

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

September 12, 2014

The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

CCC Officially Starts at OOD



Director Miller welcomes charities and OOD employees to the Combined Charitable Campaign Kick-Off.



The Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band performed to kick-off OOD's Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) events.

OOD officially kicked off the 2014 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) in style this week by hosting a variety of charities, offering popcorn, a bake sale, and performance by The Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band.

The CCC kick-off is always one of my favorite events each year. I was happy to be able to offer my perspective on the importance of giving back and making a connection with a charity that shares your values and passions. It was great to hear the personal stories of others about why they choose to contribute to CCC.

OOD's fundraising goal for this year is \$93,750 and 309 payroll deduction pledges. The CCC is an effort to consolidate many charitable campaigns into one. State of Ohio employees are asked for voluntary donations through payroll deductions or one-time gifts. One campaign at the workplace results in minimal workplace disruptions and lower administrative costs.

More than the numbers, however, CCC is about bringing positive change to those in need. CCC and the charities represented touch nearly every family at some point in time. From helping to fund cancer research to environmental issues, there is a charity represented

that may appeal to you. Staff can go to www.ohio.gov/ohioccc to make online ePledges or access and search many charitable causes to find out more information.

If you have any questions about this year's CCC, please contact either of OOD's Co-Chairs: Andrew Meador, Disability Claims Adjudicator (andrew.meador@ssa.gov, 614-438-1237) or Brad Reynolds, DDD Communications Manager (brad.reynolds@ssa.gov, 614-438-1499).



Larry Jones, Representative from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) speaks on behalf of the federations.

DDD Unit Receives Partner of the Year Award



Congratulations to the DDD staff of Unit 7D for receiving the Partner of the Year Award!

This week the Ohio Benefit Bank recognized Unit 7D of the Division of Disability Determination (DDD) as the 2014 Public Partner of the Year. Unit 7D focuses on at-risk transient populations such as homeless individuals, prison populations, and special projects.

The Ohio Benefit Bank is a program of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger. It has helped hundreds of thousands of Ohioans access life-changing programs and resources. The Ohio Benefit Bank has programs that assist Ohioans with food and nutrition, healthcare assistance, taxes, student aid and many other social services.

We are very proud of the work that is done by DDD staff. Congratulations to DDD and to Unit 7D on receiving this accolade!

Commissioner Brown Reappointed



Commissioner Jermaine Brown was reappointed as Commissioner to OOD this week for a seven-year term that will conclude in September 2021. Commissioner Brown first joined the OOD in August of 2013. Brown has previously served as Chair of the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) and

has a long history of advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities. I look forward to continuing to work with Commissioner Brown, and the other commissioners, in serving individuals with disabilities across Ohio.

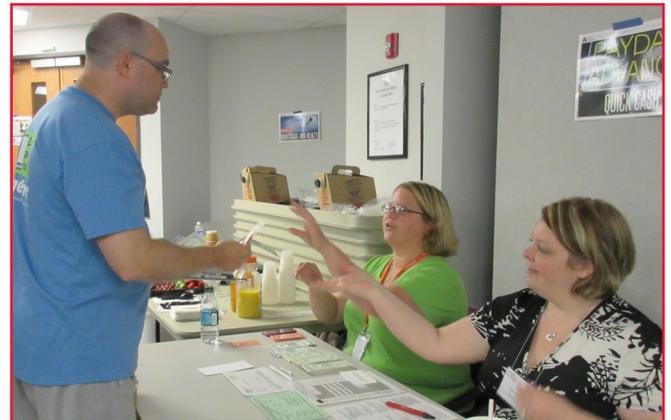
United Way Poverty Simulation held at OOD



Employees from various companies had to work together within a family unit.

Jaime McVay and Amy Coverdale, Professional Relations Officers at the Division of Disability Determination (DDD), facilitated a poverty simulation for the United Way of Delaware County this week at Central Office.

The poverty simulation was conducted in conjunction with the United Way Community Care Day. United Way had over 60 employees participate from companies such as Nationwide, Emerson, and Rockwell.



Employees had to buy transportation passes if they didn't have a car.

The goal of poverty simulation is to help each participant gain a better understanding of the challenges associated with living in poverty. It requires each participant to assume a role in a family unit that could consist of two parents or one, siblings, and/or grandparents. The family units were also required to complete a month-long simulation where they faced financial situations and life hardships.

Despite financial issues and hardships, participants were required to pay all bills to avoid evictions or

