**Weekly Focus**

**October 19, 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.

GCPD Awards

I was pleased to open the 2012 Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) Annual Meeting that took place at the Ohio Statehouse on October 16, 2012. The GCPD does a lot of work that helps out many Ohioans. This special event allowed the GCPD the opportunity to thank and recognize some of the people and groups that have provided exceptional customer service throughout the year.

Recipients of this year’s awards:

Employer of the Year

Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC

LaRosa’s Pizzeria

Better Brake Parts

Falmer Screw Products & Manufacturing, Inc.

Best Practices Award

Opportunities for Individual Change of Clark County

Advocacy Awards

Dr. Edwin Payne

Grant Lifelink: Holly Herron, Mark Huckaby, Jennie Riedy and Shari Kovach

Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award

Brianne Riffle

Photo Caption: Advocacy Award winner Dr. Edwin Payne (seated) with family

Karla Lortz Scholarship Award

Sylvia Wigal

Legislator of the Year

Senator Eric Kearney

Representative Barbara Sears

Representative Nancy Garland

Congratulations to all those who received awards this year!

Division of Disability Determination has Great Successes!

I would like to spend time in the next several issues of the Weekly Focus to highlight some of the many successes that we have achieved throughout RSC. This week, I would like to pause and recognize some of the tremendous successes of the Division of Disability Determination (DDD).

Setting goals and achieving them together as a team is one of the great rewarding experiences we can do. Goals were set high, and I am pleased to announce that the total disability determinations made for Ohioans was 214,451 versus the goal of 212,091. Let me put that number into perspective for Buckeye fans: we could fill Ohio Stadium twice and still not have enough room for all the Ohioans that DDD served this year!

But that was just one goal. As many of you already know, DDD exceeded their goals in every category, and served more Ohioans than any year in its history!

• Accuracy as measured by the Social Security Administration (SSA) improved to 98.7%, above goal and above both the Regional and National averages.

• Productivity Per Work Year (how well we perform with the resources we have) was 371.9, up from 320.4 in FFY’11 as measured by SSA.

• The time to process claims dropped 8% over the past federal fiscal year.

• Ohio had the lowest cost per case in the six-state Chicago Region.

• Ohio’s fraud detection unit ranked second in the nation and saved over $39 million for SSA and related federal programs.

• Ohio beneficiaries of the SSA disability program received over $8B in benefits in 2011.

Now for some additional highlights that show how much time and effort the DDD staff took to achieve their goals: Ohio did more cases than the SSA Boston Region, more cases than the Kansas City Region, more cases than the Denver Region, and more cases than the Seattle Region. This was done with 8% fewer resources than the previous fiscal year. The budget dropped to $81M from $88M in FFY’11, and staff dropped by over 100 to 564.

I applaud each and every one of you who were instrumental in helping DDD achieve remarkable results this past year. I look forward to what the coming year has in store for DDD.

VR DAG Meets

“Nexus” is not often used without a reference to something such as a search engine or hair product, though by definition “nexus” refers to a connection between a series or group. “Nexus” is an apt description of the Vocational Rehabilitation Director’s Advisory Group (VR DAG) meeting this week! Members of the VR DAG invited coworkers to join them in discussion surrounding topics including the roll out of the new fee schedule, staff recognition, caseload capacity and philosophy of VR practice within RSC. I engaged DAG attendees in a frank discussion of proactive solutions and possibilities regarding concerns voiced in the field, keeping in mind the end goal of serving our consumers. While there is no “magic” answer to any of the topics discussed this week, ongoing conversations such as those had during this meeting are valuable and help us to continue working toward solutions.

Special Commission Meeting

A special Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, October 17, at central office. The Commissioners met to vote on an amendment for the State Plan for Independent Living. The amendment was unanimously approved.

CCC – The Final Push

RSC approached the last week of the Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) with as much enthusiasm as it did the first week. The drive to help the charities in our community and to reach our RSC goal was strong throughout the Campaign. Activities at DDD and Central and Area BVR/BSVI offices this week included a Ping Pong Tournament, very successful Craft and Vendor Sale, Chili Cook Off, Door Decorating Contest, Max and Erma’s luncheon and Penny Wars. This flurry of activity has helped RSC reach its goal. With final numbers still to be totaled, we are happy to announce we have raised nearly $11,000 over our goal of $68,978 and we have received 277 pledge cards, 30 pledge cards over our total goal of 247. Thank you to all who participated in supporting the CCC.

Photo Captions:

1. Door Decorating Contest winner at the BVR Lakewood Office
2. Fierce competition at the Ping Pong Tournament!

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/)