

# WEEKLY FOCUS

**Ohio** | Opportunities for Ohioans  
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

January 9, 2015

*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.*

## Looking Back on What We Accomplished in 2014

I hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season to bring 2014 to a close and kick-off 2015. As we start gaining momentum in the new year, I wanted to take just a moment to reflect on what we were able to accomplish in 2014.

As I noted in the last *Weekly Focus* (December 19, 2014), OOD has made significant progress this past year.

### Elimination of the waiting list:

OOD eliminated the waiting list for individuals with significant disabilities (SD) on June 9, 2014 allowing SD individuals to be immediately eligible for service and positioning individuals with disabilities (D) to be served for the first time since 1991.

### DisAbility Job Fairs:



*The first DisAbility Job Fair was held in Columbus, OH at the Aladdin Shrine Center.*

OOD held four job fair events (Columbus, Independence, Toledo and Portsmouth) featuring training for employers seeking to integrate individuals with disabilities into their workforce. The job fairs assisted individuals with disabilities seeking employment and connected more than 500 individuals with disabilities with up to 50 companies.

### Increased Job Placements:

OOD successfully placed 4,580 individuals into employment in FFY 2014. **This represents a 19% increase**

**from the previous year.** Job placements have increased each year since 2011.

### Workforce Integration Task Force (WIT):



*Front row from left to right: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director, Cynthia Dungey, Deborah Kendrick, Director Miller, and Sherill K. Williams. Back row from left to right: John Moore, Arlon Nash, and Steve Brubaker. [Not Pictured: Jamie McCartney and J.W. Smith]*

Co-chaired by myself and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Cynthia Dungey, the Workforce Integration Task Force (WIT) was charged with gathering data and making recommendations on how to effectively integrate individuals who are deaf, blind and deafblind into Ohio's workforce. With assistance from OOD and ODJFS staff, the WIT gathered data (including surveys and focus groups), organized and conducted meetings, drafted recommendations and generated an excellent final report that was submitted to the Governor's office before the statutory deadline on January 1, 2015.

### Lean Processes and Front Door Service:

Using Lean processes and help from LeanOhio, OOD made significant improvements to our front door customer service. These improvements reduced average days from application to eligibility from 69 in February 2013 to 37 in October 2014, reduced average days from referral to eligibility from 82 in February 2013 to 48 in October 2014, and reduced pending applications by 66%.

Our agency is building Lean into our culture. Currently, LeanOhio has trained one black belt, 23 green belts, and five yellow belts for OOD. In addition, all senior leadership have received white belt training and hundreds of staff members have participated in Lean projects, been exposed to Lean concepts and contributed to process improvements.

### The Opportunity Awards:

As noted in the last *Weekly Focus*, 2014 saw the creation of our annual business recognition program, the Opportunity Awards. These awards recognize Ohio companies committed to providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in a more formal way every year. Photos of businesses receiving the Creating Opportunity Award are below. We have scheduled the presentations for the Champion of Opportunity Award recipients, so look for more information and photos of those events in the coming weeks. For more information on the Opportunity Awards, please visit: <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Employers/Opportunity-Awards>

## Creating Opportunity Certificate Presentations



From left to right: OOD Business Systems Analyst Cynthia Crews, Advantage Sales & Marketing Division President John Mazza, and OOD Southwest Area Manager Mark Fay.



From left to right: OOD Business Systems Analyst Cynthia Crews, Honda East Power Equipment General Manager Neil Bambrick, and OOD VR Supervisor Kim Colyer.



From left to right: Steve's Market & Deli/Simply Foods, LLC President Steve Upchurch, OOD Business Systems Analyst Cynthia Crews, and Steve's Market & Deli/Simply Foods, LLC Operations Manager Matt Upchurch.



OOD Business Systems Analyst Kelly Jordan and Travel Centers of America (Hebron, OH) Restaurant Manager Matthew Moeller.



From left to right: OOD Southeast Area Manager Bob Nicholson, Best Western Plus University Inn Housekeeping Manager Sherri Thompson, Best Western Plus University Inn General Manager Cara Rose, OOD VR Counselor Todd Wellman, OOD VR Supervisor Marc Manheim, and OOD Business Systems Analyst Kelly Jordan.



Scioto Services Corp. Recruiter/Office Administrator Maricela Lorenzo and OOD Business Systems Analyst Cynthia Crews.

### Individuals in Job Ready Status by County



**Total Statewide:**  
**3,550**

\* 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, January 9, 2015.

