

ODP News

February 2017



Information, Upcoming Events, and Training

ODP Asks Providers to Participate in National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey

Pennsylvania is participating in a National Core Indicators (NCI) [Staff Stability Survey](#) and ODP is encouraging providers to participate.

The surveys, which are voluntary and anonymous, are administered by Human Services Research Institute. They are due June 30.

The survey collects information on volume, stability, compensation and benefits of direct support professionals serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Results of the last survey are [here](#).



Governor Wolf's Budget Expands Services to Individuals with Disabilities

Governor Tom Wolf's [proposed 2017-2018 budget](#) provides the highest levels of support to people with disabilities in years. It has opportunities for thousands of Pennsylvanians with disabilities to live and thrive in their communities.

His budget provides \$26.2 million to enable individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and autism to move from the waiting list. This funding:

- Expands services to serve 1,000 individuals with ID and/or autism from the waiting list through the creation of a new community support waiver;
- Provides employment and other community services to an additional 820 special education graduates with ID and/or autism;
- Expands the Adult Autism Waiver to serve 50 more individuals;
- Adds more than 1,000 individuals with autism and/or ID to the Targeted Services Management State Plan;
- Adds resources for the Community Participation Support service in the Consolidated and P/FDS Waivers
- Increases rates to address increased costs in providing services and paying direct care professionals;
- Funds community services for 80 individuals transitioning from Hamburg Center and an additional 40 individuals at other state centers;
- Establishes of two bio-behavioral units to support people with complex neurodevelopmental needs.



Merging Departments Will Streamline Services

Governor Wolf plans to create a [Department of Health and Human Services](#) to streamline services for individuals with disabilities by eliminating the unnecessary duplication of effort and confusion among consumers and their families. The departments of Aging, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Health, and Human Services will merge to form the new department, which will work to improve public health and quality of life for all residents of the commonwealth. The Wolf Administration is dedicated to continuing to provide the same quality services for individuals with disabilities and will dramatically improve the delivery of services like programs to allow individuals to remain in their homes and communities, adult protective services, and home health care and housing supports.



PA Treasury Unveils ABLE Savings Account Program Website

The PA Treasury has launched a new Achieving a Better Life Experience ([ABLE Savings Program website](#)) that provides quick and easy access to essential information on the upcoming program to give individuals with qualified disabilities a tax-free way to save for future disability-related expenses, while maintaining government benefits.

ODP Changes Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Based on the federal reimbursement rate, ODP slightly decreased the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.54 to \$.535 per mile, as of January 1, 2017.

An [ODP announcement](#) contains detailed information on how the change affects Instruct Supports Coordination Organizations and direct service providers.

Please send suggestions or questions for ODP News to: RAPWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

Transition Planning Begins for Hamburg Center Residents

ODP is beginning to plan with the residents at Hamburg Center, their families and staff to begin the transition process to after last month's announcement that the center will close. Monthly meetings have been initiated to arrange for the residents and their families to meet counties, support coordinators and the more than 40 providers that have come forward to provider services.



The public hearing related to the closure was held on January 30 in Hamburg. Families, advocates, staff, and legislators provided testimony.

Self-advocates United as One (SAU1) was featured in The Reading Eagle coverage of the public hearing. <http://www.readingeagle.com/news/article/residents-pack-meeting-on-proposed-closure-of-hamburg-center>

ODP Offers Training Opportunities for Professionals Who Work with Individuals with Autism

This spring, ODP's Bureau of Autism Services will present the ASD Seminar [Autism Myths and Misconceptions: Evidence from Data, Research, and Experience](#).

The annual ASD Seminar series for professionals will be held in multiple locations around the state in April and May 2017. These free face-to-face trainings will demystify and debunk myths and misconceptions about Autism Spectrum Disorder. Content is being developed based on the training needs identified by nearly 1,000 respondents through a provider survey conducted in January by BAS/ASERT.



Seminars will be: April 3 in Montgomery County, April 11 in Harrisburg, April 19 in Monroe County, April 25 in Erie, and May 9 in Greensburg. Stay tuned for more information about locations and registration.

MyODP

Training & Resource Center



Register for MyODP for Updates and Training Information

Register on MyODP.org for updates on communications and trainings. ODP's original website, odpconsulting.net is no longer used.

My ODP continues to provide prompt, easily accessed information to a growing number of people. As of this month it has:

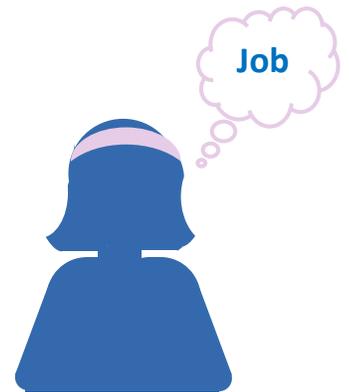
- More than 350 trainings
- 150 resource pages
- 5 Everyday Lives resources
- 300 communications
- More than 7,800 registered users
- Nearly 265 users logging in per weekday
- More than 9350 views per weekday

Pennsylvania Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Offers Webinar Series

The Pennsylvania Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program 2017 Community of Practice is presenting a [series of free webinars](#) at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month through August for: program managers, employment specialists, job developers, job coaches, vocational counselors, educators, employment stakeholders, supports/service coordinators, self-advocates, and families.

Topics include:

- March 28: Engaging Families and Communities (Corey Smith)
- April 25: Engaging Staff in Competitive Integrated Employment Practices (Rick McAllister)
- May 23: Employment Networks & Ticket to Work (Sharyn Hancock)
- June 27: Benefits Planning (Susan Harrell)
- July 25: Mental Health (Richard Toscano)
- August 22: Employer Engagement (Dale Versteegen)



The Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) is a cross-disability, cross-systems change initiative of the US Dept. of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). The goal of EFSLMP is to align policies, coordinate resources, and update service delivery models, in order to facilitate increased integrated employment options for people with the most significant disabilities. Pennsylvania is one of 19 core states selected to receive intensive technical training and assistance. Pennsylvania has requested training related to increased successes in provider transformation.

ODP to Hold Medication Administration Trainings This March Through May

ODP will hold face-to-face [Medication Administration](#) classroom training sessions throughout the state scheduled for March through May 2017.

CESP Exam Offered in April

The National Certified Employment Support Professionals examination will be presented Wednesday April 19, 2017 at Berks Technical Institute Room 004, 2205 Ridgewood Road, Wyomissing. There will be two sessions 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$159. For more information, call 612-385-5122 or email cesp@apse.org.



Feds Release Guide on Transition for Youth with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has published [“A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities.”](#)

The guide includes: transition planning, transition services and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act, education and employment options, and supporting decisions made by students and youth with disabilities.

ODP, Institute on Protective Services to Hold Certified Investigator Forum Calls

ODP and Temple University’s Institute on Protective Services are conducting [Certified Investigator Forum calls](#) to provide anyone interested with up-to-date information about changes to the ODP Certified Investigation program. Sessions on March 30 will also allow participants to network, share best practices, and receive technical assistance to improve the quality of all investigations.

Dianna and Dorene’s Lifesharing Success

Dianna Blakeley and Dorene Miller have been Lifesharing together in Philadelphia since 1999. [Lifesharing](#) supports individuals with intellectual disabilities to live with qualified unrelated adults who provide support in their home. Lifesharing is both a close personal relationship and a place to live.



Dianna and Dorene like to shop and travel together. “We try to do something every other month, even if it’s just for a weekend. We do a lot of things with the church,” Dianna said. “We go to the Poconos a lot; anyplace that has a swimming pool. She loves to splash in the water.” Living together takes patience on everyone’s part, said Dianna, program manager for the Lifesharing program at Elwyn. Dorene uses a few verbal words and some nontraditional sign language, Dianna said. “But once you get to know her you know what she wants.”

Waiver Renewals

ODP Requests SCOs and SCs to Delay Creating Fiscal Year ISP Renewals

ODP requests that supports coordination organizations and supports coordinators wait to create [Fiscal Year 2017-18 renewal individual support plans](#) until HCSIS is updated with the new and end-dated waiver renewal services. ODP anticipates that in April 2017 a significant number of new services will be added to HCSIS.



In addition, many services that exist now will be end dated in HCSIS to support the FY 2017-2018 waiver renewals. ODP will continue to keep you informed.

Update on Proposed Waiver Changes

On February 18, proposed changes to [Sections I and J](#) of the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers were published. This began a 30-day public comment period that ends March 21. ODP plans to hold [webinars](#) about the updates on March 13 and 14.

NIDILRR Seeks Comments on Long-Range Plan

The Administration for Community Living's (ACL's) National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is seeking public comment on its [draft long-range plan](#) for 2018-2023. This plan provides an overview of the state of people with disabilities in the United States and NIDILRR's investments and potential future directions for research grants.

Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Applications Available

Application forms for the Department of Revenue's Property [Tax/ Rent Rebate Program](#) are available for eligible residents to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2016. It costs nothing to apply.

Applications and filing help are available at no cost from Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices.

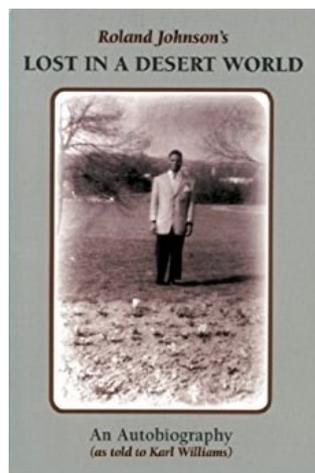
Remembering Civil Rights Leader Roland Johnson

During Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month, we honor Roland Johnson, a man who spent most of his young life at Pennhurst State School and Hospital. He went on to start Speaking for Ourselves, one of the first and most prominent self-advocacy organizations in the county.

Roland was living at Pennhurst Center when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. In his autobiography Roland says:

"...I remember I was going around the colleges, the wards, cutting hair and shaving, and it came on a special news bulletin on the TV that Dr. Martin Luther King got shot in Memphis. People was sad out there; they was very very upset that he got shot; they was crying, the patients was crying. I was crying too, 'cause he was trying to help people - poor people, black and white - out: to be equal. He fought for civil rights."

"...It's people's struggle today - how to have an organization of their own. They get denied: people could not think that handicapped people could do this; that they need to be put away somewhere far away from us. That's where discrimination is coming. At one time they had not gave them a chance to express themself. Now things are changing. The government is looking at this in a different way. People are sitting with people with handicaps on boards in government. Before they never did this. This is what Dr. Martin King had really wanted - people to live happy lives. The world would be different. And what I mean different - the world would be more nicer; people would understand us more better. When I say "us," I mean people with all kinds of disabilities; that they can't be discriminated against in this society that we live in. That would make me feel more happy. It would make other people feel better, not being discriminated against..."



Roland Johnson died in 1994.



Speaking for Ourselves Board of Directors President Roland Johnson presents President George Bush with an award in recognition of his enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (Photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)