

THE SCOOP

Oct. 3, 2018

Technology First

Ohio is the first state in the country to place an emphasis on expanding access to technology for people with developmental disabilities, thanks to the Technology First Executive Order signed by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year.

Under the executive order, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will work with county boards to ensure technology is considered as part of all service and support plans for individuals with disabilities. It's designed to help people learn more about how to use technology to improve their quality of life and experience more independence. It could also be an important tool at a time when there's a significant direct care shortage in Ohio.

Technology that can support a person from a distance is known as supportive technology using cameras or sensors, two-way communication, and backup support that's offsite.



Kyle Corbin, DODD's technology project manager, recently met with local providers to discuss the benefits of assistive technology and remote support, including the cost savings.

More than 325 people in 61 counties are using remote support services – none in Richland County.

“Our goal is 600 people by July 2019,” Corbin said. “I think it’s really, really achievable.”

There are currently six vendors that do remote monitoring in Ohio. Corbin says they are the experts who determine what technology someone might be able to utilize.

Click [here](#) to find out more about Technology First and how it might benefit you or your family member.

Statehouse rally

Hundreds of people from across Ohio descended on the Statehouse in Columbus on Sept. 27 for the Bridge2Equality National Workforce Crisis Awareness Day rally.

The event was designed to raise awareness of the ongoing shortage of direct support professionals (DSPs). In Ohio and nationwide, the industry has struggled to recruit and retain a sufficient supply of qualified workers who assist people with disabilities in their homes, on the job, and during activities.

One of the featured speakers at the rally was Nicolas Comstock, a member of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities



who also receives services from Richland Newhope. He spoke about how the shortage has impacted him directly and why it's important to address some of the issues contributing to the DSP shortage, including pay.

"Today I'm here to speak on behalf of those, a lot of those, who do not have a voice," said Nick. "I am all for people getting paid a reasonable wage to support their families. But we also need DSPs just not concerned about money. We need DSPs concerned about their individuals that they care for and their well-being."

Also in attendance at the rally were Courtney, who receives supports from Richland Newhope, along with her mother, Donna, and a Newhope staff member.

Insider preview

Did you know Richland Newhope has two electronic newsletters?

In addition to 'The Scoop,' which usually comes out twice a month, we do a quarterly newsletter called 'The Insider.' It's distributed near the beginning of every quarter and has longer feature stories.

Look for the fall edition of 'The Insider' next week. It will have more information about the waiver waiting list changes, a feature about an individual who will also be seen on our October billboards, and a story about another local provider.



If you miss any of our newsletters, you can find them on our website,



Disability Employment Awareness Month

As you drive around the Mansfield area this month, look for Richland Newhope's five billboards as we mark Disability Employment Awareness Month. We're featuring Maggie Smith, who works at Winchester Terrace Nursing Home. She'll also be featured in an advertisement on Richland Source.

In Memoriam

Willie Mae Lester

Sept. 24, 2018

October Calendar

- Oct. 4** - Residential Harvest Festival for residents, Newhope staff, & families, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Raintree, 721 Scholl Rd., Mansfield
- Oct. 5** - First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield
- Oct. 8** - Columbus Day Holiday: Administration Building, Early Childhood Center, and our Service & Support Administration offices closed
- Oct. 10** - MUI/Rights Training for Providers, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Rm. 235, Mansfield
- Oct. 19** - MUI/Rights Training for Providers, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave., Rm. 235, Mansfield

Oct. 24 - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting,
11:30 a.m., Raintree, 721 Scholl Rd., Mansfield

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