

Spring 2011

INSIDE THIS EDITION

President's Message	1
PERCO Greenhouse	2
Clark County ASD	2
Tornado Safety	3
Lightening	4
Belco Works Employment Prog	5-6
Stark County ASD	6
Tuscarawas County Adult Svcs	7
OACB Upcoming Events	7
OAAS Board of Directors	8
Ohio Regional Map	9

And Now-A Word From Your President

Blair H. Brubaker, Miami County Board of DD

Welcome to our Spring 2011 "Leader". You don't know how close this article came to literally being a word from your President. I racked my brain to come up with something of value to write about. I take my role as President seriously and was afraid some would not see the humor in me taking the title of this article, "And Now A Word..." so literally so I quickly abandoned the one word idea.

I incorporated my usual motivational practices to stimulate my mind to develop an article: I listened to my favorite music (closed my office door and window blinds to dance a little-not pretty), I took the long way home for lunch and put my car through its paces (no small animals were hurt), I ate way too much (or should that be weigh too much) left over pizza for lunch and finally, I thought about going shopping (yes, I love to shop-real men do).

None of that worked, my computer screen remained blank. In desperation, I turned to what was on my desk and revisited some of the highlights I made when I first read: "Segregated & Exploited, A Call to Action", the scathing report by the National Disability Rights Network that basically says we fail to provide quality work for people with disabilities. I've been in a couple statewide group discussions about this report. Most discussions have been defensive and dismissive in nature. Rebuttals have also been published. Having thick skin should be a requirement for administrators providing Adult Services. We certainly receive our fair share of pot shots. However, my advice is to re-read some of the criticism. Criticism can be a motivator. Even if a portion of what we do is perceived as less than best practice, we should work hard to alleviate that condition. We all provide services and supports we are proud of. We all can still certainly improve.

In Miami County, we are extremely proud of what we do. We regularly invite the public to tour our facilities and to hear what we do in the community. We call these tours our "Community Connections Over Coffee". Last week, after having conducted two tours with outstanding results, I happened to give yet another tour later in the week. While all tour participants sang our praises, during my third tour I witnessed a couple things that could be improved upon. Those are the things I need to concentrate on and not dismiss. I view the "Call to Action" report in similar fashion. We need to listen to criticism and not ignore areas we can improve upon. The people we serve deserve no less.

Take Care,
Give Care!
Blair

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PERCO Greenhouse Celebrates First Anniversary

The PerCo Greenhouse located at 5730 St. Rt. 345 in New Lexington has reached its one-year mark. This hydroponic greenhouse grows tomatoes in a sterile environment without the introduction of dirt. The project has been under the direction and operation of the PerCo Board of Directors, PCBDD Staff, PerCo Director, Ron Spung, and the newly trained employees of PerCo, Inc. Shortly after the Perry County Commissioners announced the grand opening of the Greenhouse in the Spring of 2010, the operation was the buzz all around Perry County. "The operation has been a major success and the demands of tomatoes were so

high a shortage was encountered during the beginning stages. This shortage sounds like a negative, but the Greenhouse staff took it as a compliment, and increased production," said Spung. The staff and Community have been great supporters of the DD program and any new business adventures over the years. Due to such large demand, PerCo has purchased the necessary equipment to produce tomatoes year round. The idea of expanding with a new greenhouse has been brought to the table with the intentions of growing a little bit of everything,, which would include types of garden plants, hanging baskets, and annual flowers. The opening of the new green house will be sometime in the Spring of 2011. Visit our website at www.percoinc.org for details about the grand opening, prices and/or hours of operation or contact us at 740-342-5156.

New Adult Services Director Hired in Clark County

Stacy has over eight years of experience working in the human services field. Stacy has served as the Adult Services Director for Developmental Disabilities of Clark County since August 2010.

Prior to her work at Clark County, Stacy worked six years at Goodwill Columbus. Stacy served in the role of Manager of the LIFE Works Program, which was a VRP3 program in collaboration with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Stacy graduated in 2003 from Wright State University with a B.S. degree in Social Work and graduated from The Ohio State University with a M.S.W degree in Social Administration in 2008. Stacy has been a Licensed Social Worker since 2003.

Joint Statement on Tornado Safety By the American Red Cross and the National Weather Service

The National Weather Service and the American Red Cross share a common goal of protecting lives through public education. Regarding tornado safety, we both agree that the best options are to go to an underground shelter, basement or safe room. We have been giving this advice for decades, and it is recognized as the most effective way to stay safe in a tornado.

The National Weather Service and Red Cross also agree on the critical importance of preparedness and quick action when conditions are right for tornadoes to develop like during a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado watch. When a tornado warning is issued, immediate action is required. Preparedness begins by identifying a safe location well in advance of any severe weather and having a way to get weather alerts wherever you are, such as from a NOAA weather radio. When a watch or warning is broadcast, people should already have a plan on what to do and where to go. They should take action immediately and never wait until they actually see a tornado.

The National Weather Service and the Red Cross continue to agree that if no underground shelter or safe room is available, the safest alternative is a small windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building, such as an interior bathroom. We also recommend that residents of mobile homes go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter if a tornado threatens.

The Red Cross and Weather Service believe that if you are caught outdoors, you should seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter:

- Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
 - o Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.

- o If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

- Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.

The important thing to understand is that if you find yourself outside or in a car with a tornado approaching and you are unable to get to a safe shelter, you are at risk from a number of things outside your control, such as the strength and path of the tornado and debris from your surroundings. This is the case whether you stay in your car or seek shelter in a depression or ditch, both of which are considered last resort options that provide little protection. The safest place to be is in an underground shelter, basement or safe room. The American Red Cross and the National Weather Service are working to ensure that our publications are updated to reflect this new tornado safety messaging. These changes were formulated using evidence-based research. The American Red Cross and the National Weather Service will continue to work together to assess new research findings and future improvements to our Nation's tornado safety messaging.

Dated: June 22, 2009



Lightning: What You Need to Know

- **NO PLACE** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, *immediately* move to safe shelter.
- Safe shelter is a substantial building or inside an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.



Indoor Lightning Safety Tips

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.



Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

NO PLACE outside is safe when lightning is in the area, but if you are caught outside **with no safe shelter anywhere nearby** the following actions *may* reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks
- NEVER lie flat on the ground
- NEVER use a tree for shelter
- NEVER use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter
- Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should ANY of the above actions be taken if a building or an all-metal vehicle is nearby



If Someone Is Struck

- Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need immediate medical attention.
- Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED, if necessary.
- Call 911 for help.

Belco Works Employment Program Continues Expansion

The Community Employment Program at Belco Works in St. Clairsville continues to experience growth and changes. They recently participated in the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities', MIG-funded *Employment First Transition Project*, implemented by Wilson Resources, Inc. The goal of the Transition Project was to identify individuals in six agencies' work centers to transition to community employment in 2010.

According to Leslie Wilson of Wilson Resources, Inc., "the Transition Project at Belco Works was the most successful. The six participating agencies were asked to identify a minimum of five (5) individuals in their work centers to move to community jobs. Belco Works identified 12 job seekers from its work center and helped seven (7) of them to successfully transition to well-matched, quality community jobs.

Belco Works was the project role model. The idea of the job seekers' transition teams meeting weekly until success was achieved was developed at Belco and replicated at some of the other participating agencies. The 2011 Transition Project will make weekly transition team meetings a condition of agency participation."

Leslie went further to say, "In my opinion, the reasons for Belco's success were:

- Agency leadership's wholehearted commitment to the project;
- The director of Employment Services' organizational skills, passion and belief that job seekers would be successfully employed; and
- The nexus of and cooperation between Employment Services' and work center staff. "

One of the placements that came about through the Employment First Project was at the local Sam's Club in St Clairsville, OH. The manager

there, Bill Williams, approached Belco Works about providing diversity training in developmental disabilities for his employees. All supervisors from the Sam's Club came to the Belco Works facility for a presentation, tour, observation, and interaction with the employees.

The "Freedom Readers of Belmont County" also went to Sam's Club and did a presentation for all sales associates regarding clients' rights and respect for all. Belco Works received only positive feedback from Sam's employees and supervisors. The most common statement seemed to be, "I just didn't know!" Belco Works believes education is often our best tool and uses every opportunity to open the doors and dispel the misconceptions.



As the Employment Program grows, so does the membership of the Employer Advisory Board. Belco Works' Employer Advisory Board is made up of local employers, chamber officials, and business people, to assist the Employment Program staff. They meet quarterly and have been instrumental in the continued success and growth of the program. They come to the meetings armed with ideas for improvement, **(Continued on Next Page.)**

marketing of the program, possible leads for the job developers, and true and sincere interest in the job seekers and their individual success.



More placements translate into higher needs for demand-responsive transportation, so application was submitted and ODOT grant funding awarded for a modified mini-van. The goal is to assure all employees can be at work when and where their employers want them.

This van will assist when public transportation is not an option.

The addition of this vehicle removed one more barrier to the overall success of the individual job seekers. This also enabled Belco Works to add an additional staff position for a driver of the van.

This vehicle will also become a valuable addition to the youth program. To enhance the transition of students into community employment, Belco Works is currently working with RSC and the *Bridges Program*. The Bridges Program allows Belco to start working with the students and their parents/caregivers at an earlier age to begin the process of preparing for integrated work in their community. Belco is currently working with students from all seven local public high schools through the program and staff seems to enjoy the program as much as the students. It is fun and educational and allows students to expand their friendships outside of their schools while gaining valuable skills and knowledge. One student that participated in the program has graduated and obtained employment in the community.

Belco Works plans for the future include continued growth of community employment services. While there is much to be proud of, as long as there are individuals who want better jobs and better wages, there will be a need for employment services to continue to grow, change, and improve.

Stark County DD Hires Carmen Crum as New ASD

The Director of Adult Services for Stark County is Carmen Crum. Carmen has had professional experiences since 1979 in both the private and public sector. Her experience in the field of developmental disabilities includes consultation, residential and employment and prior to taking the position at the Stark County Board of DD, has worked for or with the Marion County Board of DD, the Lake County Board of DD, the Delaware County Board of DD and the Mercer County Board of DD.
