



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications

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John L. Martin, Director

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Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Office of Communications & Legislation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

02/21/14

State Agencies to Highlight Employment First Partnership at As Part of State of the State Events

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Hosting "Ability @ Work" Summit, Business Tours and Local Leaders Meeting

WHAT: In conjunction with the Governor's State of the State address in Medina, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) are partnering with the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) to host a series of events focused around the Employment First initiative.

- **Employment First Local Leaders Meeting:** The Local Leaders Employment First Pilot Project committee will be meeting to create and assess the new Employment First processes and tools for creating new and successful job opportunities throughout the state.
- **Ability @ Work Summit:** This event will bring together government, business, and community leaders from Medina County to discuss the successes and challenges in the workforce for people with disabilities and spotlight how state supported initiatives have made a difference.
- **Tours of Employers Creating Meaningful Jobs for Those With Disabilities:** Employers will provide facility tours and highlight how they work collaboratively to create meaningful jobs in Medina County. OOD Director Kevin Miller & DODD Director Martin will be presenting these businesses with awards of recognition.

WHEN: **Monday, February 24**

- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Employment First Local Leaders Meeting
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm: "Ability @ Work" Summit
- 12:30 pm: Tour of Sandridge Corporation
- 2:30 pm: Tour of Buehlers Grocery

WHERE: Employment First Local Leaders Meeting: Medina Co. Board of DD, 4691 Windfall Rd., Medina, OH 44256

Ability @ Work Summit: Soprema Café, 617 School Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

Facility Tours:

- Sandridge Corporation, 133Commerce Dr., Medina 44256
- Buehlers Grocery, 275 Forest Meadows Dr., Medina 44256

WHO: Kevin Miller, Director, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
John Martin, Director, Department of Developmental Disabilities
Key community, business, and advocacy leaders from the region

NOTE: Media members planning to attend any or all of these events please contact the respective agency contacts listed above so we can better assist you.

BACKGROUND

Employment First

Created by an Executive Order signed by Governor Kasich in March 2012, the Employment First initiative promotes integrated, competitive employment as the expectation and preferred outcome for individuals for developmental disabilities. In 2013, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) announced a statewide initiative to expand community employment services for people with developmental disabilities. This opportunity allows the state of Ohio to maximize resources to support more people on their path to community employment, build system capacity, and strengthen the relationship between the developmental disability and vocational rehabilitation systems in Ohio. More information is available at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org.

DODD is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. The department's mission is the continuous improvement of the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. www.dodd.ohio.gov

OOD is the state agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to live independently, gain meaningful employment or receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration. www.ood.ohio.gov

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