**Weekly Focus**

**September 28, 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.

EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED IMPLEMENTING FEE SCHEDULE

Governor John R. Kasich signed Executive Order 2012-16K, on September 26, 2012, authorizing the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to implement a fee schedule for providers of vocational rehabilitation services.

In the executive order, the governor wrote that RSC is the only agency of its kind in the country that allows providers to set their own rates for rehabilitation services for the consumers.

“The implementation of this fee schedule is truly a historic moment,” said Kevin Miller, Executive Director of RSC. “The creation and implementation of this standardized fee schedule will allow RSC to focus time and resources where they should be - on Ohioans with disabilities.”

The fee schedule goes into effect on October 1, 2012, coinciding with the start of the federal fiscal year. Executive Order 2012-16K can be viewed here.

<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/EO%202012-16K.pdf>

WE DID IT!

I am pleased to report that as of Thursday morning, the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program has exceeded last year’s performance in terms of our employment outcomes. We are still expecting additional closures to be entered into the system and, in particular, we want to be focusing upon the wage verification data to ensure that we are maximizing our successful outcomes. This will impact our final numbers and will help us push our rehabilitation rate for the year up a bit further. We are currently at 45% and the federal benchmark is 55.8%.

We want to sincerely thank you for your efforts this year. Because of your hard work and dedication, 3,480 (and counting) people have increased their economic self-sufficiency and are more fully engaged in community life. The impact that these outcomes have had on the quality of life of the people that we serve cannot be overstated.

We will keep you posted as we finalize our numbers for the year, but we couldn’t wait to share the good news with everyone involved. The continued efforts of our RSC staff are noteworthy and appreciated; nevertheless, we shall continue to strive for even higher successful employment outcomes.

Columbus Special Hockey Association Starts Their Season

The mission of the American Special Hockey Association is to give people with physical and developmental disabilities the chance to play the sport of ice hockey in an environment which is adapted to the level of ability which the athletes are able to participate. Special hockey exists for the enrichment of the athlete with a developmental disability. In addition to physical hockey skills, the program emphasizes the development of desirable individual characteristics such as dependability, self-reliance, concentration, willingness to share and personal accountability. The game of hockey is used by Special Hockey to develop within each player the characteristics that will help the player to be more successful both inside and outside a hockey environment.

On October 20, 2012, the Columbus Special Hockey team will be hosting the Pittsburgh team for a special game at Nationwide Arena to raise money and awareness for the team. If you would like more information about the Columbus Special Hockey team, please visit the following link:

<http://www.columbusspecialhockey.com/>

DisAbility Jobs Summit

I want to express my thanks to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for their participation in the *DisAbility Jobs Summit*. RSC recognizes that the support of businesses and employers is essential to our success.

NDEAM - October 10, 2012

RSC is hosting our annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our Keynote speakers are TyKiah Wright, founder of WrightChoice, Inc. and Blake Haxton, an Ohio State University student who, as a High School senior, contracted a rare form of bacteria called the "Flesh-Eating Disease" and had to endure numerous surgeries and procedures including the amputation of both of his legs. He is currently a junior majoring in Finance.

The NDEAM national theme is “A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can You Do?” RSC is doing all it can to further that inclusive workforce as we continue to promote successful employment outcomes for people with disabilities. We hope to see you there!

Employee Recognition Event at DDD

The Division of Disability Determination (DDD) is on track to achieve its year-end goals for FFY 2011-12. To celebrate their success, they held a DDD Food Truck Fest on Tuesday, September 25, with 4 different Food Trucks parked at the St. John AME Church parking lot. I appreciate all the hard work and effort that has gone into this achievement.

Combined Charitable Campaign Update

RSC continues to show its generosity to the Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) as more than $45,000 has been raised toward our goal of $68,978. Many events are being held at regional offices such as bake sales, a door decorating contest and a hoagie sale. Central office staff had a candy gram sale which was a huge success along with a Books are Fun book fair with a percentage of the proceeds going to the CCC general fund. Corn-hole and ladder golf tournaments are also very popular. Upcoming events include a Cupcake Challenge on October 2, a corn-hole tournament on October 3 and a diversity food fair also on October 3 at the 400 building.

RSC knows how to help people in need while enjoying some fun activities at the same time. Way to go, RSC!

Picture Captions:

*Mica Sparks (right) tosses the bean bag while Shelly Rhodes waits for her turn.*

*Kevin Byers aims to win!*

*Selling candy grams (left to right): Lori Myers, Michelle Cunningham, and Kim DeSimone. Getting candy grams: Janine Ashanin.*

*Heather Morton received 40+ candy grams!*

**Combined Charitable Campaign**

 **Current Goal**

**Donations $46,413.56 $68,978.00**

 **Pledge Cards 195 247**

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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**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:**

[**https://twitter.com/#!/OHRSC/**](https://twitter.com/#!/OHRSC/)