

Weekly Focus

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

The mission of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency is to ensure individuals with disabilities achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes through integrated services, partnerships and innovation.

Lean Ohio comes to OOD

Since 2012, OOD has made significant process improvements and cost savings through Lean Six Sigma tools and methodologies. For example, disability determination medical contractor pay process work time was reduced from over eight hours a day to less than 10 minutes a day, and the average time to make eligibility decisions for individuals seeking vocational rehabilitation services from time of referral was reduced by more than three weeks, from an average of 90 days to 67 days.

During this past week, the State's Lean Ohio team dedicated their resources to train a cross section of 18 OOD employees for their Green Belt Certification. This first part of a two-week training serves as a foundation for learning about basics in operational efficiencies and how to remove barriers in processes that slow things down. This training is focused on providing Lean Six Sigma tools and methodologies and has been designed to fit the needs of State agencies to be utilized in overall improvement projects in the workplace. As part of their training, and a condition of their certification, the



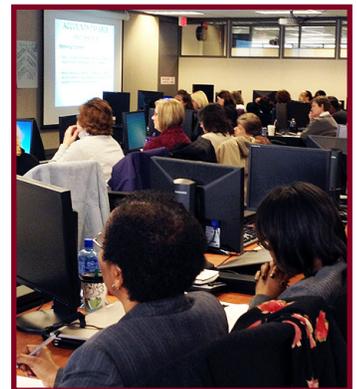
OOD staff participating in the Green Belt Certification training are (foreground) Donna Rhodes, Account Examiner from Toledo; (back, left to right) Lori Carter, HR Classifications and Selections Manager; Andrew Meador, DDD Disability Claims Adjudicator; and Alissa Otani-Cole, BVR Rehabilitation Program Specialist.

OOD staff will be leading several agency-wide process improvement initiatives over the course of the coming year.

Visit <http://lean.ohio.gov/> for information on how to help make state government services simpler, faster, better and less costly.

AE2 Training

This week I had the opportunity to address the Account Examiner 2s (AE2) and their supervisors who were meeting with the Division of Fiscal Management regarding budget and accounts payable policy and procedures. The AE2s and their supervisors will meet bi-monthly to review procedures and policies in Columbus. I have heard positive feedback from AE2 managers that this was a worthwhile training and they look forward to the continuous guidance these meetings will provide.



AE2 training at the 400 Learning Center

OOD Excellence in Service Award Ceremony

You are invited to the **OOD Excellence in Service Award Ceremony** on Monday, February 10, 2014, 11:30 am – 12:15 p.m. It will be held at the 400 East Campus View Blvd. building in the 400 Learning Center. **Video-Conferencing** will be available at all field offices.

Release time is granted to attend this ceremony. Please let your supervisor know you will be attending. If you have questions, contact HR Training and Organizational Development Manager Kathy Boss, at 614-438-1247 or e-mail at Kathleen.boss@ood.ohio.gov.

Come celebrate OOD Excellence!

OHBLN Spotlight Affiliate

The Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN) was recognized by the United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN) as February's Spotlitged Affiliate for its collaborative work with OOD on the Central Ohio Workplace Initiative (COWI). COWI is funded by a grant from a private foundation concerned about the high unemployment rate of individuals with disabilities. COWI helps to create a demand for qualified job seekers with disabilities in distribution, retail, healthcare and other industries. OOD is sourcing candidates from among those we serve. To read more about the OHBLN Affiliate Spotlight, please visit the USBLN website at <http://www.usbln.org/affiliates-bl-n-buzz.html>.

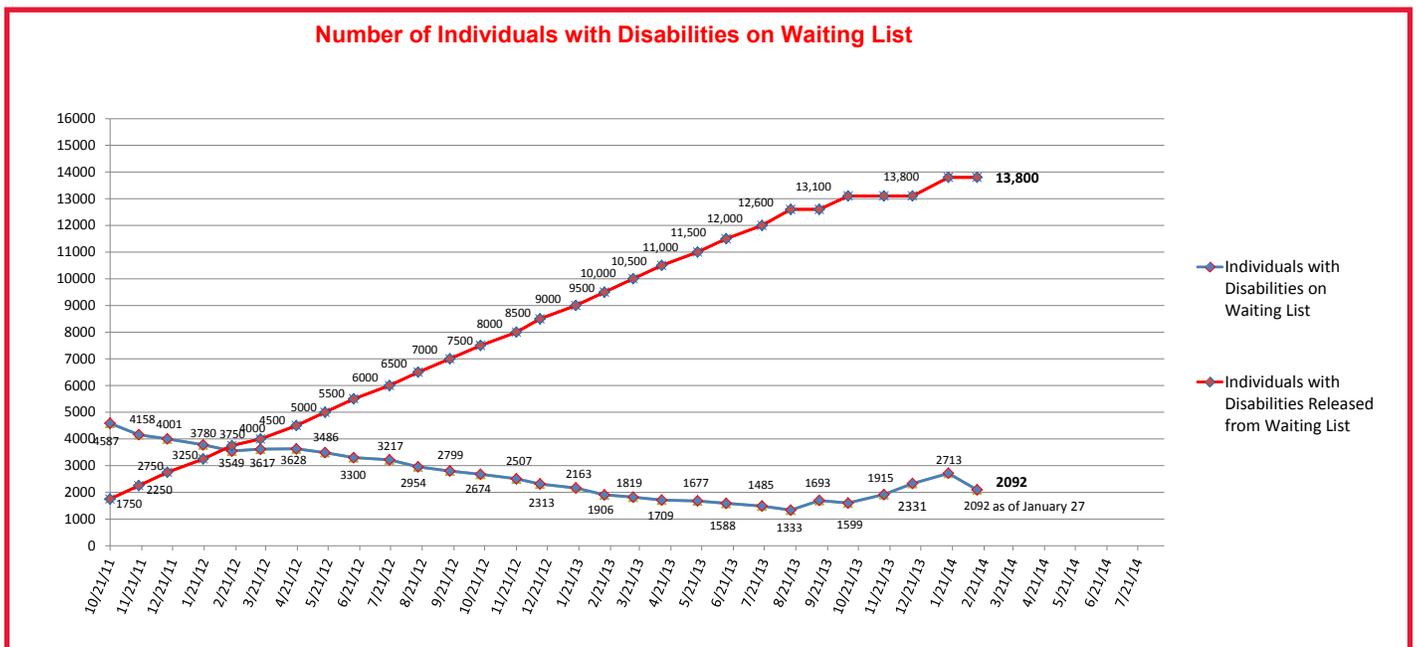
Congratulations, OHBLN!

Dick Huber



With heartfelt sadness, our friend and coworker, Dick Huber, passed away this past Friday, January 31, 2014. Dick started with OOD in 1996 as a Mail Clerk before moving to IT in 1998. More information is available at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?n=richard-a-huber&pid=169484294>.

Please take the time to remember Dick and his family in your own special way.



For more information or questions on stories in this publication, please call the Office of Communications at 614.438.1476.

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