping at Walmart in the Electronics Department, and experiencing some frustration as sales ladies approached him -- nervously wondering 'what they could do with him' -- since he was non-verbal and his communications device was something they did not understand. He said,

"They swarmed around me, wondering 'what to do with me,' when finally my mom returned to the Electronics Department to finish our shopping. She explained to them that there was 'nothing they had to do with me' -- just let me shop."

He continued, "After another visit or two to that same store, the Walmart staff grew more comfortable with me and my communications device, and shopping was a much more pleasant experience for me, and for them.

Vance concluded with a smile, "Fact is, I'd rather that the sales ladies were swarming around me because they think I'm hot! -- Not because they don't know what to do with me!"

And so Joe Vance easily illustrates that people with disabilities enjoy a little fun, too ... *Just Like You*.
(cont. on p. 3)



Top Right and Inset: Joe Vance says, **"My life got much better with assistive technology."**

"When I created the Allen County Board's new logo I wanted to express a sense of community."
– Bonnie Boutin, Allen County self-advocate.

"As I travel around the state and talk with people about their communities, it is exciting to me to see that your expectations are greater than ever, and that working in the community is a real option."

– DODD Director John Martin



Medina County weighs in at the Statehouse with a great attitude and customized posters proclaiming the Awareness Month theme.

Statewide Awareness Event Reinforces Individual Spirit (cont. from p. 2)



Hands begin to be raised and applause builds, recognizing attendees who participated in the two-year process of enacting legislation that eliminated the words 'mental retardation' from the name of the state department and County Boards serving Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The statewide 'Just Like You' DD Awareness Month theme was apparent both in clothing choices – and in spirit – at the Kickoff Event. The theme reinforces the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just like everyone else does.

And elsewhere around the state ...



In Licking County – This group definitely depicts the visibly constant motion of energetic youth! Licking County's 'Team Up!' family photo demonstrates real life for this group of sports enthusiasts at their County Board's annual Awareness Luncheon. Children with and without disabilities play on the 'Team Up' baseball team.



The work of **Wally Smith**, an artist affiliated with New Avenues to Independence (Cleveland) was featured on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov.



Brady Sellet earned a Self Advocate of the Year merit award at the Ohio Public Images Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon in March. Also earning Self Advocate awards were Walter Mayhew, from Cuyahoga County, and the PersonnelPlus Advisory & Advocacy Council and DD Council Center on Public Policy, representing Athens County.

In Logan County

Employer Serves Up Lots of Great Food ... and Work Opportunities

Logan County boasts a unique restaurant, *Chattan Loch Bistro & Public House*, with an even more unique philosophy. The business name comes from owner Tracy McPherson's Scottish clan name, and the restaurant's menu, staffing, and decor each are geared toward providing customers with a first-rate dining experience.

Or, as one employee, Bryan, describes it, "It's a great place to eat ... and work." Co-workers Danielle and Kate agree, and are proud to note that they each have their specialty in terms of skills that they bring to their jobs. (cont. on p. 5)



Chattin' about Chattan -- (l. to r.) Bryan, Danielle, Kate, and Tonya take a moment to discuss the employment opportunities at Chattan Loch Bistro & Public House. The restaurant, located in downtown Bellefontaine, currently employs individuals with and without developmental disabilities. Bryan, Danielle, and Kate are among approximately 15 of the restaurant employees who receive developmental disabilities services. Tonya Reed is Director of Employment Services.

"I've trained real hard to improve my service, and I think I'm ready to move up to the next level."
- Danielle

Excerpt from the Chattan Loch Mission Statement, printed on the menu ...

Chattan Loch is dedicated to providing guests with the highest quality of service and value ... We commit to doing this through active community involvement, environmental protection, local commodity purchasing, and the employment and development of people with developmental disabilities in a work environment of trust, loyalty, and encouragement.



Left: Lindsey uses a unique computer program to track table reservations and locations, and especially likes a busy lunch and friendly customers. **Right:** Wait staff have the option to use a handheld ordering device that tracks the availability of menu items, as well as orders by table. Owner, Tracy McPherson researched a number of 'electronic assists' to help staff get the job done with the tools they need. It's working – "The most important thing is good customer service," is echoed by Chattan Loch staff from the front door, all the way into the kitchen.

Chattan Loch (cont. from p. 4)

Chattan Loch has provided opportunities to more than 15 individuals with developmental disabilities, and at any given time, several benefit from accommodations that are in place to help make their employment more successful, including handheld devices to assist servers in taking orders, carts to deliver food to the tables, and on-site job coaching to assist in learning the variety of job duties in a food service/dining environment.

Bryan notes that although he enjoys being a 'food runner' now,

"I'd like to try cooking. I think I could do it if I work at it. Tracy might let me try it."

Danielle likes to work weekends and is a little nervous about getting everything right all the time -- sharing,

"We have to remember to always serve from the right, and its confusing when you put tables together or move chairs around."

Bryan chimes in, "Everyone should get what they ordered without a mistake."

Tracy McPherson has made sure that staff understand the customer focus, and it appears there has been good success in that area.

"I've been very pleased with how all of our staff work together, and with how our customers interact with our employees. That's a win-win right there." - Tracy McPherson, Owner, Chattan Loch

The Logan County Board of DD has some pretty amazing numbers when it comes to contract work!



< Howard demonstrates his quality assurance technique.



^ Joe holds one of some 600,000 transmission caps recently cleaned for recycling.

Leaving Chattan Loch restaurant, Joe Mancuso, Logan County Board Superintendent, is quick to invite *Pipeline* to take a look at other local employment settings, including contract work. He notes, "Honda has been a great friend to us over the years in terms of supplying jobs we can do here. We respond by putting out some pretty amazing numbers." An example?

"Out of 342,000 Honda SUV window locks assembled and completed by our folks, our error/return rate is zero. That's right, zero."

- Logan County DD Superintendent Joe Mancuso

She also makes sure to point out that pulling together all the elements that make for a successful restaurant business with great employees doesn't happen without a lot of collaboration -- noting,

" We have worked closely with several local agencies to provide the supports necessary, including Logan County DD and their employment affiliate RTC Employment Services; the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; and, Job and Family Services." She adds,

"Each agency has played an important part in supplying qualified employees, purchasing adaptive equipment, and providing needed job training and transportation."

Tracy notes that her daughter, Leah, who has a developmental disability and also works at Chattan Loch, is one of the reasons she so strongly believes in and practices inclusion in the workplace, but more than that, Tracy explains,

"Making the most of everyone's abilities ... enjoying a good day's work ... having a good meal ... it can all come together if you just work at it."

"Just work at it?" Sounds like Bryan might get that chance to try cooking.



- Declarations of Independence -

We worked very hard to be sure that the renovations and modifications that were done to our home were not industrial-looking ... didn't scream 'wheelchair user' ... and blended in to our home and neighborhood. Our daughter, Allison, had lots of input into everything we did."

- Debbie Komaromy

Entering the Komaromy home in Westerville, one immediately sees that the family has employed a number of accessibility features to accommodate daughter Allison's needs, and yet it still feels comfortable -- like home! The Komaromy family, and many others throughout Central Ohio, has incorporated these home accommodations with the help of Creative Housing.

Since 1992, Creative Housing has contributed to the lives of thousands of people in the Columbus area, blending construction know-how with accessible design, and generally improving residential options available to people with developmental disabilities. Now, the organization has opened more doors to this population with Creative Renovations, an outgrowth of the founding company.

The new division takes Creative Housing's nearly 20 years of experience, and 400-home portfolio, (www.CreativeHousing.org), and targets home owners who have accessibility renovations in mind.

Patrick Rafter, CEO and President of Creative Renovations and Creative Housing, comments,

"Everyone has the same basic needs for housing. All of us want to enjoy a certain quality of life, which is largely dictated by having a safe place that you call home – a home that provides independence, dignity, and identity. It's who we are. We all deserve that."

Retro-fitting an existing home for accessibility renovations requires specific expertise, and as a Certified Aging in Place Specialist, Certified Green

Professional, and Licensed General Contractor, the organization is positioned to make the most of an existing home's opportunities while being economically and ecologically responsible.



Allison gets in the swing of things with therapist, Maria, who works with her each week on strength and coordination-building activities in the Komaromy's therapy room.

During the past two years, Creative Housing has completed an estimated \$2 million in accessibility renovations to its own properties, and homes owned by others. Increasingly, the old thinking along the lines of 'handicap accessibility,' is giving way to a more inclusive 'universal design' concept benefiting ... everyone.

Jed Morison, Superintendent, Franklin County Board of DD, comments, "Creative Housing historically has done a terrific job for us -- for individuals who have disabilities -- in helping them to maintain independence in their homes. We look forward to additional individualized projects that will help the people we serve."

The Komaromy family is served by FCBD, so we return there, now, to look around ...

Back to Westerville

In Westerville, The Komaromy Family has a son, a daughter, a dog -- and a home with a lot of accessibility features. "In fact," says Debbie Komaromy, "I have to tell you that one day I actually thought we had too much accessibility! Allison, our

(cont. on p. 7)

Declarations of Independence – cont. from p. 6

daughter, left the house one day in her electric wheelchair -- just as smooth as could be -- and went around the block just enjoying a nice day outside. I was frantic when I saw she was gone, but we did laugh later, knowing that it was a freedom she dearly enjoyed. She just needs to let me know in advance when she would like to cruise around the neighborhood!"

In addition to a wide and accessible clearance at the front door of their home, the Komaromy's accessibility improvements via Creative Renovations have included a sliding glass door replacement, widened doorways, a gradual-grade driveway and ramp area, and improvements to both bathrooms, including an adjustable and removable shower head and flush-to-the-floor shower stall entry.

Debbie notes that sturdy shower and bath chairs were purchased with the help of insurance, and



Allison maneuvers easily in the accessible bathroom with its smooth, flush threshold, and enjoys the wheelchair-friendly sink configuration. The former vanity sink was located along the left wall and was removed. Right, a 'pocket door' provides privacy for the therapy room (see photo, p. 6) without getting in the way. Princess, wearing the hot pink reflector jacket, stands ready to assist Allison.

"... We did laugh later, knowing it was a freedom she dearly enjoyed."

- Debbie Komaromy on the subject of Allison's un-announced 'cruise around the block.'

"Yes, I did!"

- Allison Komaromy, when asked if she enjoyed her 'cruise.'

have helped Allison to gain a lot more independence in her own personal care. She comments, "The safety aspects involved with this greater independence also need to be taken into consideration, and we have done so as we planned these things."

Allison shows visitors her bedroom, and assistance dog, Princess, approves mightily of the bed, hopping up to take a breather. Princess was a Christmas gift, and is a relatively new member of the family. She especially likes to go to the mall and shop with Allison -- a shopping buddy with a built-in safety feature -- a pretty strong bark!

Wrapping up the visit to Westerville, the Komaromy's add that funding for Allison's waiver services through FCBDD is a godsend ... that Maria, the therapist, is a gem ... and that Allison's health is a lot better now that she can get around more easily and keep moving. Says Debbie, "We're blessed."



For more info: www.CreativeHousing.org and <http://www.fcbdd.org/>

Power to the Pooch!

Creative Renovations recently installed a power door opener for a customer to activate from her wheelchair. However, her service dog was unable to get out of the apartment on her own. Creative Housing staff worked to attach a sensor to the dog's collar, so that when the dog approaches the door it unlocks, opens, and closes behind her.

Happy dog. Happy customer. For specific information about accessibility renovations visit the website at www.accessibilityrenovations.org.

"Two years ago, we began to notice a significant demand for accessibility renovations for anyone with disabilities who wants to live the most barrier-free life possible. Creative Renovations is our response to that tremendous demand."

- Patrick Rafter, CEO, Creative Housing, Creative Renovations

Direct Support Staff Plow Through a Winter to Remember!

- A few of many exemplary 'snow stories' from around the state -

Carla Hugenberg has worked as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at LADD Inc. (Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled), based in Cincinnati, since June 2004.

According to Amber McNaughton, program coordinator at LADD, Carla routinely goes above and beyond her job responsibilities in many areas throughout the year, and winter weather is no deterrent!

Amber relates this story ... "During a particularly heavy snowfall this winter, Carla was called upon to work on her days off to ensure coverage needs were met due to day programs being closed and staff calling off.

Carla lives relatively far away from the work site, but was asked to work because of her history of lending a helping hand. She gladly accepted and braved the ice and snow to cover the shift openings. She even contacted her supervisor to let her know that she had packed a bag with overnight/essential items, in case there were more staff call-off's and coverage was needed longer than expected. *What a team player!* "



Carla and Tim – A good game of UNO sure beats snow shoveling any day!

" Carla lives relatively far away from the worksite, but was asked to work because of her history of lending a helping hand."



And, Carla did not use bad weather as an excuse to stay warm inside the house, either. During the evenings, she was busy outside, shoveling the driveway, porch, and walkway, and laying down salt to ensure the gentlemen living there would not have difficulty leaving the house, if needed.

LADD staff and residents also report that Carla found fun things to do with the residents, like playing card games, to help alleviate the boredom that often comes from being 'snowed in'.

Amber McNaughten adds, "The individuals Carla works with know they can count on her, and always look forward to her being there working with them. This year's winter snowstorms simply provided another example of how she goes above and beyond on a regular basis."

Thanks to the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) for this motivational story.



Direct Support Staff Clear Personal PATHS to Success

Professional Advancement Through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) is a key curriculum to building career paths for direct support professionals (DSPs) in Ohio through on-the-job, classroom, and skill training. Ohio PATHS courses are carefully designed to help assure a well-respected career path for DSPs in the developmental disabilities community. At right, representatives from PATHS were a part of the DD Awareness Month Kickoff Program at the Ohio Statehouse in March (see pp. 2-3).

For more info: Amy Gerowitz, 513-871-0835 agerowitz@outlooks.us



PATHS participants, joined by PATHS supporters, Mark Davis (left, back row) OPRA, and John Martin (far right) DODD.

Services and Support Continue Despite 'Level 3' Snow Emergency

In February, both Champaign and Logan Counties were blanketed with huge snowfalls that seemed to go on and on for days. Both counties were issued Level 2 and then Level 3 emergencies by local authorities as the snowfall worsened, thereby mandating most motorists to stay off the roads.

Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) is considered a *necessary healthcare provider* by law enforcement agencies, therefore essential personnel have clearance to be on the roads to serve people during even the worst Ohio weather. That does not mean, however, that direct care employees won't be questioned along the way!

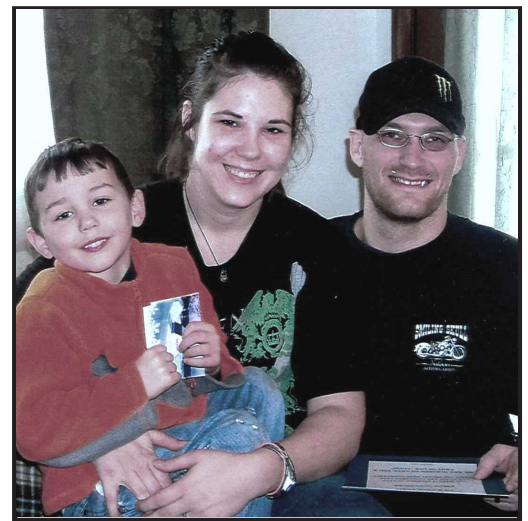
In Urbana, Sharon Kline, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) who had worked until midnight the night before, traveled across town at 8:00 a.m. to relieve staff at the Hill Street home where she is assigned. She was stopped along the way by the police and questioned as to why she was driving under Level 3 emergency conditions. When she identified her purpose, she was cleared to drive to her destination -- but then got stuck in front of the residence and could not pull into the driveway!



Also in Urbana, at the beginning of the snow storm, Adult Day Services closed early. This meant that program participants faced the likelihood of going home to unstaffed locations. DSP Helen Hull packed her bags and arrived early at her assigned Urbana group home location to be on-hand when residents arrived home. She subsequently stayed all night so she could continue on her shift the next morning.

In Logan County, due to weather conditions, DSP Kris Dwyer spent an unscheduled Friday night with residents at the Spring Avenue home in Bellefontaine. The next morning, Logan County was elevated to a Level 3 emergency. Living three miles outside of Bellefontaine, Kris somehow managed to return home to retrieve some clothing and her dog. She then returned to the group home to work another twelve hours on her weekend off!

Also in Logan County is Mandy Alexander, who works third shift at the Spring Avenue group residence. Her husband, Bryce, volunteered his time to help transport his wife's co-workers back and forth from both the Spring and Richard Avenue homes using his four-wheel drive truck. Bryce, who is paraplegic, managed this during very difficult weather conditions and was very careful while expertly operating his truck with hand controls.



Bryce Alexander (right) recently was honored by Logan County staff for his volunteer efforts in transporting employees to residents' homes during recent snow storms. Bryce is pictured with wife Mandy, a Direct Support Professional for CRSI, and their son.

Bryce Alexander recently was honored by CRSI staff for his volunteer efforts, providing transportation for staff using his four-wheel drive truck, which he operates expertly with hand controls. Staff felt that his efforts were nothing less than heroic.

According to CRSI's Linda Anderson Smith, "Our direct care workforce is an amazing group of dedicated providers who will do most anything to protect the safety of the people we serve, including volunteering to serve unscheduled all-nighters or give up week-end time." She adds, "There are many similar examples just like these -- too numerous to mention -- but equally deserving of praise and recognition."



Acknowledgements to Linda Anderson Smith, CRSI, for information contained herein. More about CRSI visit <http://www.crsi-oh.com/>

At Gallipolis Developmental Center, Gallia County ...

There's A Whole Lotta Splashin' Goin' On in Southeast Ohio

One doesn't generally think of Gallipolis, Ohio, as a haven for water enthusiasts, but, in fact, there is a "whole lotta splashin' goin' on" at the Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) -- and it's supervised by professionals in aquatic therapy. GDC provides many professional therapeutic services for residents, including physical therapy on land and in water (aquatic therapy.)

Of the 212 GDC residents, nearly 30 receive aquatic therapy. According to Michelle Blaine, Physical Therapist, "We generally provide three to four days of aquatic therapy each week, with individualized treatment of 45-60 minutes for one or two patients at a time. We are so fortunate to have the use of a pool within our campus." She continues,

"Aquatic therapy, performed in 92 degree water, is beneficial for people who have osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, cerebral palsy, scoliosis, autism, sensory integration disorders, degenerative joint disease, osteoporosis, and traumatic brain injury ... to name just a few conditions benefiting from it."

Physical manifestations from the diagnoses seen at GDC include difficulty walking, spasticity, weakness, spine



Getting Stronger – (Top, left to right) Pat Steger, Physical Therapy aide, with resident Kristy Ruggles; Pam Barr Coughenour, PT aide, with resident Missy Epling; and Michelle Blaine, P.T. (Lower): Missy Epling and Michelle Blaine using equipment for resistance training.

"GDC is a great resource to this community, and the collaborative use of the pool is just one example of this."

DODD Director John Martin, visiting GDC

and joint pain, muscle spasms, swelling, and contractures. Poor circulation, endurance, and/or coordination also are issues. Therapy may consist of stretching a person's joints and trunk, strengthening muscles with exercise, walking or weight-bearing by standing, learning how to swim, learning breath control, and coordination games and activities. Blaine further explains,

"The hydrostatic pressure of water therapy is so beneficial. It promotes body awareness and self-controlled movements; decreases swelling in extremities; increases circulation; and, provides gentle and warm pressure to painful joints. Also, increased socialization with peers and staff is a benefit that shouldn't be overlooked."

It also has been shown that individuals with developmental disabilities such as sensory integration issues, and secondary depression and withdrawal, often experience positive results via aquatic therapy, including increased communication, decreased behavioral issues, increased tolerance to holding, more controlled body movements, and improved relaxation.

Blaine notes, "The freedom our residents experience when they can explore in a warm water environment is priceless. When you realize that many of them spend a lot of time in a wheelchair or bed, and require help with daily activities, you can understand why they love getting in the water."

The pool seems to be in continual use. About a year ago GDC also welcomed their next door neighbors -- the children who attend Guiding Hands School at the Early Childhood and Family Center on the GDC campus. This arrangement has yielded a lot of very small ... and very wet ... thumbs up!

Note: Of DODD's ten Developmental Centers, Southwest and Tiffin do not have pools. The others report a combination of therapeutic and general use, depending on water temperature.

More info: michelle.blaine@dodd.ohio.gov

TAC Enterprises Hits the Open Road

Open Road Companion Travel Company is Clark County's answer to wanderlust -- that simply overwhelming longing to travel.

Operated by TAC Enterprises (Springfield, OH), an accredited, non-profit organization with more than 45 years of experience in providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities, *Open Road Companion* grew out of a single trip to Disney World. In planning that trip a while back and trying to provide the best possible travel experience, TAC staff did plenty of research. They found that large group tours usually involved travelers being hurriedly shuttled from place to place, and often involved fairly average accommodations.

TAC's Lisa Bailey, explains, "We decided that we wanted our trip experience to be different, and then it just grew from there. We committed to providing small group vacations (no more than 8-12 travelers) with a low staff-to-traveler ratio (1 to 3, or 1 to 4.)"

"I'm so excited I could cry!" -
Open Road traveler, Howard Pullen, on the way to the airport



At Disney World – Howard Pullen (right) and Leroy Wildman met an enthusiastic Woody Woodpecker.

She adds,

"Now, we pride ourselves on providing the nicest affordable accommodations and a variety of activities on each trip that will satisfy even the pickiest traveler!"

Open Road Companion plans a trip every month, (persons must be at least 18 years old and family members/caregivers also may participate) and they're all over the United States. Says Bailey, "Looking for the best deals and planning with the folks we serve helps us make memories for a lifetime." The December 2009 - June 2010 calendar includes Christmas in Gatlinburg, Washington D.C. in May, and lots of cool venues in between. By now, you're probably wondering about the details -- who's eligible to travel, payment plans and such. Lisa's quick to respond, so contact her at lbailey@tacind.com; (937) 207-1915.

And now, look -- The Open Road is beckoning!

Director's Update The Priority Work Plan

(cont. from cover)

"Is our waiver well managed?" After examining facts and figures from across Ohio and the nation, we found that we liked where we were positioned, and that -- overall -- our waiver program was fairly well managed.

Recommendations came from the workgroup that focus on keeping costs manageable, promoting collaboration, and ensuring that efficiencies are pursued whenever possible.

This is just one example of work we are accomplishing collaboratively with our stakeholders, to better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Whether it's upgrading our technology infrastructure to better serve County Boards and providers, or promoting Family Chat - a new electronic tool to let families speak to other families - DODD is leading several initiatives to accomplish our mission and stay true to our goals.

I encourage you to visit our Web site at dodd.ohio.gov to see more information about these efforts, as well as work in other priority areas. Please look under the heading "DODD Priority Work" on the homepage.

-Respectfully, John Martin

Coshocton County Venture Crew Builds Membership



Coshocton County's Venture Crew membership is definitely a team-building experience enjoyed by all.

The Summer 2008 *Pipeline Quarterly* introduced the Coshocton County Venture Crew experience, which began in summer 2007 when Coshocton County first collaborated with the local Boy Scouts.

While making camps more accessible to children and adults with disabilities, the Coshocton County Board of DD and the Muskingum Valley Council Boy Scouts created what became an exemplary pilot program for the Boy Scouts of America, as 25 participants in CCBDD services became the original members of the Venture Crew. They attended Boy Scout camp for several days, with some staying overnight. Campers swam in a fully accessible pool, and enjoyed all the traditional camping activities that are the heart of Scouting.

The good news is that this Venture Crew is only getting better -- and bigger! Now, some three years later, Venture Crew #435 boasts 38 members and 13 advisors. They've participated in flag raising ceremonies, hosted meetings, hiked, sold popcorn, bowled -- and of course, camped. What's next? Crew #435 is working on the 2010 Centennial Quality Commitment and Achievement Award. Kudos to all involved, and for more information on this exciting community-involving activity, contact CCBDD's Diane Williams, at dwilliams@coshdd.org.

The Next Issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* will publish in June.

Ideas for future issues of *Pipeline Quarterly* may be submitted to Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. Past issues of *Pipeline Quarterly* and the regular twice-monthly *Pipeline* are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Pipeline Quarterly

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We thank everyone who has allowed us to speak with them for this issue, and all who have contributed to its preparation.

Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are always welcomed!

Contact

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Visit us at

www.dodd.ohio.gov



DD Awareness Events bring out the best in people!