

# WEEKLY FOCUS

**Ohio** | Opportunities for Ohioans  
with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

March 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.*

## National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day

Tomorrow, March 22, is National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day, a day recognized by Congress to celebrate the hard work and dedication of rehabilitation counselors in securing employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. On this date in 1983, Kent State University's Martha Walker, President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, provided testimony before the U.S. Congress bringing attention to the need for qualified rehabilitation counselors for those in need.

I would be remiss if I did not take the time to thank our counselors, as well as all of our staff and partners, for the work that you do every day to directly and positively impact the lives of individuals with disabilities. In light of that, I am proud to report that through February of this Federal Fiscal year, we have served 19,088 individuals with disabilities.

The economic independence and personal pride that results from community employment positively impacts not only the individual with a disability but also their family and workplace.

## Recognizing Ability at Work in Medina County

I have always stressed the need to recognize leadership, service and commitment. I was honored to recognize two great companies for the commitment they have made to hiring individuals with disabilities when I visited Medina County for the State of the State address (see the February 28 *Weekly Focus* for more details). Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin and I presented Buehler's Fresh Foods and Sandridge Foods with Certificates of Recognition and toured their facilities. It was a great opportunity to recognize those on the ground making a difference.

I was pleased to see that Ann Norman of Sun News (a group of weekly newspapers in Northeast Ohio)

wrote a wonderful article this week on the recognition and tours. The article was also posted online at Cleveland.com and can be viewed [here](#).

We also have a recap video of the State of the State events which was recently posted to Governor John Kasich's YouTube page. This short video entitled 'On the Road: Integrating Individuals with Disabilities into the Workforce' can be viewed [here](#).



*(left) OOD Director Miller and DODD Director Martin attended several Medina County community events prior to Governor Kasich's State of the State address.*

Don't forget to keep in touch with OOD and get the latest news and information by following us on Twitter [www.Twitter/OhioOOD](http://www.Twitter/OhioOOD) and "Like" our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/OhioOOD](http://www.Facebook.com/OhioOOD).

## Consumer Advisory Committee Elects New Chair and Vice Chair

The Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) met Saturday, March 15, and elected a new Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee.

M. Vanessa Eubanks, MBA, MS, was elected Committee Chair. Ms. Eubanks is the former Chair of the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Council (PAIMI) and is currently the President of the Consumer & Family Advocacy Council (CFAC) at The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH). She is also a Trustee of the Disability Rights Ohio Board of Directors.

Carolyn Peters, LSW, MSW, Th.D was elected Vice-Chair. Ms. Peters is President of the Dayton Chapter of the National Association of Black Presbyterian Caucus

and the Vice-President of the National Association of University Women. She is also a Trustee of the Miami Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind Board of Directors.

The CAC is made up of people who have personally received services from OOD or their family members. Members provide input on OOD's VR programs and are advocates for individuals with disabilities. Those eligible and interested in serving on the CAC can contact OOD Community Relations Liaison Shirley Marchi at [shirley.marchi@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:shirley.marchi@ood.ohio.gov) or at 614-438-1477.

## 2015 VR State Plan Public Forums Scheduled

OOD invites comment from its partners, consumers, employers, and the public at large regarding the 2015 Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Plan. The dates, times, locations, telephone numbers and parking information are listed below. Those attending will receive a briefing on the contents of the VR State Plan for the coming year and be able to share their opinions and feedback.

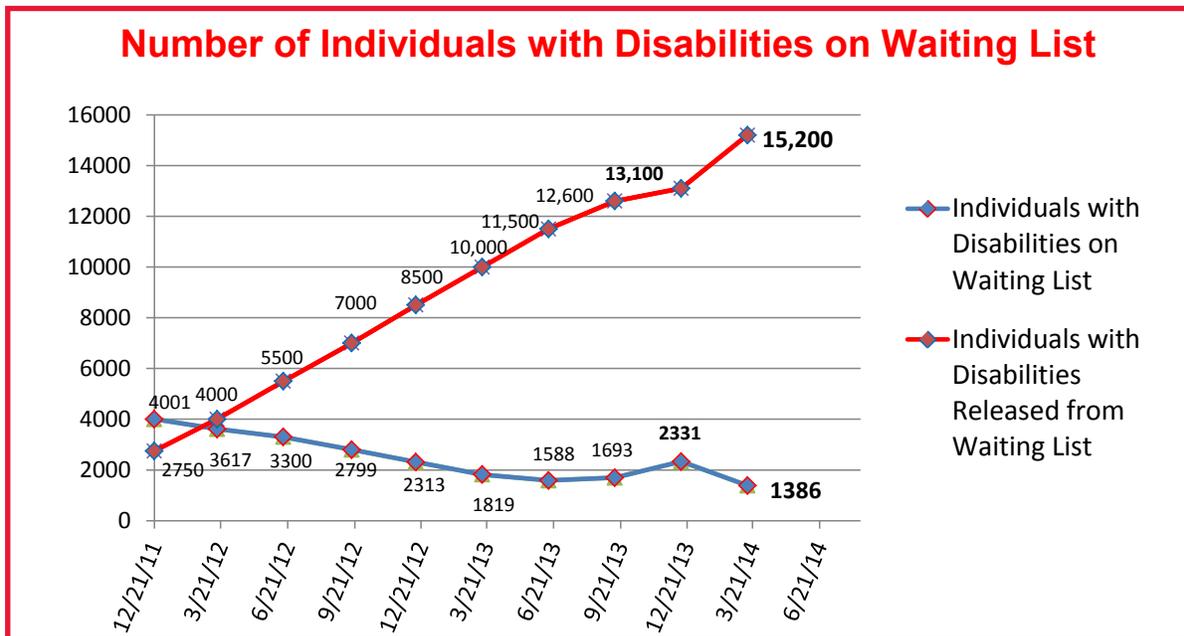
- April 1, 2014: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
OOD, 150 E. Campus View Blvd.  
3rd Floor, Commissioners Conference Room  
Columbus, OH 43235  
Phone: (614) 438-1477

- April 2, 2014: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Athens Community Center  
701 E. State St.  
Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: (740) 592-3325  
Free Parking

- April 3, 2014: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
United Way of Greater Toledo  
424 Jackson St.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Phone: (419) 248-2424  
Free Parking

- April 8, 2014: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Corporate College East  
4400 Richmond Rd. Room #229  
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128  
Phone: (216) 987-2800  
Free Parking

- April 9, 2014: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Butler County Educational Service Center  
400 North Erie Blvd., Room A  
Hamilton, OH 45011  
Phone: (513) 887-5549  
Free Parking



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

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