

# ODP News

May 2017

## Information, Upcoming Events, and Training

### AEs, SCOs, & Providers Must Submit Contact Info by June 9 for QA&I

Administrative Entities, supports coordination organizations and providers need to submit their primary and secondary contact information for the Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) Process by close of business Friday, June 9, 2017.

### DHS Announces Medication Admin Training Program Schedule

The Department of Human Services has announced the face-to-face [Medication Administration classroom training sessions](#) scheduled for the spring and summer of 2017 throughout the state.



## Commonwealth Shows Progress on Employment First Executive Order

This month the Department of Human Services posted an [Employment First Executive Order Summary](#). It serves as the progress report for Governor Tom Wolf's 2016 Executive Order "Establishing 'Employment First' Policy and Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Pennsylvanians with a Disability."



The summary details Department of Human Services offices' and other commonwealth departments' progress and plans to review and develop regulations, policies, and services to ensure compliance with the Executive Order.

To support the Executive Order, ODP has developed new draft regulations and waiver service definitions. In addition, we have established 19 Communities of Practice designed to teach families to envision and plan a typical life for their children. ODP is working with the Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Education and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse on initiatives. The office also is planning the Community Living Waiver, effective January 2018, a capped waiver that will include employment services.

We are excited to be part of this valuable, collaborative effort.

## Feds Extend Timeline for Home and Community Based Services Settings

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [has extended the deadline for states to comply with the Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Settings Rule](#). States can take an additional three years -- to March 2022 -- to ensure compliance with criteria of a home and community-based setting.

The [HCBS](#) rule requires person-centered plans of care and says that individuals receive services and supports through Medicaid waivers in settings that are integrated in and support full access to the greater community.

The added time will allow us to expand the time frames we have set for conducting provider self-assessments and extend the target date for holding providers accountable to meet the community participation target percentages.

Our focus can now be on making our community participation even better.





# Mark Reeves Helps Others to Find Their Own Voices

## ODP Offers Revised Peer Review Manual, Courses

ODP's [Certified Investigator Peer Review \(CIPR\) manual](#) has been revised. The manual and course offerings are available on MyODP.org.

The peer review is an ongoing evaluation process designed to provide information about the overall quality of incident investigations to an organization as well as the investigator. The peer review provides an investigator direct feedback and identifies quality improvement recommendations.

## Enterprise Incident Management System Training Materials and Q&A Sessions are Available

ODP is offering [training materials and question and answer sessions related to new changes in the Enterprise Incident Management System](#).

ODP will hold Q&A sessions June 5; one 10 a.m. to noon and the other at 1-3 p.m.

His first 25 years, Mark Reeves couldn't speak. He felt angry and isolated. He could see words in his head, but he couldn't get them out of his mouth. It was horrific, he said.

Then a teacher introduced him to augmentative communication. Suddenly his whole world opened up.

As he eagerly mastered the technology, he told his mother he had been like a sponge, absorbing everything around him, hoping someday he would speak.

He's passionate about giving other people the same opportunity. For 17 years, Mark, of Watsontown, Northumberland County, has run a social group called Snack and Chat where adults can practice communicating with their devices.

Now he also has a professional position helping others find their own voices.



*Mark Reeves talks with his Direct Support Professional, Matt Yeager.*

Mark uses the Arc's 15 iPads to teach many people to communicate, said his mother, Ann Reeves. "There was a man who was both deaf and nonverbal, a person who was basically isolated he couldn't hear or speak. Mark found an app to teach sign language. Now he types and is part of the group because he can express himself."

Mark and his longtime best friend own a home together in town about five minutes from the farm where he grew up and where his parents still live. In addition to his job, he volunteers at his local library. Mark, who has Down syndrome and he believes he has autism, has a message for the world: "Please allow us to be all we can be, not what you think we can't be."



*Mark Reeves helps individuals to master augmentative communication devices.*

He is the augmentative and alternative communication liaison for The ARC, Susquehanna Valley. He has introduced many nonverbal individuals to augmentative communication, helping them become more comfortable with the technology so they can communicate with the world.

Mark is a role model for hundreds of people, said Brian Habermehl, coordinator of self-advocates at The Arc, Susquehanna Valley. "He will share his story with someone. He'll talk about communication options to help individuals to find the right communication style for them. He will give them the inspiration to move forward."



## ODP Instructs Waiver Providers How to Handle Claim Denials

ODP has released [updated information](#) for direct service providers that render and bill for waiver-funded services and for administrative entities on how to proceed when they receive a claim denial for claim past filing limit or for claim past 365 day filing limit.

## ODP Reminds Autism Waiver Behavioral Specialists and Support Coordinators about the Periodic Risk Evaluation

Effective immediately, Adult Autism Waiver and Adult Community Autism Program Supports Coordinators and Behavioral Specialists should administer the [Periodic Risk Evaluation](#) for all participants across Bureau of Autism Services programs as part of the required assessment package for intake and the Annual Review Plan period.

Please send suggestions, success stories, or questions for ODP News to [RA-PWODP\\_OUTREACH@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov)



**Something to smile about:** Temple University's Institute on Disability has free lessons for individuals, family members, caregivers, administrative entities, and support coordination organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities or autism at its [College of Direct Support](#). For more information, email: [CDSPA@temple.edu](mailto:CDSPA@temple.edu)

## Information, Events, and Training.

### Register for Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program Webinars

The Pennsylvania Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (PA EFSLMP) Community of Practice is offering [a webinar series](#) on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m.

In line with the PA EFSLMP emphasis on Provider Transformation, topics of the PA EFSLMP Community of Practice webinar series will be: June 27, Benefits Planning; July 25, Mental Health; and August 22, Employer Engagement.

### Affordable Care Act Toolkit Available for Self-Advocates

The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) has released an [Affordable Care Act Toolkit for Self-Advocates](#).

This toolkit is one in a series of accessible policy and advocacy resources that ASAN will release this year.



## Adult Autism Waiver Service Supports and Services Directory is Updated

ODP's Bureau of Autism Services has produced an up-to-date version of the [Adult Autism Waiver's Supports & Services Directory](#).

Providers are asked to review their information to ensure it's correct and current.

## Register Today for 10th Annual PA Autism Training Conference

Online registration closes May 31 for ODP's [10th Annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference, "Delivering Autism Services in Pennsylvania: Practical Strategies & Tools,"](#) which will be June 6-8, 2017 at Eden Resort Inn & Suites in Lancaster.

This conference is to provide professionals with the tools to support individuals with ASD. It will focus on addressing real-life situations.

## Save the Date for the 5th Annual Lifesharing Conference

[The Pennsylvania Lifesharing Coalition](#) presents "Together Through Seasons of Change," the 5th Annual Lifesharing Conference, October 16 and 17, 2017 at Kalahari Resort & Conventions in Mount Pocono. More details are expected in August.

## ODP Posts Schedule of Virtual Trainings for Autism Providers

ODP's Bureau of Autism Services announced its [schedule of virtual trainings](#) for Adult Autism Waiver and Adult Community Autism Program Providers through the end of June.

## Chris Grandy is Selected to Co-Chair PA Developmental Disabilities Council

Chris Grandy is carrying on his father's legacy of improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Roger Grandy, who died in 2014, was a past president of both the state and national Arc. He was also a board member of the Washington County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (formerly Washington County MHMR board). His son, Chris, has been chosen by his peers on the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council to co-chair the council.



"I love the council so much," said Chris, 49, of Charleroi in Washington County. "My dad was the vice chair of council in the year 1990. So I'm taking over his reigns now."

His co-chair, Shirley Keith Knox, is a family friend who has known Chris since he came to meetings as a boy with his father, she said.

Roger was passionate about the work of the Arc and was a strong advocate for people having full access to their communities, said Shirley, who is deputy administrator of ID Services and Early intervention services for Dauphin County. Chris did everything his parents did and he learned at a very early age to be a disability advocate, she said.

Shirley said she and Chris have a very good partnership and their skills complement each other. "He is very good at bringing people to order, maintaining the flow of the agenda. He does the things he feels very strongly about."

Chris is very enthusiastic and committed to helping people, his sister Pat Grandy said. "He's familiar with the problems people face." Their parents made sure Chris was included at school and in the community, which was unusual in the 1960s and '70s when many people with disabilities were still segregated and isolated, she said.

Chris, who has Down syndrome, has worked at Pizza Hut for 30 years, and likes cooking pizza, bread sticks, and cinnamon sticks, and bussing tables.



## PA APSE to Hold a Day on Employment

The PA Association of People Supporting Employment First (PA APSE) will hold a statewide day on employment Tuesday, June 6, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harrisburg PATTAN.

PA APSE will be look at the new service definitions and how to navigate them and work collaboratively. Providers will discuss how they improve the employment services they provide.

The day will be an opportunity to share successes and stumbling blocks.

Lunch will be provided. You do not have to be a member of APSE to attend.

Please RSVP to Julia Barol at [julia@transitionconsults.org](mailto:julia@transitionconsults.org)

**Admit One**

## Sensory Friendly Film Showings are Available

Some theater chains in Pennsylvania and around the country are showing [sensory friendly films](#) for theater-goers with autism or other disabilities and their families.

Theaters leave the lights on, and turn the sound lower.

## Speaking for Ourselves Will Celebrate 30 Years of Self Advocacy With June 17 Presentation

Speaking for Ourselves, in conjunction with National Disability Pride Day, will present information about the organization's history from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 17, 2017 at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, Philadelphia.



## Artists Can Enter Statewide Art Contest

Pennsylvania has launched its third statewide art contest for artists with a disability, Art: the Universal Language. This year's theme will be Visions of Pennsylvania.

Artists of all ages and media are encouraged to share their vision and interpretation of Pennsylvania. Deadline for submitting materials is July 14, 2017.

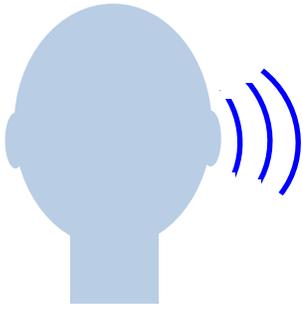
## Certified Employment Support Professional Exams Will be Offered in Pennsylvania

There are new certification requirements for employment service staff for the supported employment, small group employment, and community participation support service definitions effective July 1, 2017.

These requirements will include holding a Certified Employment Support Professional credential from the Association of People Supporting Employment First, or having been awarded a Basic Employment Services Certificate of Achievement or a Professional Certificate of Achievement in employment Services from an Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) organizational member that has ACRE-approved training.

[Detailed information](#) on these new certification requirements may be found in the full Consolidated and P/FDS waiver applications on the Department of Human Services' website.

There will be exams throughout the United States, [including several locations in Pennsylvania](#) with open availability.



## PennDOT Creates an Audio Version of Driver's Manual

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced that for the first time an audio version of the Pennsylvania Non-Commercial Driver's Manual is available for free download [on its website](#).

Audio files can be streamed from the website or downloaded onto a computer or device.

## FDA Issues Warning About False Autism Cures & Treatments

The [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) warns that many products claiming to cure or treat autism don't help and could even be dangerous. There is no cure for autism. So, products or treatments claiming to "cure" autism do not work as claimed.



The FDA has warned and/or taken action against several companies that have made improper claims about their products' intended use as a treatment or cure for autism or autism-related symptoms.



Interviewer Kathy Reisch gives Fran Cohen pamphlets at the end of his recent IM4Q interview in Cumberland County.

## IM4Q Survey Helps ODP to Improve Individuals' Everyday Lives

[Independent Monitoring for Quality \(IM4Q\)](#) surveys assist ODP to improve the lives of individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability. ODP uses survey results both to enrich the lives of the individuals who answer questions and to enhance the overall system of care.

Independent teams contact a random sample of people receiving ODP - funded services. If an individual agrees, the survey team asks a series of questions about things like: satisfaction, dignity, respect, rights, emergency preparation, employment, relationships, inclusion, and choice and control. It's the choice of the individual whether or not to participate in a survey and whether ODP can share the results with their county, supports coordinator, or provider.

An IM4Q team, typically two or three people, has at least one member who is either an individual with a disability or a family member of an individual with a disability. The team is independent, which means they are not from ODP, the county, or the individual's provider. IM4Q is a great way for self-advocates and family members to meet new people gain employment.

If you have questions, contact Lee Stephens, IM4Q Statewide Coordinator, via the ODP Customer Service Line at 888-565-9435 or [ra-customerservice@pa.gov](mailto:customerservice@pa.gov).