



## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

**Mike DeWine**  
Governor  
**Kevin L. Miller**  
Director

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Division of Disability Determination

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Acting Commissioner Carol Dobak  
Rehabilitation Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Governor DeWine and Acting Commissioner Dobak:

It is an honor to transmit this letter outlining the accomplishments and continued progress of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Council during the calendar year of 2021. I believe the council's efforts have complemented the outstanding work being done by the executive leadership and staff at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Under the leadership of Director Kevin Miller, the agency is fulfilling its mission to empower Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations and independence.

The council has created a new policy committee to provide input on key policies that were implemented or in the process of being adapted. The committee has engaged in productive discussions and has worked to encourage increased public feedback during the policy and rule making process. The committee has also assisted OOD staff in the development of a vocational rehabilitation selection of a provider information sheet. Future enhancements to the provider selection process may include an instructional video. In addition, the committee has provided input on OOD's Informed Choice, Post-Secondary Education, New Provider Rules, and Application and Intake policies.

The council also provided input and assistance with completing OOD's Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA). Specifically, the council provided input into the overall plan for completing the CSNA and for the construction and distribution of the survey of individuals with disabilities. The council has been briefed on results of the CSNA and looks forward to working with OOD to provide additional input on strategies for addressing the findings and implementing the recommendations.

In 2021, the council took an active role in OOD's rule making and policy making processes through the council's Vocational Rehabilitation Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee conducted a virtual meeting on February 10, 2021, where it received written public comment from the Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries and the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health Providers. The comments were directed toward four OOD Administrative Rules: Eligibility determination; Individualized plan for employment; Training; and Scope of services. Based on the feedback from these stakeholders, OOD staff simplified and reorganized the rules in question. OOD staff also added information to these rules to improve clarity.

400 E. Campus View Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43235-4604 U.S.A.  
[www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)

614 | 438 1203  
800 | 282 4536



## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

**Mike DeWine**  
Governor  
**Kevin L. Miller**  
Director

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Division of Disability Determination

In closing, we must acknowledge that the pandemic has created challenges to public engagement. This is especially true for many of our stakeholders and constituents. As a result, the council is exploring how available technology can increase public access and encourage public feedback during our meetings. It is our hope that any new solutions will also benefit individuals who cannot travel to meetings after the pandemic.

Again, the OOD Council is honored and pleased to transmit this letter outlining our work this year. We would like to thank Governor Mike DeWine, OOD Director Kevin Miller and the people of the great state of Ohio for the privilege of serving Ohioans with disabilities through the vital work of this important council.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Peters, Ph.D.  
Chair, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council

c: OOD Council Members  
OOD Director Kevin Miller

Attachments: OOD Annual Report  
OOD Council Roster