**Weekly Focus**

**September 14, 2012**

**Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director**

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 DisAbility Jobs Summit – September 17-18

RSC is excited to be hosting our first Ohio *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting and Building Partnerships* on September 17-18 at the Columbus Convention Center. We have put together a program that is diverse and informative designed to educate consumers, employers, service providers and RSC professionals.

Our special guest speakers include Ohio Governor John R. Kasich; Mark Kvamme, JobsOhio President; Cabinet members including Department of Administrative Services Director Robert Blair, Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Administrator Steve Buehrer, Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Director Orman Hall, Department of Aging Director Bonnie Kantor-Burman, Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John L. Martin, Department of Veterans Services Colonel Tom Moe, Board of Regents Chancellor Jim Petro and Department of Mental Health Director Tracy J. Plouck and our keynote speakers Beth Butler, Manager, Leaves & Accommodations, Lowe’s Companies, Inc. and Kathy West-Evans, MPA, CRC, Director of Business Relations Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR).

We have over 600 participants registered. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Another 500 Consumers Released from Waiting List

Elimination of the waiting list has been a priority at RSC, and we are happy to report the release of another 500 consumers! We have now released a total of 7,000 individuals with disabilities. The current number of those consumers still waiting is 2,736. The progress we have made is exceptional. Thanks to everyone who has been instrumental in making this happen.

Employment First: Transitions Conference

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of participating in a panel discussion with leaders from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Sue Zake, Director of the Office of Exceptional Children at ODE and John Martin, Director at DODD, joined me to share our vision of focused collaboration for young people with disabilities preparing for transition. To be successful, we must all embrace the concept that learning is a lifelong process. How our systems assist teens entering high school to choose the appropriate curriculums, discuss potential higher education opportunities or careers and live independently in a seamless way is the goal.

I wish to thank the sponsors of the conference, The Ohio Association for Persons Supporting Employment (APSE) and The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS), for recognizing that tearing down silos and working together will be the only way we can succeed in serving Ohioans with disabilities.

Picture Caption:

*Panel participants included (left to right) Director Sue Zake, Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children; Director John Martin, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and RSC Director Kevin L. Miller.*

Blood Drive – RSC Keeps on Giving

RSC held another successful Blood Drive on September 6. A total of 32 units of blood were collected including 1 first time donor and 5 double red cell donations. These donations will potentially help save the lives of 96 patients! Once again, RSC donors earned the option to wear blue jeans for the day as an extra incentive to participate.

CCC Activities

The Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) is off to a great start. Our activities will run from September 5 to October 19. For those who have contributed by payroll deduction, the deductions will begin the first pay period in January. We are proud to report that RSC has raised $31,590 to date. Our goal this year is to raise at least $68,978. Staff had a lot of fun at our CCC kick-off event which featured carnival type games, snacks and a variety of charities. The charities represented said they had a lot of fun interacting with staff and were impressed with the enthusiasm of our agency.

We would like to thank all those who have participated in the fundraising events held so far. The proceeds for these events will be donated to the general CCC fund which supports a variety of charities and federations. Staff can participate in some of our upcoming events at the 400 Campus View building:

• Barb Lyons from the Delaware County United Way speaking during the lunch hour

• Corn-hole tournament

• Snack sale

All offices have been participating in dress-down Fridays, where staff can wear their favorite sweatshirts or T-shirts with a $5 per pay period payroll deduction.

CCC Testimonial by Philana France, DDD, Disability Claims Supervisor

*“During my 11 years with DDD, I have supported the Autism Society and/or other organizations that provide information and resources for families who have children on the Autism Spectrum. My initial reason for choosing these charities was the lack of explanation about Autism and the profound effect it had on families. Research and education on Autism seemed a very worthy cause to me. Six years later, I received another reason to support these charities. In 2007, my son Nolan was born and it soon became apparent that his development was not progressing in all areas. In 2010, he was diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. I am grateful for working in an organization that provided me with enough knowledge to recognize that Nolan was not meeting his developmental milestones. My job made me aware of the resources that were available to families and children with special needs. Having this knowledge meant that in early 2008 when I started having questions/concerns, I knew who to contact and what services each organization provided. Nolan began receiving services when he was 15 months old, this early intervention continues to make a huge difference in his development. I am proud of the work we do at RSC, I am grateful for what working here has allowed me to do for my son, and I amazed at the continued generosity of my co-workers each year during CCC.”*

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, September 14, 2012.

**RSC’s Facebook website:**

[**https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Rehabilitation-Services-Commission/155300754532533?sk=wall**](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Rehabilitation-Services-Commission/155300754532533?sk=wall)

**RSC’s YouTube website:**

[**https://www.youtube.com/user/OhioRSCTV**](https://www.youtube.com/user/OhioRSCTV)

**RSC’s Twitter website:**

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