

WEEKLY FOCUS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

June 13, 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.

Sustaining the Elimination of the SD Waiting List

The elimination of the Waiting List for individuals with significant disabilities (SD) has become a reality! As was noted in the May 16 issue of the *Weekly Focus*, after years of hard work and dedication, we were able to bring the SD waiting list to zero. Anticipating reaching this milestone, we are developing processes and procedures to ensure sustainability for this wonderful achievement.

On Monday, June 9, we released and moved 395 individuals with significant disabilities (SD) from the waiting list to an eligible status. This again brought the number of individuals with SD on the Waiting List to zero. I am excited to note that from this point forward individuals with a significant disability will move directly from application to eligibility and plan development and will no longer have to wait for services.

Eliminating the SD Waiting List not only means that those individuals will now be immediately eligible for service, but it also positions us to begin serving individuals with disabilities (D) for the first time since 1991!

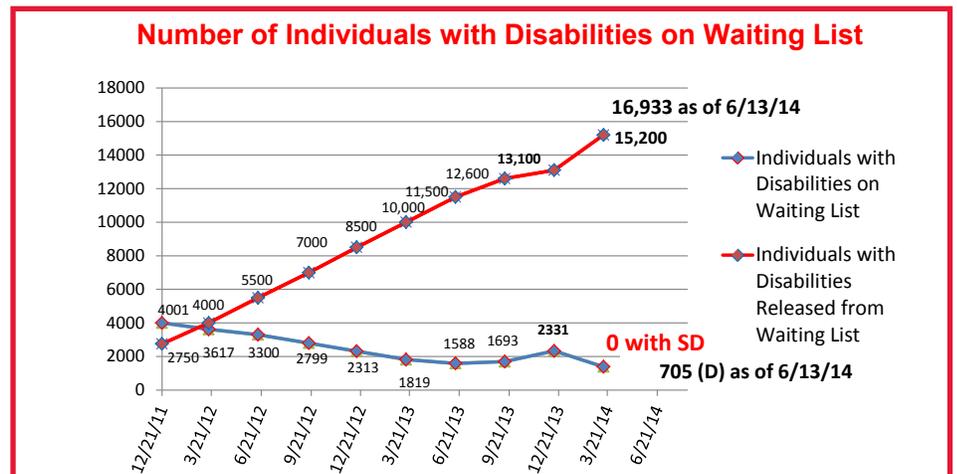
Thanks again to all of our staff, along with our partners and providers across the state, for making this happen. It is encouraging to see all of the hard work and dedication pay off and have a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities all across Ohio.

Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) Scorecard Feedback Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to all of our Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) stakeholders who would like to provide feedback on the draft versions of the CRP Scorecard, the scorecard definitions, and the scorecard process documents. Each CRP Primary VR Contact should have received an e-mail dated June 6, 2014 encouraging feedback no later than close of business today, June 13.

Also, throughout this week OOD staff placed 298 calls to the CRP Primary VR Contacts as well as canvassed the Contract Supervisors and OOD Field Staff to encourage feedback.

The CRP Scorecard Work Group will meet on June 16 to review feedback received and will be presenting the final draft to the Executive Team on June 25.



Medical and Psychological Aspects of Vision Loss

On Tuesday, June 10, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) staff attended training at Central Office provided by the Cleveland Sight Center. The training, Medical and Psychological Aspects of Vision Loss, was the second part of a three-day training course that started in May.



Tom Sawyer (right), Assistive Technology Representative at the Cleveland Sight Center, demonstrated the low vision aids he brought to share with staff.

Lidija Balciunas, a licensed optometrist, presented on a number of subjects from differing eye and vision care providers; eye exams, services and assessments; and eye report reviews to, how to read doctor reports and the components of the assessment and case studies of the Low Vision Exam.

Many low vision aids were also shared with staff by Tom Sawyer, an Assistive Technology Representative at the Cleveland Sight Center, while Alicia Howerton, a graduate of the Call Center Training Program at Cleveland Sight Center's Williams Career Center, provided her first-hand experience with the Cleveland Sight Center.

Healthy Ohio Fitness Walk

As you may recall, stormy weather forced us to reschedule the May Healthy Ohio Fitness Walk. This



The Dayton office (above) and the 150 and 400 Building (left) staff enjoyed the Healthy Ohio Fitness Walk.

month Mother Nature cooperated and we had a great day for our "Walk with the Directors." A great group of staff from both buildings enjoyed a nice walk from the 150 building over to the 400 building and back. After some particularly warm weather, the walkers enjoyed lower temperatures and a slight breeze along the way. Thanks to everyone who participated – statewide we had 132 staff participate in Healthy Ohio Fitness Walks. It was a good reminder of the need to stay active and focus on healthy activities.

Operation Feed Update



The 400 Building sponsored a Bake Sale for Operation Feed this week that raised \$223.68. That comes out to 894.72 meals! Thank you to all who baked and worked today's sale and also to everyone that purchased a treat at the sale.

If you would still like to get involved, please consider helping by:

- 1) Participating in OOD activities to raise critically needed funds.
- 2) Donating online at: <https://www.midohiofoodbank.org/donate-opfeed>.
- 3) Bringing in these most needed foods: peanut butter, soup (with vegetables), canned fruit, chili with beans, tuna, canned meat, and canned vegetables.

If you have any questions about how to pledge or would like to help out with any event, please contact Ray Rhone, DDD Professional Relations Officer, at 614-438-1904 or e-mail at Raymond.Rhone@ssa.gov.