



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.

SE Area Meeting Held

Area Manager Bob Nicholson facilitated a meeting of the Southeast (SE) Area this week at the State Fire Training Academy in Reynoldsburg. The executive staff, joined by OOD Chair Jacqui Romer-Sensky, was pleased to attend the meeting.

I was delighted to introduce the executive team to those in attendance. It is helpful when administrative staff get out into the field to hear and see firsthand the good work that is happening. I also find value in those attending to be able to ask questions and get immediate answers to their questions.

I was impressed by the thoughtfulness of the questions and I hope that we were able to explain what is happening on issues that affect OOD Staff. There are a lot of changes happening and it is my goal to make sure each and every staff member is aware of where we are as an organization and where we are headed.

Make no mistake though; there is no substitute for direct communication. While I try to discuss most issues on OOD's radar screen in the *Weekly Focus* and make every

effort to keep all employees and advocates up-to-date on our efforts to serve individuals with disabilities, I find great value in seeing people face-to-face to discuss upcoming issues. We take comments and feedback from these meetings seriously. The executive team is planning to attend other area meetings in the near future to talk directly with each of you and to answer questions that you may have regarding the future direction of OOD.

Chair Romer-Sensky summed it up well when she said that the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities has made it clear that we need to bring costs down and increase positive outcomes. She told those in attendance, while praising all that has been accomplished, that, "We need to have a sense of urgency in addressing these concerns," to make sure that we are serving individuals with disabilities in the best, most efficient manner possible.

Holtsberry to Join OOD

I notified staff earlier this week that I am pleased to announce that Brad Reynolds will be transferring to the Division of Disability Determination (DDD) on February 4, 2014, to lead DDD in communications. There has been an ongoing need for internal and external communication expertise at DDD for some time; and, considering the expansion of Medicaid as well as the fact that Ohio will become a single determination state in the future, I am excited to have Brad lead this charge.

Kevin Holtsberry will be joining OOD on February 10, 2014, as the new Chief of Communications. Mr. Holtsberry comes to us with experience from the public and private sectors relating to journalism, public and private policy and administration. He attended the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and holds a Masters Degree in History from Bowling Green State University.



Director Miller spoke to employees at the Southeast Area meeting then held a question and answer session. Members of the executive team (upper right) also attended the meeting and provided input.

Blood Drive Being Held at OOD



OOD is sponsoring a blood drive on February 13th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at our 400 building in the Learning Center.

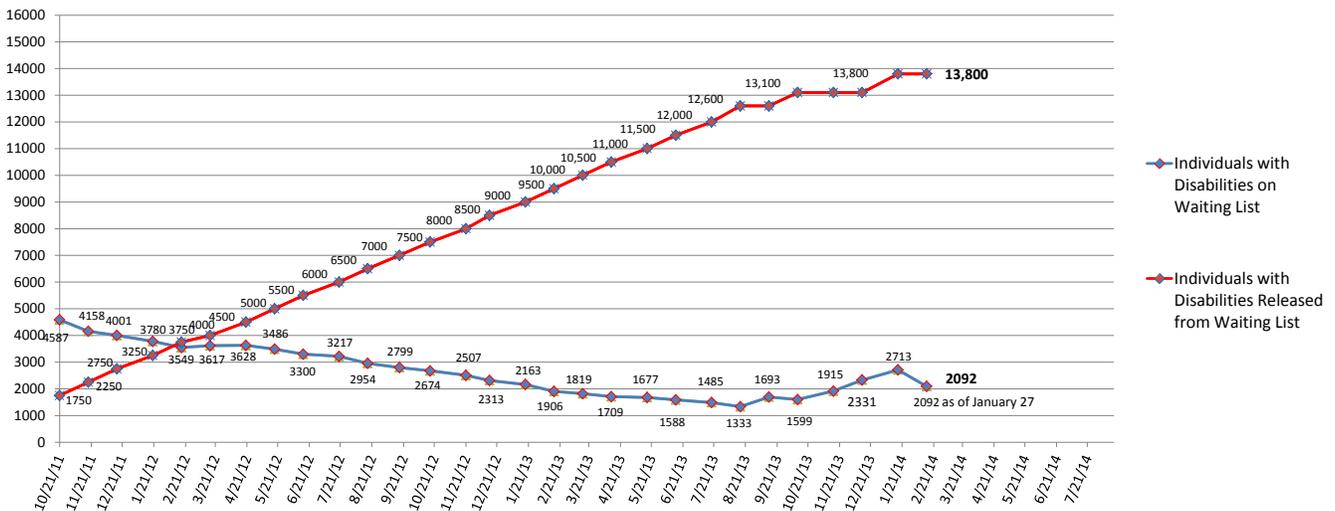
Your whole blood donation can save up to 3 lives! Positive identification is required; and

if you have a Red Cross donation card with a barcode, it will speed up the process. A donation can take up to 75 minutes so please let your supervisor know that you plan to donate.

Employees will be given a reasonable period of paid time off during their normal working hours to donate blood. Employees are expected to return to work following their donation unless they have chosen to donate at the end of their working day. All employees who schedule an appointment to give blood may wear jeans the day of donation!

You may schedule your appointment by clicking on the following link: http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation-sponsor?field_sponsor_code_value=ORSC. If you have difficulty scheduling your appointment online, please contact Abbie Frase at extension 1267 or e-mail at abbie.frase@ood.ohio.gov.

Number of Individuals with Disabilities on Waiting List



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

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