

Weekly Focus

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

September 20, 2013

The mission of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

Name Change of Agency Draws Near

Ten days separates us from the agency's name change from Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Months of planning and implementing changes to reflect the new name continue to proceed. A lot of work has been done by people too numerous to mention, but their efforts are not without notice. We see signage, letterhead, and websites changing and in the coming weeks, many more changes will become visible.

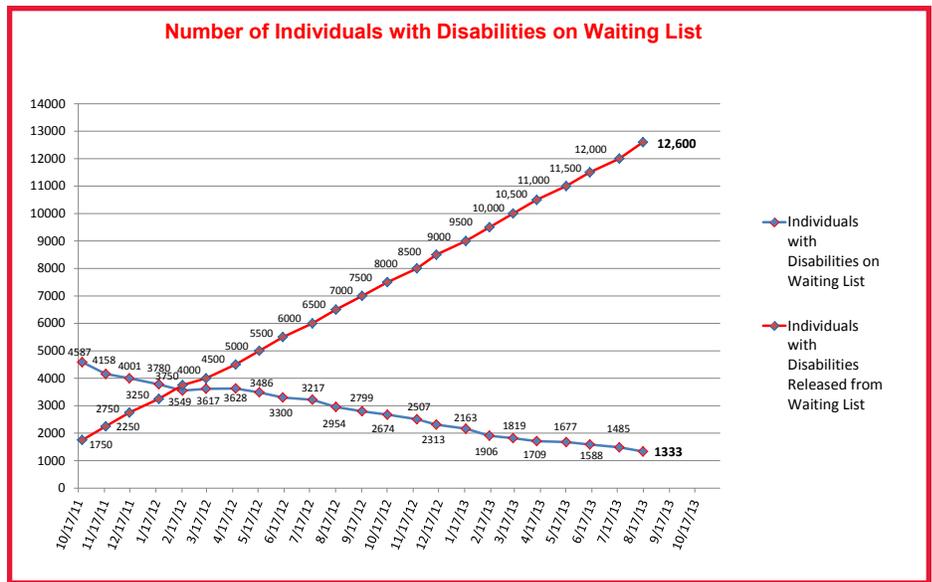
No longer will this agency be confused with the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections or thought of as a drug, alcohol or other drug rehabilitation agency. Changing the name to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities more accurately reflects the mission and goals of the agency.

In the coming week, look for more changes as we go "live" with the new OOD name.

RSC Holds Town Hall Meeting in Cleveland; Two More Opportunities to Attend Remain

RSC held a Town Hall style meeting this week in Cleveland. The standing-room-only crowd was able to hear an update on important initiatives that are being undertaken to improve employment and independent living for individuals with disabilities.

An impressive factor occurring in these sessions is the extraordinary level of engagement by those attending. This give-and-take is essential to break down any barriers and allows us to hear the concerns and address them on the spot. We were pleased that State



Representative Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) was able to attend and briefly address the group.



Director Miller addresses participants at the Town Hall meeting in Cleveland.

If you were not able to attend this Town Hall session, there are two opportunities left, but time is running out. I hope that you will attend one of the upcoming meetings to hear about RSC's current initiatives, share in the collective successes we have achieved together

and ask any questions that you may have about the direction we are traveling to assist individuals with disabilities quicker and more efficiently.

Upcoming information on our Town Hall meetings:

- 1) Wright State University – Nutter Center
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway #430, Berry Room
Dayton, Ohio
Date: 9/23/13
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- 2) Rehabilitation Services Commission
150 E. Campus View Blvd., 3rd Floor
Commissioners/David Williams Conference Rooms
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Date: 9/26/13
Time: 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Teleconference: 1-888-204-5987,
enter Access Code 9069599
Parking is free

If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Shirley Marchi at 614-438-1477 as soon as possible.

DisAbility Jobs Summit Update

RSC's 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit* taking place on October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center is nearly here! Make sure you don't miss the chance to attend by registering today.



Momentum is growing in Ohio; and businesses and hiring managers are recognizing that hiring individuals with disabilities is not only the right thing to do, but it ultimately benefits their bottom line. By bringing business leaders together with disability experts is certain to prove beneficial for everyone assembled at the *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

This *Summit* promises to be an educational opportunity as employers, consumers, service providers and government officials gather to focus on creating a positive environment to assist individuals with disabilities find or retain competitive employment. There are many wonderful educational sessions that will provide attendees with useful information that they can take with them to use in their local communities.

DON'T MISS OUT! Registration for the *Summit* can be made online using the following link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e7r06btf803c206&llr=rb76ilcab>

Fee Schedule

RSC is looking at making some changes and revisions to the vocational rehabilitation (VR) fee schedule. Meetings were held with providers on September 6 to discuss potential changes and to solicit suggestions on desired changes. RSC is seeking additional feedback and suggestions and these comments will be accepted until September 20, 2013. Greg Dormer, BVR Assistant Deputy Director and Jim Gears, Rehabilitation Program Specialist will be meeting with VR staff to discuss changes on September 25 so any submissions are greatly appreciated.

After these internal meetings, RSC will make final determinations on what changes will be put forward to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). On October 3, we will host a meeting for stakeholders to discuss final changes to the fee schedule. This meeting will be held at RSC's Central Office and will also be available via WebEx. Providers may register for the WebEx at the following link: <https://rscevent.webex.com/rscevent/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=661412636>. The proposed changes will likely finish through the JCARR process and take effect in early 2014.

Look for additional information on fee schedule changes in future editions of the *Weekly Focus*.

Employment First Provider Info Meetings

RSC and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hosted informational meetings for potential Employment First providers this week. Staff from DODD and RSC gave an overview of the project and discussed in more detail the process and requirements for becoming a dual certified provider for Employment First consumers.

Providers will need to have either the DODD Provider Certification or be CARF accredited to receive an accreditation waiver from RSC and DODD. Information from the sessions will be posted on RSC's webpage and providers needing to apply for an accreditation waiver have until October 15 to submit their request.

Additional information about required trainings will be transmitted in the near future.

Combined Charitable Campaign Efforts Continue



RSC had another great week for the 2013 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC)! Staff has been continuing to pledge their payroll deductions online and the generosity of our donors is absolutely amazing!

The fun is continuing as well with the 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament that took place this week at the 400 building. Everyone brought their "A" game, but ultimately only one team could be named Champions. Congratulations to Scott Maietta and Darin McCoy of DDD for winning the championship.

The Papa John's pizza sale and Candy Grams were also held this week and both were a huge success! These events helped raise over \$500 towards CCC. Next week is Ladder Golf and the highly anticipated Chili Cook Off! Please continue to join us for these exciting events.

We are still early into this year's campaign, yet we already have raised over \$35,000, to date, with 136 payroll deductions being pledged. If you have any questions about how to pledge, please contact Heidi Block at ext. 1967 or Roschelle Holcomb at ext. 1966.



The Corn Hole tournament proved to be both competitive and fun as Division of Performance and Innovation's Alana Evans (third from left) and opponent DDD PRO and RSC CCC co-chair Heidi Block await their turn.

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

Produced by the Office of Communications, September 20, 2013.

