

WEEKLY FOCUS

September 13, 2013

On October 1, 2013, our agency name changes to...

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Ohio | Rehabilitation Services Commission

Kevin L. Miller
Executive Director

The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

RSC Holds Town Hall Meeting in Toledo; Others Are Scheduled

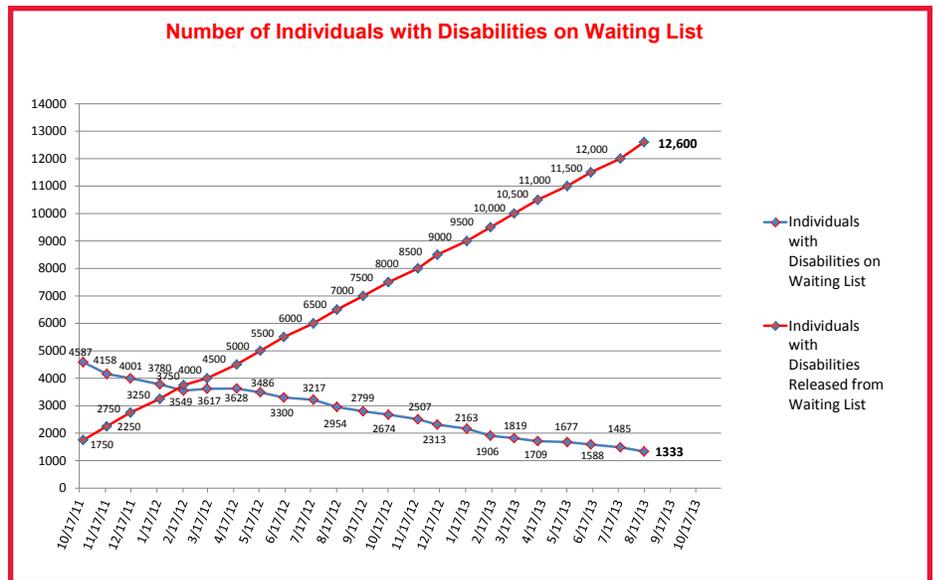
The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) held the second Town Hall style meeting this week in Toledo. RSC saw a good turnout for this meeting and was able to provide an update on important initiatives that are being undertaken to improve employment and independent living for individuals with disabilities.

Traveling to Toledo afforded RSC the opportunity provide us the chance to directly inform those in attendance what we are working on and get their feedback and answer questions posed. This give-and-take is essential to break down any barriers and allows us to hear the concerns and address them on the spot.

If you were not able to attend this Town Hall session, there are other opportunities coming to a community near you. I hope you will attend one of the upcoming meetings to hear about RSC's current initiatives, share in the collective successes we have achieved together and ask any questions that you may have about the direction we are traveling to assist individuals with disabilities quicker and more efficiently.



Curt Morman, Northwest Area Manager (left, standing), answers a question at the Town Hall meeting in Toledo.



Upcoming information on our Town Hall meetings:

- 1) Centers for Family and Children
4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
Date: 9/19/13
Time: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
- 2) Wright State University – Nutter Center
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway #430, Berry Room
Dayton, Ohio
Date: 9/23/13
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- 3) Rehabilitation Services Commission
150 E. Campus View Blvd., 3rd Floor
Commissioners/David Williams Conference Rooms
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Date: 9/26/13
Time: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Teleconference: 1-888-204-5987,
enter Access Code 9069599
Parking is free

If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Shirley Marchi at 614-438-1477 as soon as possible.

Employment First Meeting Successful

New Philadelphia, Ohio was the site of the latest Employment First kickoff event. Held at the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities building, the room was full of individuals who support the Employment First initiative and wanted to hear the latest update.

Director John Martin, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), joined Director Miller; State Representative Al Landis; Natalie Lupi, Superintendent of the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and Steve Oster, Superintendent of the Coshocton and Knox County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, to discuss the way that Employment First is changing the way competitive employment is viewed.



(back row from left) Director John Martin, DODD; Director Kevin Miller, RSC; Superintendent Natalie Lupi, Tuscarawas County Board of DD; Superintendent Steve Oster, Coshocton and Knox County Boards of DD; (front row) Lu Ann Beavers-Willis, Grant Willis, Jamie Hoy, Connie Bullens

Overshadowing all of the speakers at the meeting was Grant Willis and Jaime Hoy. These two individuals stole the show by telling their personal success stories of finding employment that has changed their lives.

Mr. Willis shared how he gained employment at the local Texas Roadhouse restaurant and has steadily progressed by gaining more skills and responsibilities. This job has changed his life outlook and he credits working to helping him make friends and learning what it means to be successful in his ventures.

Mr. Hoy, through an ECO2 communication device, told of his experience of turning his woodworking hobby into owning his own small business. Through hard work and his love for woodworking, he started Jamie's Custom Cutting in September 2012. Hoy does woodworking for local businesses and makes custom items, such as cutting boards.

"Having my own business in woodworking has opened doors for me. I have gotten to know people in the

community that I would not have otherwise," Hoy said. "They treat me as a professional and not like a person with a disability."

DisAbility Jobs Summit Update

There is less than four weeks until the 2013 Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit takes place on October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center! Make sure that you don't miss the chance to attend by registering today!



This conference promises to be an educational opportunity as employers, consumers, service providers and government officials gather to focus on creating a positive environment to assist individuals with disabilities find or retain competitive employment. There are many wonderful educational sessions that will provide attendees with useful information that they can take with them to use in their local communities.

Registration for the *Summit* can be made online using the following link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e7r06btff803c206&llr=rb76ilcab>

Combined Charitable Campaign Kicks Off

The 2013 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) is underway at RSC. The kickoff took place this week and we had a wonderful turnout with nearly 20 federations and charities in attendance, eager to share information with staff. The Ohio State School for the Blind marching band amazed us with fun, upbeat music that really got the celebration going strong. I want to thank everyone that made it to the kickoff, helping to make it a success.



One of the favorite events that took place this week was Cookie Wars. The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Jim Jamison was a celebrity judge. The co-chairs of the RSC CCC, Roschelle Holcomb and Heidi Block, want to thank everyone that baked and/or brought in all the delicious cookies and everyone that came out and bought them! Cookie Wars raised just over \$200 for CCC!

The winners were:

Presentation: Snickers Surprise Cookies by Teresa Gray

Creativity: Caramel Stuffed Apple Cider Cookies by Vanessa Shannon

Taste: Snickers Surprise Cookies by Teresa Gray

There are still a lot of great events coming up and I hope that you will participate and have some fun while raising money for CCC. A little over \$24,000 has been raised to date, and 96 payroll deductions have been pledged. This is a great start and I know we will continue to go strong! The 2013 CCC runs from September 4, 2013 through October 18, 2013. Donations can be made through payroll deductions or one-time gifts. Thank you to those that have already pledged and thank you to everyone who is supporting this year's campaign!



Judges for the Cookie Wars were (left to right) Orlando Rodriguez, DDD Area Manager; Jim Jamison, Disability Program Administrator, Chicago Region; and Kim Robertson, Adjudicator.



The Ohio State School for the Blind marching band performed at RSC.



Staff sought out information from the many federations and charities represented at the CCC Kickoff.

For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1476.

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