

WEEKLY FOCUS



Rehabilitation Services
Commission

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

May 18, 2012



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.

RSC and ODE Combine for School-to-Work Pilot Program

Our effort to smooth the path from IEP to IPE got a big boost this week with major progress towards an



Director Miller (left) and ODE State Superintendent Stan Heffner

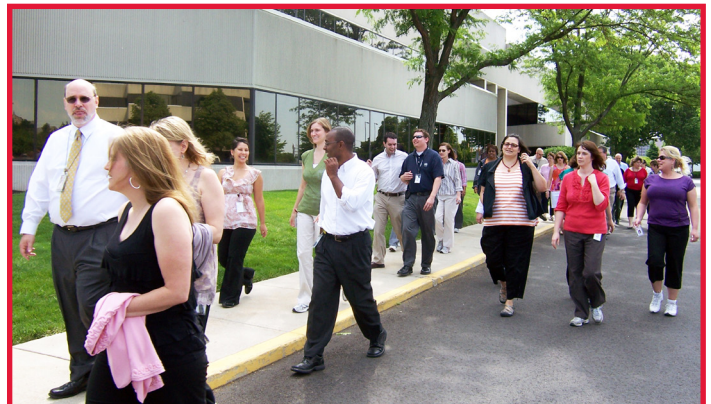
agreement between RSC and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to make current school spending on Individual Employment Plans (IEP) eligible for a Rehabilitation Services

Administration (RSA) funding match of \$3.69 to \$1, by connecting with an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE).

Now, RSC and ODE will work to make the link between school and work both tight and continuous. ODE will pick four or five school districts for a pilot project with access to these programs. The goal is to achieve geographic and demographic diversity for a valid test of what could easily become a statewide strategy. RSC will work with the schools that are using these existing programs as part of their IEPs for students to generate the necessary documentation to comply with RSA rules, and draw untapped federal dollars allocated for service to Ohioans with disabilities.

RSC's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Deputy Director Susan Pugh and Chief Financial Officer Marc Protsman made a late January trip to Iowa where the same partnership has been utilized to draw the RSA match. Following that trip, we informed the RSA of our intention to craft a similar program and have received encouragement in our experiment, as successful school to work transition is an ultra-high priority for RSA as well as it is for RSC and ODE.

We don't have to construct the main elements of our IEP to IPE program from scratch; we merely have to link the existing programs in a holistic fashion, which will actually serve all of our consumers better. RSC survey research from Café Conversations to the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment tells us to break down the silos of service for better employment outcomes for Ohioans with disabilities.

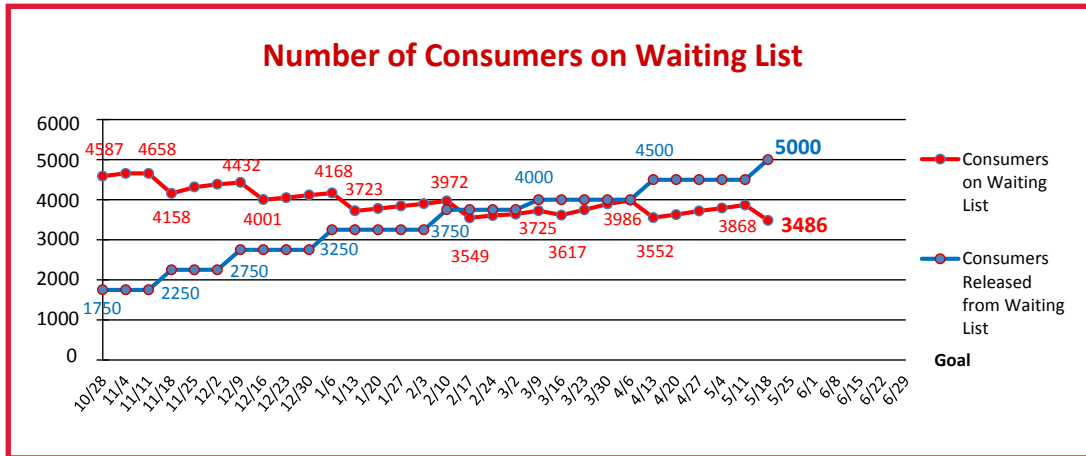


Healthy Ohio Fitness Walk @ RSC

It was heartening to be one of the 128 RSC employees who took part in the 8th Annual Healthy Ohio Fitness Walk as part of the National Employee Health & Fitness Day program. Walking a mile in beautiful weather with friends all around, what could be better? Only the health benefits from the exercise. According to the Wellness



Council of America, more than 60% of adults do not get this type of physical activity on a regular basis and this is behind the rise of chronic illness. There is no doubt about the connection between fitness and health, so we're hoping to get the walking habit established as a lunch time ritual at RSC.



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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