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Welcome



Meet Denise Kissel the New Outreach Subcommittee Chair

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Navigating County Boards



Part One of Three-part series:

Home and Community Based Waiver Services in Ohio.

Get a basic overview of both the Individual Options (IO) and the Level 1 Waivers.

[Click here to learn basic facts about Individual Options Waiver](#)

Advocacy Corner



200 self-advocates and advocates rally on Ohio Statehouse grounds.

David Zwyer (Executive Director, ODDC) and Fatica Ayers (Program Staff) speak out at the rally.

Make sure that Ohioans with disabilities continue to receive needed services RSC Needs Your Support

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Save the Date



[Click here for upcoming conference & special events](#)

Congratulations!



TyKiah Wright, grantee of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council receives Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities in D.C. at their sixth annual Gala celebrating Achievement and Advocacy

[Click here to learn more about this significant recognition as share by Marcus Atkinson](#)

Training

2007 Grantees Attend Training Session and learn to "Reach Out" to Un/Underserved Populations



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VSA Arts and Volkswagen Host an Contest

VSA arts and Volkswagen of America, Inc., announce "Driven" call for entries, open

**Recreation Programs Grant
Available**

Average award \$130,000

[Read more](#)

to young artists with disabilities. Winners will be recognized on Capital Hill in Washington, DC

[Read more](#)

Reach Out E-Diversity News is produced by [The Outcomes Management Group, Ltd.](#)



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Denise Kissel Appointed Chair of Councils' "Outreach Initiative"

In February, Michael Scholl, Chairman of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council appointed Denise Kissel to chairperson of the Council's outreach efforts to serve the un/underserved population of the State of Ohio.



As the newly-appointed Chairperson of the Outreach Subcommittee who can never replace our previous Chairperson, Carolyn Knight, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to readers. As an original member of the subcommittee, as a parent of severely disabled young adult, and a licensed social worker, I have had a sustaining interest in the un/underserved populations of Ohio affected by a developmental disability.

"Denise, who is a long time Council and an original sub committee member is very capable of carrying out the mission we have started in reaching out to the un/underserved population of our state"

- Ken Latham, Outreach Staff for Council.

My heritage is that of Appalachia and the unique colorful fiber that Appalachian culture brings to the fabric of diversity in Ohio. According to the Appalachian Regional Commission of the federal government, Ohio has 29 counties considered part of Appalachia. Not only is this part of Ohio rural with extreme disparity of resources for people with disabilities and their families, but this population's unique cultural way of life is often neglected when designing social service delivery systems regarding disability issues.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, through a grant project of the Children's Issues committee known as Educational Options for Children, awarded a project to REACH (Referral & Educational Association for Child Health), an agency in the heart of Ohio's Appalachia country of Scioto County. Maximizing the educational potential of children with disabilities, families are assisted in understanding the educational options and rights available to them. The project provides services to expand the knowledge and skills of the families of preschool children. As has been found successful with ODDC's outreach mini-grants, Appalachian professionals are reaching out to families in their own culture to acquire tools to establish an informed advocacy base that will effect positive systems change in the education system.

The people of Appalachia throughout history have seen the wealth of their natural resources and their own way of life exploited by the government and big business, making them very suspect of outsiders. As with many diverse populations, the most predictable positive outcomes in reaching the un/underserved is a result of using this same population to bring about positive change among them. This is truly what we are seeing in Scioto County!

I look forward to our Committee's continued efforts to reach out and ensure that people with disabilities who are un/underserved have access to resources that will assist in meeting their diverse needs.

"Un/underserved populations" is a broad category that may encompass race, gender, culture, geographic location, family composition, religious background, economic status, low-incidence, congregate setting that can include a prison, developmental center, hospital or a combination of any of the above.



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Navigating County Boards of MR/DD

Home and Community Based Waiver Services in Ohio

*Leslie Summers
Supervisor of Service Coordination
Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities*



In Ohio, the Home and Community Based Waiver program has evolved from serving approximately 4,100 individuals on the Individual Options (IO) Waiver in 1998 to serving over 11,000 individuals on IO Waivers today.

With numbers like these you are probably thinking that there is no waiver problem in Ohio; that there should be a waiver slot available for you, or your loved one; and that the only thing that you need to know is, **“What do I have to do to get an IO Waiver?”**

The easy response is that you must make sure that you (or the individual that you represent) are on the IO Waiver Waiting List.

Simply go to your local Department of Jobs and Family Services office and complete the ODJFS form number 2399, Request for Medicaid and Community-Based Services Application or call your local MRDD Board and request to have your name placed on the IO Waiver Waiting List. Once an individual’s name is placed on the IO Waiting List, their name cannot be removed without their knowledge and approval. What’s more, an individual can request to be placed on the IO Waiting List in each of the 88 counties.

While it may be easy to be placed on a Waiting List, as you journey toward receiving an IO Waiver you may feel that you are on an up-hill climb. It may be years before a waiver slot is offered to you because the availability of waiver slots is dependent upon:

- The **Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities** requesting and being granted waiver slots from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- The **local MRDD Board** requesting available waiver slots from ODMRDD (this is often determined by the ability of the county board to be able to finance approximately 40% of the cost of waiver services). Counties with limited resources may not be able to support more than one or two waivers.
- The **Priority Category** in which the individual on the IO Waiver Waiting List is placed. While the names of every individual on the local MRDD Board’s IO Waiver Waiting list are ranked in order of the chronological date of request for waiver services, waiver slots are not made available to individuals by the chronological Waiting List. IO Waivers are offered to individuals based on a Waiting List date in combination with their designation in one of the Priority Categories: (1) adult with intensive needs, (2) child with intensive needs, (3) caregivers over 60 and (4) supported living refinancing. These categories came into being in 2001 when House Bill 94 became law. These priority categories help assure that those individuals with the greatest need are identified to receive an IO Waiver before an individual with lesser need but with an early Waiting List date is offered a waiver. If you feel that there is something inherently wrong with this process, remember that *this is an equitable method of assuring the individuals and families with the greatest need with the level of support to maintain their health and welfare.*

To be fully informed regarding your status on the IO Waiver Waiting List, it is important that you inquire of your SSA about your priority category standing. *If you have not been identified as a priority, but feel that you fall within one of the priority categories, you can request that you be assessed to determine if you do meet the criteria to be placed on the Priority Category Waiting List.*

The next time your local MRDD Board receives IO Waiver slots, you will stand a better chance of being identified for one of the slots if (1) you are on the IO Waiver Waiting List and (2) you are on a Priority Category Waiting List.

Detailed information regarding the IO and Level 1 Waivers is available via the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities website at www.mrdd.ohio.gov or you can contact your County Board of MRDD.



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Advocacy Corner

Self Advocates Rally Draws Support



An estimated 200 self-advocates and advocates for people with disabilities gathered March 28th on the grounds of the Ohio Statehouse to hear comments from legislators and professionals in the field of MR/DD.

The rally was sponsored in part by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) and The Arc of Ohio, with additional support from the Ohio Association of County Boards of MR/DD, The Autism Society of Ohio and several other organizations.

Despite the cool weather, self-advocates carrying colorful signs spoke out about issues important to them. "Let's Focus on What We Can Do," was the theme for MR/DD Awareness Month for 2007.

David Zwyer, Executive Director of the ODDC and **Fatica Ayers**, Program Staff specializing in Community Living issues took center stage and spoke about the "REACH" each advocate was seeking.

According to Zwyer, "REACH stands for Respect, Employment, Access,

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Needs Grass Roots Support

*Joe Dunn, Director
Legislative Affairs
Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission*

There are more federal dollars available to the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) for the Vocational Rehabilitation program provided the state can produce the needed matching funds to bring those dollars home. In order to match all of the available funding, RSC needs an additional investment of \$8.5 million over the Governor's proposed funding level. This investment will leverage over \$31 million in additional funds to be dedicated to RSC's mission of assisting people with disabilities in achieving quality employment.

Without an investment of \$4.1 million over the Governor's funding recommendation, RSC will face federal maintenance of effort penalties. At the proposed funding level, RSC will be penalized \$4.1 million in federal funds just for failing to maintain the program. Moreover, if RSC only receives the amount of funding recommended by the Governor, Ohio's VR program will lose \$44 million over the next two years. **Without this investment, fewer Ohioans with disabilities will go to work, more will wait for services, and important support programs will be reduced or eliminated.**

RSC needs your help in getting this message out to the members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor. Please, contact your state legislator and the Governor urging them to increase RSC's

Children, and Housing.”



Ayers said she was looking forward to the day when all advocacy groups come together and REACH on behalf of all persons with disabilities, no matter what their disability.



Photos provided by Kenneth Latham, Staff, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

funding level. Help us educate and inform the members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate and the Governor's office. The time to act is now. Make sure they are informed about the good work RSC does, and the importance of investing state resources in RSC.

Please visit the RSC web site for regularly updated materials and for sample letters.

http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/Hot_News/legislative.asp

For additional information Contact:
Joe Dunn, Director
Legislative Affairs
Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
(614) 752-9228
(614) 752-9320 fax



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Save the Date

Upcoming Events and Conferences with Your Special Interests in Mind

May 2 & 3, 2007

A Quality Future for People with Disabilities: Engaged in Adult Life

9th Biennial Topical Conference 2007
Statewide Career, Vocational, Transitional
and Employment Conference

Call: Tina Bastock,
Kent State University,
330-672-0726

Summer Course Offered

"Visualizing Disability," which will be offered for a 10 week term in Summer 2007. For 3 hours of graduate or advanced undergraduate credit the cost for enrollment is about \$350 for residents of North Carolina and about \$750 for out-of-state students.

The Friday Center for Continuing Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to announce an online course in disability and visual studies.

May 18 & 19, 2007

Postsecondary Education: Opening Doors to Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Host: Ohio Downs Syndrome Advocacy
[Download brochure](#)

Art 553: Visualizing Disability

This course focuses on representation of disability in modern and contemporary art history and popular culture. We will investigate the consequences of visual representation on the personal and social lives of disabled people, as well as on the development of public policy.

May 17 & 18, 2007

School Based Health Centers: Integrating Mental and Physical Health For the Care of Children and Families

Embassy Suites - Blue Ash
Cincinnati, Ohio
[Download Brochure](#)

Visual materials we will study include film, commercial advertising, charity depictions, medical images and fine art in a variety of media. Drawing from the interdisciplinary field of disability studies, we will compare and contrast various forms of and contexts for visualizing disability in art and society.

**May 30 - June 1
SOLIDARITY 2007**

Hyatt Regency Hotel and
Convention Center
Columbus, OH

Instructor: Ann Millett, PhD
E-mail: millett@email.unc.edu
Art Department, UNC-Chapel Hill
Summer 2007
Credit hours: 3

For more information and to register for the course, see Carolina Courses Online at:
fridaycenter.unc.edu

Theme: Abilities with Motion with an emphasis on empowering people with disabilities to become active contributing members of their community.

Ohio's largest and oldest conference by and about people with disabilities

30 Workshops on topics including: leadership training, education, employment, voting and advocacy

- Over 50 exhibitors and organizations
- Three Keynote Speakers
- Computer Lab
- Health Fair
- Special Arts Fair

September 26-28, 2007
The 2007 NATTAP Conference

The Network of Autism Training and Technical Assistance Programs (NATTAP), and the Autism Society of America (ASA) present the First Annual International NATTAP Conference hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

<http://www.ocali.org/nattap2007>

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215, USA



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Congratulations!

TyKiah Wright Recognized as an Emerging Leader

Marcus Atkinson



March seventh in Washington, DC, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) hosted its sixth annual Gala celebrating Achievement and Advocacy. During the Gala four awards were presented, among the awardees was **Columbus, Ohio resident TyKiah Wright**, who received the **Paul G. Hearne AAPD Leadership Award**. Recipients of the award are identified as emerging leaders in the nation and demonstrate great leadership and advocacy in the disability community. The award comes with a \$10,000 donation to continue their work in

the community.

TyKiah Wright is the founder and executive director of WrightChoice, Inc., a non-profit organization designed to assist college students with disabilities in obtaining internships and employment. Wright believes a leader has a vision and works hard to follow it. A leader is not made in a day, but is developed over a period of time. Wright states, "Leadership starts at a local level, then state, and moves to national. Becoming a leader is definitely a growing process."

During the gala, Wright was introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel, who praised her passion to encourage others beyond personal benefit as a beautiful, classic and spiritual example of how much more all of us can accomplish. In her award acceptance remarks, Wright said, "It's everyone's responsibility to drop-kick those barriers and to shut down the stereotypes so that many of us with disabilities can show our amazing talents."

WrightChoice has helped students with disabilities receive internships while in college, as well as assist high school students with college and career exploration activities for the last five years. AAPD's goal is to further the mission of the awardees and by receiving this award Wright definitely is positioning WrightChoice to receive greater recognition in the community at the local, regional, and national levels.

"Disability awareness has increased over the years, but it still needs improvement," said Wright. "People with disabilities need better employment, better education, and better housing opportunities."

Wright has a neurological disease known as Charcol-Marie Tooth disease; it affects the lower leg and arm muscles. But Wright never uses her disability as a reason to quit fighting. "If you have a disability, it is a good idea to seek out someone you can talk to. Find role models in the community or become role models yourself," Wright said.

WrightChoice will continue the commitment to improve the lives of people with disabilities. WrightChoice is working hard to establish an E-recruiting program, to provide internships for students with disabilities. WrightChoice is looking for ways to assist those students with disabilities who have transportation difficulties getting to and from their internship. WrightChoice plans to conduct its E-recruiting on a national level.



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Council's 2007 New Grantees Learn to "Reach Out" to Un/Underserved Populations



Grantee Professional Development Training went off without a hitch on March 8th in Columbus, Ohio for the 2007 grants awarded by the Ohio Development Disabilities Council. The training was promoted by the Ohio Development Disabilities Council's Outreach Sub Committee and facilitated by *Cassandra Archie, Council Consultant*.

The purpose of the Outreach Training is to provide Technical Assistance as it relates to strategies and methods of reaching unserved/underserved populations, as well as exploring the grant reporting requirements. During the last training session, Council program and fiscal staff was available to answer additional questions and provide insight.

Approximately 19 Grant Projects were represented and most grantees expressed that the training helped clarify questions they had pertaining to the grant requirements and expectations.





ReachOut e-Diversity News

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Recreation Programs Grant Available through the Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education

Average Award \$130,000
Deadline May 22, 2007

Support is provided for recreational programs providing individuals with disabilities recreational activities and related experiences to aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration. Eligible applicants are States, public agencies, and nonprofit private organizations. Eight awards will be provided with an estimated range of \$130,000 to \$140,000 for a project period of up to thirty-six months.

The sponsor provides support for recreational programs providing individuals with disabilities recreational activities and related experiences to aid in their employment, mobility, socialization, independence, and community integration. Funds may be requested for vocational skills development, leisure education, leisure networking, leisure resource development, physical education and sports, scouting and camping, 4-H activities, music, dancing, handicrafts, art, and homemaking. Projects must provide recreational services to individuals with disabilities in settings with peers who are not individuals with disabilities.

Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education
Recreational Programs for Individuals with Disabilities
\$130,000 average
May 22, 2007

[Click Here to Review Grant Information](#)



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"Driven" call for entries, open to young artists with disabilities.

Sponsored by VSA arts and Volkswagen of America, Inc.

Open to young artists with disabilities, ages 16 -25, living within the United States.

No entry fee.

"Driven" challenges artists to pinpoint the motivational force behind their artistic expression and to identify the catalyst that sustains their creative energy. Art must be an original work that has been completed in the last three (3) years. Eligible media includes: paintings, drawings, fine art prints, photography, computer-generated prints, and mixed media; must be presented in two dimensions. Artwork should not exceed 60 inches in either direction.

Deadline: July 6, 2007 (midnight, MST).

Fifteen (15) finalists will be awarded a total of \$60,000 in awards during an awards ceremony on Capitol Hill in September 2007, and artwork will be displayed in a nation-wide touring exhibition that debuts at the Smithsonian.

For additional information and to download an application, please visit:

<http://www.vsarts.org/VWcall>. Phone 800.933.8721 x3885; Email: jenniferw@vsarts.org.

Alternative formats of the application are available upon request.

ADA-OHIO (The Americans with Disabilities Act)

700 Morse Road, Suite 101

Columbus, OH 43214

800-ADA-OHIO (800-232-6446)

800-ADA-ADA1 (800-232-2321) TTY

614-844-5537 FAX

adaohio@aol.com

<http://www.ada-ohio.org/>

ADA-OHIO is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

