

*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.*

## Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment on RSC Website

We detailed the highlights of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) in the June 22, 2012 edition of the *Weekly Focus*, when the report was submitted to RSC Commissioners along with the Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan (State Plan).

Now the entire CSNA is available on our RSC Website, on the front page in the News section.

RSC CSNA Report 2012

[https://rsc.ohio.gov/docs/internet-documents/rsc-csna-report-2012\\_final-jaws.pdf?sfvrsn=2](https://rsc.ohio.gov/docs/internet-documents/rsc-csna-report-2012_final-jaws.pdf?sfvrsn=2)

RSC CSNA Report Appendices

[https://rsc.ohio.gov/docs/internet-documents/rsc-csna-report-appendices-2012\\_final-jaws.pdf](https://rsc.ohio.gov/docs/internet-documents/rsc-csna-report-appendices-2012_final-jaws.pdf)

When you take a look, you will see that this edition of the CSNA is the most comprehensive study of its kind RSC has ever done. Our Division of Performance and Innovation, led by Deputy Director Raivo Murnieks and Program Integrity and Evaluation Manager Janet Cool, laid the framework for The Ohio State University research team to put together the sort of detailed study we must have to make data driven decisions. Moreover, they put together the high performance team required to get all of this new information in the first place.

State agencies with missions that touch aspects of RSC service were tapped for their data and it was a valuable addition to our existing information. The Ohio Business Leadership Network gave us good survey research providing insight on how employers view RSC. The Consumer Advisory Committee, through the hard work of members M. Vanessa Eubanks and Greg Powers, provided the team deep insight on how consumers with unsuccessful employment outcomes view their experience with RSC; and Shirley Marchi helped keep the multiple data streams flowing to our partners at Ohio State University.

## Youth Leadership Forum Changes Lives

The 14th annual Ohio Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) was held this week for high school students from around the state with a physical or intellectual disability. Our partners at the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities have built a strong tradition of life-changing moments for young people who accept the leadership mantle at this Forum, so I was honored by their invitation to participate in the event.



YLF group picture at the Ohio Statehouse

I was very lucky to speak before The Ohio State University (OSU) Swimming Coach Bill Wadley, as the passion he brought to the interaction with YLF delegates made it obvious why his teams have been ultra-successful in the pool and in the classroom. The entire OSU swim team were



OSU Swimming Team at YLF

very active participants in the YLF program, and the joy they brought to social interaction with YLF delegates was contagious.



*Mark Stewart, Lowe's Findlay Distribution Center General Manager, provides hands-on assistance to YLF attendees.*

For the first time ever, the Ohio Business Leadership Network was incorporated into the YLF curriculum, with Mark Stewart of Lowe's and Mitch Morgan of Fifth Third Bank, providing hands-on coaching on the network building skills that come through informational interviews of professionals working in the fields YLF members would like to enter. Mark and Mitch made it clear that people love to talk about their job and will make time to help, if YLF delegates know who to ask, how to ask and what to ask of people who can help launch them on the path to employment.



*Mitch Morgan, Fifth Third Bank Leadership Development Program Manager, addresses YLF.*

So many of the volunteers who staff the YLF have attended the program as delegates and have personal experience with the power of awakened potential. Once again in 2012, dozens of YLF delegates requested the opportunity to stay with the program as volunteer staff in the future and attested to the life changing benefit of being close to other kids struggling to overcome a difficulty but displaying courage, grace and willpower in the process. Seeing a young person with a disability stand in front of a large audience and say, "I have never felt so comfortable or capable in my life," makes RSC proud to be a small part of this YLF one of a kind event.

## **Executive Staff Visits Fremont and Toledo**

We saw one of the most interesting embedded offices in Fremont, where our RSC field staff is part of the Sandusky County Job Store. If consolidated government service is successful, with clients finding a job, the housing, hunger and all other problems addressed at this location are solved.



*Director Miller addressing the Fremont staff*

Our Fremont staff fits this tightly focused, no nonsense mission extremely well. The staff provided the RSC executive team with deep insight on how vocational rehabilitation services are provided from this location, how our technology upgrades have improved their service delivery and where opportunities for more productivity enhancing changes are possible. Our meeting provided the entire RSC executive team with the type of feedback that is only possible through site visits. Our team is planning to incorporate some of the suggestions as we continue to refine our operations for maximum productivity.

In Lucas County, we toured the Toledo Hearing and Speech Center, our Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Northwest Ohio. Like so many of our partners and RSC itself, the Toledo Hearing and Speech Center has faced financial difficulty and used innovative new programs to drive community support to their facility.



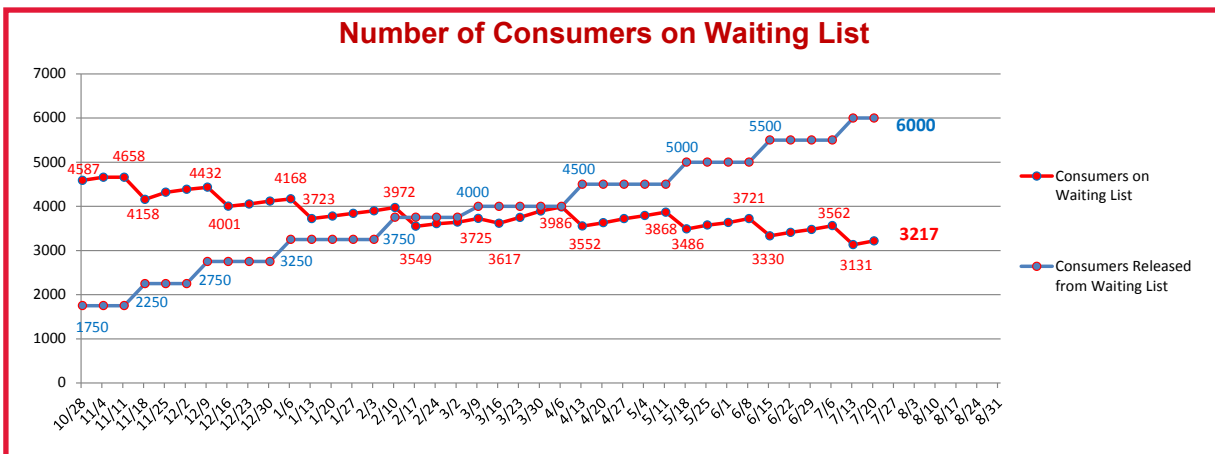
*Human Resources Deputy Director Janine Ashanin and Policy Coordinator & Interim CFO Vicki Friesland at the Toledo Hearing and Speech Center*

The Toledo Hearing and Speech Center has branched into Autism therapy, providing individualized Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and making recommendations designed to create meaningful changes in academic skills, social skills and daily living skills, for students and their parents. As part of the ABA program, the Toledo Hearing and Speech Center is just the second facility in the nation to implement a visual music program teaching each student how to play piano, read music and learn basic music theory. This process builds fine motor skills, self-esteem, social skills and serves as a cornerstone of the occupational therapy program at the Toledo Hearing and Speech Center.

## RSC Supports Operation Feed



With the changes in the economy, local food banks are relying more than ever on donations to help provide meals to those in need. The people that benefit from monetary or food donations may be our friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members who, because of a myriad of circumstances, are in need of assistance. This year, RSC staff helped fill empty plates and pantries by participating in Operation Feed. Crosswoods staff took part in several fund raising activities, including a plant/vegetable sale, cake decorating and pie tasting contest, and a walk with Director Miller—just to name a few—raising \$1,040.00 and 760 pounds of food. Field Offices took part in food and fund raising as well, making contributions both to area food banks and charities in the counties they serve. Thank you to RSC staff who helped coordinate this year's Operation Feed Campaign: Beth Ruth, Mary Lowery-Nelson, Kim Ocasio, Angela Dally, Julie Hickman, Helen McNamara, Rita Weber, Sharon Parks, Vicki Grozier, Monica Drouillard, Aimee Scheidemantel, Jill Stewart, Maria Munoz and Gwen Biglin. And, thank you, to everyone who donated to help hungry Ohioans!



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

Produced by the Office of Communications, July 20, 2012.

