

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.

Ohio's 2012 Opiate Summit: Miles Traveled – Miles Ahead



Director Miller introduces Keynote Speaker, R. Gil Kerlikowske, Office of National Drug Control Policy, to a 900+ audience.

There has been so much effort throughout RSC devoted to the Recovery-2-Work program, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, that sometimes it's hard to realize how much progress we have made since the kickoff event last year.

But another giant crowd at the 2nd Opiate Summit is testimony to the power of the statewide network we are helping to build. Collaborators from state government, law enforcement, health care and business gathered to share their thoughts on what we are doing that works and how we can better prevent, treat and facilitate recovery from opiate abuse so that individuals can retain and/or maintain employment..

Training and Organizational Development, was on the planning committee and helped produce a program worthy of continuing education credits for counselors, social workers, chemical dependency counselors, psychologists, attorneys, physicians, pharmacists and nurses.

April Bagley, our VRP3 Contract Services Manager on the Recovery-2-Work program, was one of the presenters on the paradigm shift this represents for all involved. April detailed how in one year we have gone from no vocational rehabilitation (VR) component in our drug addiction recovery program, to a multi-faceted partnership that has brought this service to 84 of the 88 counties in Ohio.

Kathy Boss of RSC's Division of Human Resources,



Kathy Boss offers assistance at the RSC table at the Opiate Summit.

There were many obstacles to overcome. Bureaucracy of the state agencies and the interaction required between federal, state and local policies or procedures. The barrier of different professional language and ideologies devoted to separate populations. The technological differences between the partner agencies, and lack of understanding our VR services and processes, added to the complexity of our partnership.



April Bagley, VR Manager-Contract Services (3rd from left), participates in the Recovery-2-Work Breakout Session.

April's presentation concluded that the Recovery-2-Work program is now becoming a sustainable, integrated system to make employment training part of the response to opiate addiction in Ohio.

BSVI Deputy Director Dan Connors has also been deeply involved in building our Recovery-2-Work operational



Dan Connors, BSVI Deputy Director, leads discussion at the Role of VR in Treating Opiate Addiction Breakout Session.

structure. Dan was a presenter on a panel with Lori Criss of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers on the role of VR in treating opiate addiction. Dan's presentation detailed why employment has always been the cornerstone of independence and integration for individuals with disabilities, and a job now plays the same role for people in recovery from an addiction.



Governor John R. Kasich holds a press conference after addressing the Opiate Epidemic and its Impact on Medical and Clinical Practices Session.

The 2012 Opiate Summit drew Governor John R. Kasich, Attorney General Mike DeWine and R. Gil

Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as general session speakers. To show that the goal of Recovery-2-Work is achievable, I was selected to moderate a general session with three Ohioans who have made the journey to recovery.

Congratulations Teji!!!!

Governor Kasich is aware of the outstanding job of the Business Project Manager for the Accessible Web-based Activity and Reporting Environment (AWARE) performed by Omoteji Adeyemon, known to one and all at RSC as "Teji."

Teji was honored today with the Governor's Award for Employee Excellence. Our co-worker from Cincinnati is one of 32 state employees/teams selected for this award as part of Public Employee Recognition week in Ohio.

During her three year commitment to our \$2.5 million technology upgrade, Teji traveled the state working with different agency staff to arrive at the most logical and user-friendly application available within the strict security requirements of our confidentiality protected information. Teji dedicated countless hours to the AWARE project while maintaining her duties as a VR supervisor.



Chief of Staff Brenda Cronin, Executive Director Kevin Miller, Governor's Award for Employee Excellence winner Teji Adeyemon, Regional Manager Mark Fay and BSVI Deputy Director Dan Connors



Teji Adeyemon with Governor John R. Kasich

We have often stressed how embedding counselors in other state offices and reducing the overhead at RSC by \$1.2 million on real estate alone has allowed us to retain counselors and serve consumers. This is possible only because the AWARE case management system enables counselors to access case files from anywhere. Obviously the project Teji is being honored for has been crucial to our ability to make this cost-cutting transition.

The shift from OSCAR to AWARE greatly simplifies the reporting process on the federal funds we administer by automating a process which once consumed vast amounts of staff time that is now devoted to vocational rehabilitation activity.

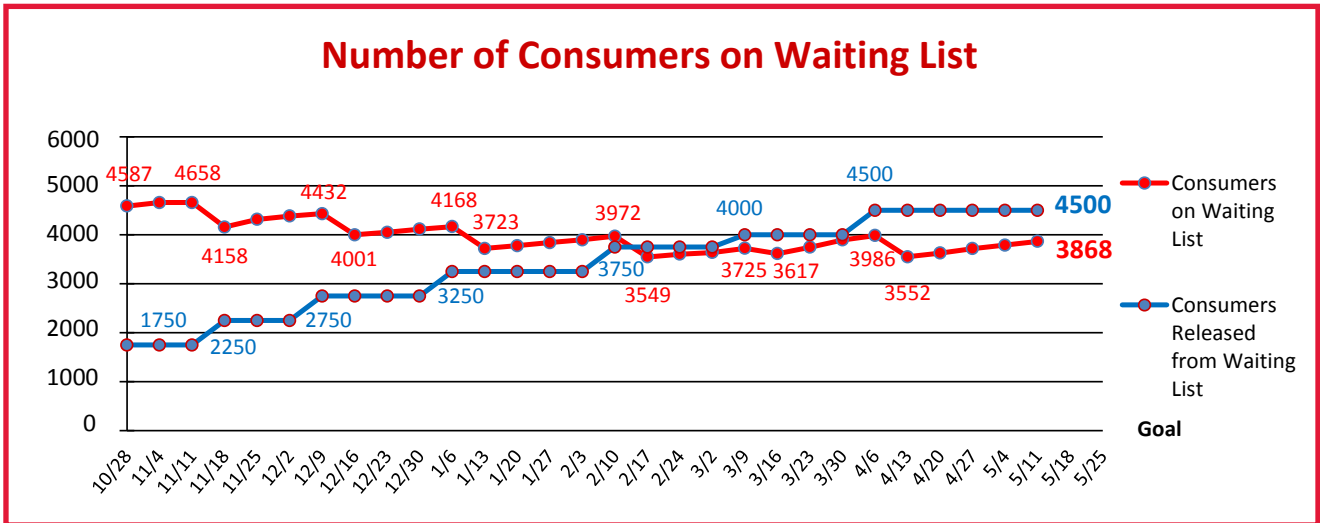
To put Teji's honor in perspective, it will help you to know that only 107 nominations were considered from all of the activities of state government and just 32 awards for excellence were presented by Governor Kasich. It is wonderful that RSC had both a project and a project manager able to meet the high bar of excellence in Ohio state government.



Obviously, Teji's award reflects the outstanding achievement of the entire AWARE team at RSC. More than 100 people from every function of RSC were involved before AWARE went operational in October. There are still 53 people on the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) team who started work in March on upgrades to make the RSC AWARE system even better suited to the demands of staff and partners.

Happy Mother's Day!

Happy Mother's Day to all of you moms on this Mother's Day weekend. My mother passed away four years ago and she was the single greatest influence in my life. Moms are the first teachers, cheerleaders, bosses and mentors. The job you do is the most difficult yet most rewarding that there is. Make sure to take time this weekend to honor them.



For more information or questions on stories in this publication please call Shirley Marchi, Community Relations Liaison, at 614.438.1477.

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