

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.

OOD Effective Next Week!

The change of the agency name from Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) takes place next week.

It seems like the 90 days that have passed since the signing of the state biennial budget have proceeded quickly. Months of planning and implementing changes to reflect the new name have gone smoothly. A lot of work has been done to make sure that we haven't missed converting RSC to OOD.

Since I started at RSC, a goal of mine has been to make sure that RSC would not 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 Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities more accurately reflects the mission and goal of the agency. Recent Ohio Poll results and our Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment confirmed the need to rebrand the agency based upon lack of recognition.

Next week we will officially launch the OOD name; and you, as well as the public we strive to serve, will see many changes reflecting the change to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

Moving forward, we are going to continue to market the name change to bring greater awareness to who we are and our mission. The name change is official, but our efforts cannot stop now. Shortly, you will begin to hear radio public service announcements and other marketing that will enhance our efforts to reach our target audience and serve more individuals with disabilities.

RSC Completes Successful Town Hall Meetings

Concluding a series of Town Hall style meetings in Dayton and Columbus this week, we were able to update those attending on the important initiatives that are being undertaken to improve employment and independent living for individuals with disabilities.



Attending the Dayton Town Hall meeting were Commissioner David Daugherty (left) and Representative Terry Blair (R-Washington Twp.) pictured with Director Miller.

As I have said previously, our ability to provide those in attendance the opportunity to hear directly from RSC about things that are being worked on and to gather their feedback from them is important. These sessions allow us to hear the concerns and offer responses to make attendees ambassadors of the agency. We are able to address their questions and clear up any misconceptions that may be circulating in their community about RSC initiatives and plans.

I want to thank everyone who took time to attend one of these sessions. I was impressed with the turnout at each session and look forward to continuing the dialogue in the near future.



Director Miller (center) addresses participants at the Columbus Town Hall meeting.

DisAbility Jobs Summit Quickly Approaching

The 2013 Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit* taking place October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center is nearly here! Make sure that you don't miss the chance to attend by registering today. Today is the last day that you are able to register.



This conference 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; REGISTER TODAY! Registration for the *Summit* can be made online using the following link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?eidk=a07e7r06btff803c206&llr=rb76ilcab>

RSC Presents at National Conference

The 6th Annual Summit on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance (PEQA) was held on September 16-17 in Providence, RI. Janet Cool, Program Integrity and Evaluation Manager, and Alana Evans, Program Specialist, presented information on the electronic system that was built to complete and store information on consumer case reviews and consumer surveys. There were several states who were very interested in the concept of how the case review and survey processes are implemented in Ohio.

Ms. Cool also co-presented with Dr. David Julian, Director of Community Planning and Evaluation at the Ohio State Center for Special Needs Populations, on methodologies utilized to conduct the 2012 Ohio VR Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA). The concept of relative proportionality was unique to the CSNA process and participants at the conference appreciated new methods to consider in the future.

The PEQA Summit is focused upon the tradition of excellence and collaboration, as well as delivering new ideas from across the vocational rehabilitation field by offering opportunities to:

- Learn about promising practices from recognized experts in program evaluation and quality assurance

- Share experiences, strategies, and tools with like-minded professionals
- Find support to continue improving employment service and outcomes for individuals with disabilities

The Summit was attended by approximately 175 VR professionals from across the nation mainly consisting of researchers, directors, managers, program staff and counselors. RSC would like to thank the Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Region 5 for covering the cost of airfare for this conference. If interested, the presentations can be accessed from the VR Summit website under "Schedule" at: http://vrsummit.org/pages/30_schedule.html

VR Successful Closures Up In 2013

We are pleased to report that RSC has already exceeded our rehabilitation closure attainment over the last fiscal year by 88 closures. The fiscal year doesn't end until close of business on Monday, September 30, 2013 so that number will likely be even larger.

Staff has been working diligently over the past two years to write high quality plans with goals that are in alignment with the current labor market. We have seen the numbers of plans being written increase significantly over this past two years and the results can be seen in our increasing numbers of individuals being closed as successfully rehabilitated.

The partnerships we have with the individuals we serve as well as our community rehabilitation programs and businesses continue to grow and we look forward to more exciting progress as we move into the next fiscal year. I want to thank all our staff for their continued hard work and commitment to those we serve.

New Employee Orientation Held



Director Miller (center) answers questions at New Employee Orientation.

On Thursday, September 26, eleven new employees attended RSC's Division of Human Resources New Employee Orientation at the 150 Building in Columbus. Participants discovered their True Colors and learned how to better communicate with their co-workers. They

received an overview of each of the divisions of RSC, reviewed Time and Attendance Policies and Procedures and received EEO/Sexual Harassment Training. I had the opportunity to personally welcome them and provide a chance for them to ask me any questions they had about the agency.

On behalf of RSC, we welcome all the new employees!

Combined Charitable Campaign Efforts Continue



RSC continues to make great strides toward our 2013 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) goal of \$79,812. RSC has collected over \$45,000 putting us well beyond the halfway mark! Thanks to everyone that has made their pledge; and please remember that your co-chairs, Heidi Block at ext. 1967 or Roschelle Holcomb at ext. 1966, are here to help if you have any difficulty with the online pledging or if you need a paper pledge card.



Ladder Golf champions were Todd Gould and Sharyn Perry (left) with 2nd Place going to Rachel Held and Adrienne Leone (right).

Some really successful events took place this week. The Mansfield VR office cooked breakfast for a meeting being held with all the counselors and asked for donations from participants, raising about \$50. DDD held their annual Ladder Golf Tournament and famous Chili Cook-off and together, these events raised nearly \$300. The Dayton VR office is having a Pretzel Sale this Friday and it's sure to be a success. Your continued support at these events is truly appreciated.



Karley Patnode of the Mansfield office makes breakfast for a CCC fundraiser.



Chili Cook-off judges were (left to right) Glenda Galloway, Disability Claims Development Analyst; Orlando Rodriguez, Area Manager; Rachel Held, Consult Scheduler; and Ray Rhone, Professional Relations Officers.

Look for e-mails with details regarding the many great events that are planned for the remaining weeks. We are very excited as we approach the second half of this campaign. Let's finish strong!

