

February 10, 2023



State Budget Update

"I am very grateful for Governor DeWine's overwhelming support for people with disabilities and their families. This budget proposal is structurally balanced while meeting key priorities of our community. Budget priorities for DODD focus on ensuring a strong workforce by increasing wages for DSPs, initiatives for innovative technology, and support for youth with complex needs. DODD's proposed budget increases by 4% in fiscal year 2024 and 5.2% in fiscal year 2025."



This budget proposal will have an immediate and long-lasting impact for Ohio's DD system. I'd like to highlight areas of Governor DeWine's budget proposal that will greatly benefit Ohioans with developmental disabilities."

The quote above is just a piece of the testimony I provided to the Ohio House Finance Committee in support of Governor DeWine's budget proposal. I am very excited about the proposed, historic investment in the developmental disability system and what it means for Ohioans receiving services, their families, and providers.

The committee meeting was dedicated to hearing the budget priorities from the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Aging, and Medicaid.

The main topics I covered during my testimony were the importance of:

- supporting the critical direct care workforce;
- increasing advocacy and accessibility;

- investing in technology support; and
- investing in youth with complex needs.

You can find the full recording of the testimony [here](#) or read it [here](#).

As the next step in the legislative process, I will give a more detailed testimony to the House Finance Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services. After that, the committee will open the meetings to public testimony. This is a great time for self-advocates, families, and friends to advocate for items in the budget. Be sure to review the DODD [legislative advocacy page](#) for helpful tips.

We are still months away from a final budget, but I look forward to advocating for our system during the coming months.

Sincerely,



Staffing Updates

Director Hauck is pleased to announce the appointment of **Lyndsay Nash as Assistant Director for DODD**. In her new role, Lyndsay will work with all the deputies to coordinate many of the department's cross-divisional initiatives. In addition to overseeing that internal coordination, she will work closely with other state agencies and stakeholders to implement and advance the policies of the DODD. She will also help coordinate communications out of the Director's Office to ensure that families and stakeholders receive timely assistance from DODD.

Nash brings a wealth of experience in health and human services and compliance. She previously served as the Director of Compliance for the Office of System Support and Standards for DODD. Before that, she served the department for five years as Associate General Counsel in the division of Legal and Oversight.

Prior to her time at DODD, Nash worked in the Ohio Attorney General's office in the Health and Human Services and Crime Victim Services Divisions. She holds a Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University Law School and a bachelor's degree from The University of Michigan.

After working for the State of Ohio for 35 years, 30 of those with the Department of Developmental Disabilities, **Debbie Hoffine, Deputy Director of the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, is retiring**. Debbie's last day with the Department will be Tuesday, February 28. DODD appreciates Debbie's years of dedicated service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and wishes her the best of luck in her next chapter.

Director Hauck announced the hire of **Allan Showalter to the role of Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration.**

Allan currently serves as Director of Program Integrity at the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). Prior to that, Showalter served as Deputy Legal Counsel for ODM. Among other professional roles, Allan previously served at DODD as Associate General Counsel.

He brings a wealth of experience in Medicaid, health and human services, rule and law development. He holds a Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University, Mortiz College, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton.

Kudos to Columbiana County Board of DD



This week, the community in East Palestine experienced a dangerous situation that required quick movement to protect its citizens when a train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed. This derailment resulted in fires and explosions that emitted harmful gases into the air. Governor DeWine swiftly ordered residents to evacuate the area, including 53 individuals receiving services from the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

County board and provider staff quickly worked together to help meet the needs of the affected residents and helped them find safe housing. Many residents had to leave with just the clothes on their backs and medications. Teams went above and beyond to purchase additional items such as clothes, hygiene supplies, water, and snacks. The operation required leadership, teamwork, and strategic thinking during a crisis. We appreciate the Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities and their provider community for putting their community members that receive services first and ensuring safe outcomes during a stressful situation.



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