

# WEEKLY FOCUS

**Ohio** | Opportunities for Ohioans  
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

November 21, 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.*

## Building a Culture of Excellence

As I have noted many times, I firmly believe that staff peer recognition is special and an important part of building a culture of excellence. As part of continuing to foster that culture here at OOD, we launched the Excellence in Service Awards.

I was pleased to participate in this year's award ceremony earlier this week. The ceremony allows us to take a moment to recognize and reward individuals who strive for and achieve the highest standards in customer service and job performance. We all strive for excellence and these team members have truly set the standard.

Thanks again for the work of the selection committee who met to review all of the nominations and to everyone that nominated an OOD employee for this recognition.

## OOD Staff Getting Lean



*(From left to right): Information Technology Manager Kristin Bosley, Program Administrator Cynthia Lee, Vocational Rehabilitation Manager Janet Cool, Performance & Innovation Deputy Director Raivo Murnieks, and Vocational Rehabilitation Manager (VR Contracts) April Bagley. [Not Pictured: Network Services Supervisor Andrew Ewing].*

I would also like to congratulate staff members who have received their Yellow Belts as part of the Lean Ohio initiative. We have incorporated Lean into OOD in order to increase customer satisfaction while improving our processes and our performance. This is another building block in developing a culture of excellence. Congratulations to April Bagley, Vocational

Rehabilitation Manager (VR Contracts); Andrew Ewing, Network Services Supervisor (IT); Janet Cool, Vocational Rehabilitation Manager (Fiscal); and Kristin Bosley, Information Technology Manager (IT) for obtaining their Yellow Belts.



*Disability Claims Adjudicator Brooke Fishman and Director Kevin Miller.*

## Excellence in Service Award Winners:

Brooke Fishman, Disability Claims Adjudicator 2 (DDD)

James Minutilli, Vocational Rehabilitation Caseload Assistant (Dayton Office, BVR)

Katie Scheetz, Vocational Rehabilitation Program Specialist (BSVI)

Chris Czarnecki, Information Technologist 3 (IT)

Bruce Willis, Database Administration Specialist 3 (IT)

### Selection Committee:

Zandia Galvin, VR Program Specialist; Lisa Johnstone, VR Supervisor; Beth DeMarco, VR Supervisor; Karla Willard, Disability Claims Adjudicator 3; Cyndal Glass, Disability Claims Adjudicator 2 (past recipient); Todd Gould, Disability Claims Adjudicator 3; Christy Hauck, Program Administrator 3; and Jenny Jones, Finance Manager.

# CONGRATULATIONS

to all the Excellence in Service Award Recipients!



*(From left to right): Performance & Innovation Deputy Director Raivo Murnieks, Database Administration Specialist 3 Bruce Willis, and Director Kevin Miller.*



*(From left to right): BSVI Deputy Director Mindy Duncan, Vocational Rehabilitation Program Specialist Katie Scheetz, and Director Kevin Miller.*



*(From left to right): IT Manager Kristin Bosley, Information Technologist 3 Chris Czarnecki, and Director Kevin Miller.*



*(From left to right): VR Area Manager Mark Fay, Vocational Rehabilitation Caseload Assistant (Dayton Office) James Minutilli, VR Supervisor Rita Weber, BVR Deputy Director Susan Pugh, and Director Kevin Miller.*

## Excellent Job Everyone!

## OSU Nisonger Center Hosts Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity



*The Toy and Technology Library allows Ohio children with disabilities build self esteem through computer technology, adapted toys, and interactive play.*

Yesterday, I had the great opportunity to attend and speak at the Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity event at The Ohio State University's (OSU) Nisonger Center. Dr. Marc J. Tassé, Director of the OSU Nisonger Center provided a warm welcome and brief overview of the services and programs they provide to individuals with disabilities. I was excited to highlight the services and work we do at OOD, but also learn more about the great services they offer as well.

The Ohio State University (OSU) Nisonger Center has been in existence since 1966, among the first group of federally funded University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The Center is known for its interdisciplinary research, education and clinical services within intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities.

At the event, faculty provided an overview of three specific programs: the TOPS Program, Aspirations, and Behavior Support Services. The event focused on improving the health of individuals with disabilities and increasing the capacity of healthcare providers to provide quality health to patients with disabilities.

While I was listening to various presentations, I was intrigued with the Toy and Technology Library, which is a non-profit resource for Ohio's children with disabilities, their families and professionals who serve them. This program allows children to build self-esteem through computer technology, adapted toys, and interactive play. The Nisonger Center provides a wide range of developmentally appropriate and switch-activated toys so that all children, regardless of physical or

sensory ability, may play, control their environment, communicate and develop skills. The program offers over 1,500 developmental, adapted toys, switches, and low-tech communication devices to be borrowed by families for 30-day loan periods.



*The Toy and Technology Library is supported by the OSU Nisonger Center and provides over 1,500 toys to families for 30-day loan periods.*

I would like to thank Dr. Marc J. Tassé and his faculty for hosting and inviting me to speak at such an amazing event. I appreciate the time, research and hard work happening at The Nisonger Center every day, to better serve individuals with disabilities and their families.

### CAC Meeting

The Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Saturday, November 20 in Columbus. CAC members volunteer their time and provide input to the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. At this past Saturday's meeting, six members' terms ended and they received a Certificate of Appreciation. I want to thank M. Vanessa Eubanks, Stephen Thomas, Greg Powers, Darlene Clinkscale, Randall Jones, and Donzel Shepherd for their commitment and dedication to the State CAC and to OOD's VR program.

# Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

I hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful time with family and friends. I am sure, like me, you have a great deal to be thankful for, and we should not forget to take time over the holidays to be grateful for all that we have been given.

There will be no *Weekly Focus* next week (Friday, November 28) so look for the next issue on Friday December 5.



## Individuals in Job Ready Status by County



**Total Statewide:**  
**3,664**

\* Job Ready Status Individuals have received Vocational Rehabilitation services and are ready and seeking employment.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1474.

Produced by the Office of Communications, November 21, 2014.

