

WEEKLY FOCUS

October 11, 2013

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director



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.

Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit: Smart for Business - Smart for People - Smart for Ohio's Bottom Line

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) hosted the second annual DisAbility Jobs Summit on October 8-9, 2013. With more than 800 people in attendance, The Greater Columbus Convention Center was filled with people looking to learn, connect and build partnerships. I would like to thank those OOD employees who devoted many hours to plan the details that made this conference seamless. Chris Glover and Aneesa Locke-Hines, Project Managers, Conference Committee members and all of those involved who put together a program that was diverse and informative, and designed to educate consumers, employers, service providers and OOD professionals, I say, "Great job!"

Opening Session Highlights Employers

The opening session of this year's DisAbility Jobs Summit was geared toward recognizing the work Ohio employers have undertaken in the past year to hire individuals with disabilities. There is a movement sweeping across Ohio that has employers taking notice that individuals with disabilities make great employees. While this notion is nothing new to us, we welcome those who are stepping out and taking an active role in changing the discussion in Ohio from "hiring individuals with disabilities is the nice thing to do" to "let's utilize this untapped labor market."

Receiving recognition certificates from Governor John Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor were companies from across Ohio



Accepting the certificate of recognition for the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center was Christina Armstrong, seen here with OOD Executive Director Kevin L. Miller.

who differentiated themselves from their peers when it comes to hiring individuals with disabilities:

- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Giant Eagle
- The Kroger Company
- University Hospitals
- Walmart



Director Miller presented a certificate of recognition to Dennis Gipson of the Kroger Company.

Congratulations on this accomplishment and thank you for your unwavering support of employing individuals with disabilities and for making this a conscious part of your workforce development plan.

2013 OOD Partnership Awards

I was pleased to be able to present several groups and individuals with the inaugural OOD Partnership Award. This award recognizes outstanding partnership service and dedication to individuals/organizations with disabilities. I was honored to present the following with awards that recognizes the work they have done to support OOD and individuals with disabilities:



Eric Duffy of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (center) with OOD Office of Communications Chief Brad Reynolds (left) and Director Kevin Miller.

- Eric Duffy, National Federation of the Blind of Ohio
- Bridget Gargan, Ohio Association of County Boards
- Cheri Walter, Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities
- Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries
- Project SEARCH



OOD Director Kevin Miller (left) presented a Partnership Award to Bridget Gargan (holding award) and her team from the Ohio Association of County Boards.

OOD places tremendous value on all of our partnerships and all that you do to advance the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and I appreciate the on-going dialogue as we move forward.

Luncheon Speaker Delivers Strong Message

Paul Harrington delivered a strong message to those attending the DisAbility Jobs Summit luncheon. Dr. Harrington is the Director of the Center for Labor Markets and Policy at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Dr. Harrington, taking the role of lecturer while roaming the conference ballroom floor during his speech, spoke of the relationship that job seekers and employers have during the hiring process. Dr. Harrington described this relationship as “positive wariness.” He described it this way because both parties are trying to uncover truths about each other.

When a positive match emerges, employers and candidates are both better off because of this developing relationship. Employers get a qualified employee who is ready to hit the ground running and job seekers are rewarded with a paycheck and new found sense of productivity.

However, through this process there are lots of unknowns about both the job seeker and the employer, and this uncertainty leads to elevated levels of risks of making a poor hiring decision for the employer.

Dr. Harrington went into great detail during his speech about the nature of the hiring process and discussed risks and how employers choose to mitigate these risks. Not always an easy message to deliver, Dr. Harrington implored candidates and vocational rehabilitation counselors to highlight the knowledge, skills, and talents of this valuable workforce capitalizing on available labor market information.



The ballroom at the Columbus Convention Center was packed full during Keynote Speaker Dr. Paul Harrington’s presentation at the DisAbility Jobs Summit on October 8.

Workshops Provide Critical Information to Attendees

Training sessions were focused on providing information to those attending. Sessions were provided that served to strengthen understanding of Ohio’s workforce development, economic development, labor market trends and addressing today’s business partners.

While we are still gathering and recording the session evaluations, it can be said by a large majority, people in attendance were happy with the sessions they chose

to attend. Whether attendees sought out sessions to help them learn more about Ohio’s Employment First Initiative or went to a session to learn about social networking practices, there was a session to fit what you were looking to learn.

Special Thanks

I would like to thank all of the businesses, exhibitors, advertisers and sponsors who helped make the DisAbility Jobs Summit a success!

Ohio Business Leadership Network

Holly Antos, American Electric Power
Christina Armstrong, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Kiley Clark, Cardinal Health
John Coburn, Walmart Transportation
John Rencher, Walmart Transportation
Suzanne Durst, Ohio University
Jeff Dykhuis, Walgreens
Jeanne Farmer, Manpower
Heath Boucher, Manpower
Mike Gartner, Procter & Gamble
Jeffrey Hammonds, Battelle
Daniel Hansen, Ohio Association of Food Banks
Tammie Hansen, Trinity Health
Fanchon Kent, Time Warner Cable
Steven Melfi, General Electric Lighting
Chris Moranda, OhioHealth
Mitch Morgan, Fifth Third Bank
Rusty Orben, CSX
Betsy Root, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Jackie Stevens, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Janice Smith, Ohio School Boards Association
Lenore Winfrey, Ohio School Boards Association
Toby Weir, Lowe's
Bob Young, Lowe's
Vern Brown, UPS
Suzanne Tollerud, representing a private foundation
Leslie Wilson, Wilson Resources, Inc.

Exhibitors

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County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board
- Community Employment Services
Freedom Scientific
Goodwill Columbus
Greenleaf Job Services Training, Inc.
Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence
Ohio Department of Administrative Services
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Rehabilitation Association
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Exhibitors/Advertisers

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Relay Ohio/CapTel
Step by Step, Inc.
Vocational Guidance Services
Vocational Services Unlimited

Advertisers

Hadley School for the Blind
The Workshops

Sponsors

ViaQuest
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
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Ohio Goodwill Industries
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OOD Commissioners Meet and Present Awards

The OOD Commissioners met for their regular business meeting as part of the DisAbility Jobs Summit. The agenda presented the Commissioners with quick updates on OOD programs and budget. They approved



Dr. William Bauer (center) received the Ben Bonnano Disability Advocate Award. Carma Schilling (left) was one of his nominators and Commission Vice-Chair Jack Licate, Ph.D. presented the award.

the OOD 2014-15 Strategic Plan and recognized two individuals with awards.

The Commissioners recognized the winners of the Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award and the



The Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award was awarded to Mary Ramirez-Cook (center back). She is shown here with her husband, Jay; son, Matthew and her nominator, Lynn Mark.

Cook of Cincinnati, was honored as the 2013 recipient of the Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award. Congratulations!

Combined Charitable Campaign

As we approach the final week of the Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC), we continue to raise awareness and funds for the many charities that are participating in this year's campaign. We are currently 77% towards our goal and have raised \$61,899. Payroll deduction pledges have increased to 224 which is gaining momentum towards our goal of 299.

Several events took place this week to help raise money and interest. The Book Fair was held this week at the 400 building and a Pancake Breakfast served pancakes and sausage for any size donation or pledge card. The Centennial field office had a Chili Cook-off this week and the Akron office had a very successful flower sale. There are still several events lined up for next week, including the Talent Show, Silent Auction, 3-Point Shoot Out and the Books, Bakes and Bucks sale. Although the campaign's official end date is October 18, the Division of Disability Determination is holding its annual Vendor Fair on October 22, so be sure to come see all the wonderful items for sale. The field offices may also have events planned beyond October 18, so keep looking for those e-mails as well.

As always, we want to thank everyone for their support and contributions. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Block at 614-438-1967 or Roschelle Holcomb at 614-438-1966.

Counselor Certification Legislation Update

On Wednesday, Ohio House Bill (HB) 232 received its second hearing in the House Health and Aging Committee. The committee adopted a substitute version of the bill that makes several technical changes that were not included in the introduced version. OOD counselors were exempt in the "as introduced" version of HB 232. The substitute version keeps the exemption for OOD counselors and applies the exemption to a vocational rehabilitation professional that holds a certification by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

The committee heard proponent testimony from Jim Rough, executive director of the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board; Nicole Harper, legislative director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and from Daniel Martens, a current Ph.D. student impacted by the bill.

HB 232 is scheduled for a third hearing in the House Health and Aging Committee and a possible committee vote next Wednesday.

I will continue to work closely with Representative Sears and members of the House Health and Aging Committee to ensure the language in HB 232 remains sufficient to ensure there is an exemption for OOD counselors.

For more information on the changes on the substitute version, please visit the following link: <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/public/130/hb232comp.pdf>

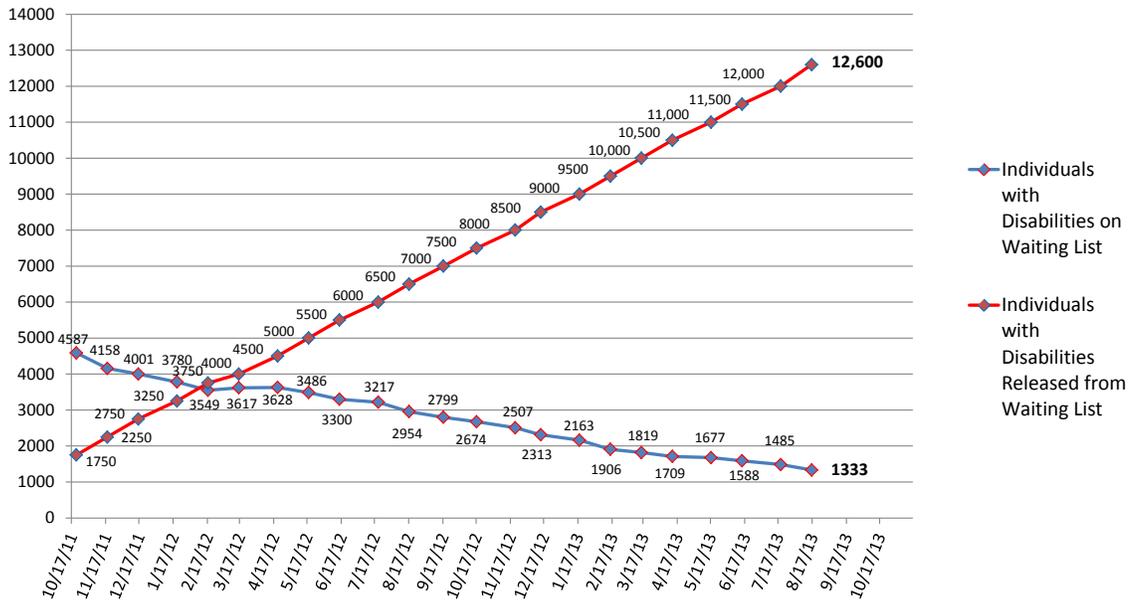
Government Shutdown

The federal government shutdown is starting to take its toll on many facets of American life and OOD is no exception. As many of you know, the Division of Disability Determination (DDD) did not receive its spending allocation for FFY 14 starting October 1, and we are trying to use every option available to us to keep operations at DDD progressing.

OOD is stretching FFY 13 funds as far as possible, as well as exploring other alternatives with DAS and OBM. As I told DDD employees yesterday, we are not alone in this as other state Disability Determination Services are experiencing similar challenges. I encourage everyone to concentrate on facts and not play into all of the rumors that may be floating around.

I would like to reiterate to staff that we are doing everything we can to continue providing services and keeping our staff working. I will keep you updated on any developments as they come about.

Number of Individuals with Disabilities on Waiting List



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

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