

Summer 2013

Governor's Office of Appalachia

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WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OHIOANS LIVING IN THE 32-COUNTY REGION

A Message from Director Wilson

I hope you are enjoying your summer. It is hard to believe our students will be returning to school in the next few weeks. Since our last newsletter, there have been a few changes at the Ohio Development Services Agency and the Governor's Office of Appalachia.

In April, Governor Kasich asked David Goodman, director of the Ohio Department of Commerce to be the director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. It's great working with Director Goodman again – we served in the legislature together. Under Director Goodman's leadership, you will see a focus on customer service. We want to ensure that you have the resources you need to strengthen your communities and make them competitive for job creation.

To help the Governor's Office of Appalachia provide the best customer service, we have expanded our team. Joy Padgett has returned to the Governor's Office of Appalachia as Deputy Director. Many of you know Joy, as she served as Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia under Governor Taft. Since she joined the team, Joy has been traveling the region, attending the commemoration of the Battle of Buffington Island, the opening of the Zanesville Digital Works Center, Lilyfest in Hocking County, the Murray City Park ribbon cutting and the State of the Region Conference at Ohio University. It is great to have Joy on the team, and together we continue to work with JobsOhio and the other state agencies to improve the lives of Ohioans living in the region.

At the end of June, the General Assembly passed, and Governor Kasich signed, a state budget that continues to build a business-friendly environment. This budget includes a \$2.7 billion tax cut. Ohio small businesses will receive a 50 percent tax cut and all Ohioans will see a 10 percent income tax reduction over the next three years. A few weeks ago, Governor Kasich also authorized a transfer of \$995.9 million to Ohio's Rainy Day Fund. Now Ohio has more than \$1.4 billion, up from the low of \$0.89. These initiatives will make Ohio more competitive for job creation.



Left to Right: Stu Johnson, executive Director of Connect Ohio and Deputy Director Padgett and Director Wilson at the Zanesville Digital Works Opening

I want to recognize two of our local development districts. The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District recently celebrated its 45th anniversary as a development district, and the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) was awarded the Auditor of State Award by Auditor of State Dave Yost. This award is presented to local governments and organizations for meeting the criteria for a clean audit report. Congratulations to the teams at Buckeye Hills and OVRDC.

I look forward to sharing more success stories from our region in the coming months. If you have ideas or suggestions on how our office can serve the people of Ohio's Appalachian region, please let us know. You can email [Joy](#) or [me](#). Together we can continue to invigorate the Appalachian region!

GOA Partners: Local Development Districts

A Spotlight on Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association



Governor's Office of Appalachia.

Led by Executive Director Greg DiDonato, the 10-member OMEGA team serves as a facilitator between state and federal government agencies and local governments and nonprofit organizations, providing networking and educational opportunities as well as project planning and project funding resources.

OMEGA promotes collaboration among members and local organizations and helps to identify funding sources for community or economic development projects as well as assistance filling out funding applications. Guided by a comprehensive economic development plan, the Association also administers a revolving loan fund to provide low-interest loans to businesses in conjunction with traditional bank financing.

Counties served:

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas

Local governments or non-profit organizations with a project to be considered for funding should contact:

Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E.,
Assistant Executive Director
Phone: (740) 439-4471, ext. 204

Serving 10 counties in the Appalachian region, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) is one of four Local Development Districts working with the

In 2013, OMEGA is focusing its efforts on preparing and supporting communities experiencing growth due to the oil and gas industry expansion.

The Association also received a federal transportation grant to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Regional Transportation Planning Organization. This two-

year pilot program is designed to improve the prioritization of projects and to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the area. OMEGA will be working with local governments, transportation officials and the public to plan for future road projects.

Director Wilson was proud to participate with OMEGA in the groundbreaking for the Tolloty Technology Incubator at Kent State University at Tuscarawas in June. Incubators offer a collaborative environment,

access to services and resources to help Ohioans turn ideas into the businesses of the future. This \$5.4 million, 25,000-square-foot facility will provide laboratories for research and testing, offices, conference rooms and computer network operations. The incubator will provide Ohio entrepreneurs resources and support as they are developing great ideas, building prototypes and testing new technologies – before they are making money.



The Tolloty Technology Incubator demonstrates a successful partnership with Kent State University, the Tuscarawas County Community Improvement, the City of New Philadelphia and the Buckeye Career Center.

“We are excited about this new development for the Tuscarawas Valley Region and believe that this incubator will foster a new era of development for the Tuscarawas Valley region and surrounding areas,” said Greg DiDonato.

OMEGA also works with communities to identify key infrastructure and community development projects, such as the water, sewer and road improvements at the Jefferson County Industrial Park and improvements to the sidewalks on Main Street in the village of Zoar in Tuscarawas County.

Through its executive board meetings, membership meetings and summer mixer, OMEGA provides members of the local community more information on funding opportunities, current community issues and access to members of state and federal government. For more information about OMEGA events, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at cindik@omegadistrict.org.

Our winter issue will spotlight the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission



Development Services Agency Introduces Leadership Team

Recently, the Ohio Development Services Agency has added new members to its leadership team. Ryan Burgess has joined Development as assistant director and he will oversee our Legal, Budget, Administrative and JobsOhio liaison sections of Development. Jacqueline Williams joins our team as the chief of the Minority Business Division and she will lead the state's efforts to create, grow and develop minority-owned businesses to strengthen the Ohio economy.

Ezra Escudero joins us as the deputy chief of the Office of Business Assistance and director of the State Small Business Development Centers.

Sadicka White also joined the team as the chief of the Community Services Division. She will oversee the programs and services housed within the Office of Community Assistance, the Office of Community Development, the Office of Energy and the Office of Redevelopment.

Sadicka brings an extensive background in management and administration and is well known in the development community in central Ohio.

She began her career in community development activities in the city of Lima and more recently served as the director of Planning and Development for the city of Gahanna.

State Awards “Strong Families, Safe Communities” Grants

In July, the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced awards of nearly \$3 million out of a \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships to implement the “**Strong Families, Safe Communities**” project. The goal of the program is to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for young people at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

In addition to the grant awards, the project will provide statewide training on crisis intervention for mental health and developmental disabilities services professionals.



OhioMHAS Director Plouck and Earl Cecil, executive director of the Athens Board

The selected projects include intensive care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children and therapeutic services.

The Hopewell Health Centers, Inc. (serving Athens, Hocking, Jackson and Vinton counties) and the BHN Alliance (serving Belmont, Harrison, Monroe and Noble counties) received grants.

“Children at risk - those struggling and teetering on the edge of self-harm or aggression and violence - often aren't yet in treatment programs and therefore not yet known to us as someone in need of care and support,” said Tracy Plouck, director of OhioMHAS. “Our focus was to engage our local systems and encourage community-driven solutions that combine knowledge and leadership across agencies. We're very pleased with the comprehensive treatment models in these counties' plans.”

Strong Families, Safe Communities is funded by the Ohio Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA). Governor Kasich's initiative develops targeted strategies to stabilize young people, ages 8-24 who are in crisis, and to develop long-term treatment plans for happy and healthy lives.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Ohio Local Development Districts Attend National Rural Transportation Planning Event



On April 24-26, in Greenville, South Carolina, three of Ohio's Appalachian Local Development Districts joined 150 regional transportation professionals from small metropolitan and rural regions at the [National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference](#).

ARC Federal Co-Chair Visits Region



While in the region, Earl Gohl also spoke at the State of the Region event and visited the Ohio University Innovation Center in Athens. During his visit he discussed the benefits of nurturing rural businesses.

Above: Director Jason Wilson, ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl, Co-director of Energize Clinton, and Leslie Schaller, Director of programming, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), Doug O'Brien (right), acting USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development, and Angie Maiden, CEO of ACEnet.



Community Health Loan Fund

The [Finance Fund](#) has introduced the *Community Health Loan Fund* to provide community-based health care centers access to affordable and flexible financing for expansion, renovation and equipment purchases. Lending is targeted to health care providers including dentists and behavioral service providers that serve uninsured, underinsured and low-income Ohioans. For more information about the Community Health Loan Fund, contact [Tara Campbell](#) at (614) 221-1114 extension 16. The Finance Fund is funded by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

*Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Executive Board Meeting and Summer Mixer Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.
Location to be determined*

**For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471 ext. 206.*

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

*Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Semi-Annual Membership Meeting Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.
Atwood Lodge, Carroll County*

**For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471 ext. 206.*

Friday, October 4, 2013

Buckeye Hills –Hocking Valley Regional Development District Semi-Annual Meeting and Luncheon Marietta

**More information is available by calling 1-800-331-2644 ext. 204*

Wednesday through Friday, November 20–22, 2013

*2013 Housing Conference
Sawmill Creek Resort and Conference Center
Huron, Ohio*

**Conference information is available [online](#) or by calling the Residential Revitalization Section in the Office of Community Development, (614) 466-2285*

If you have an event for the calendar listing please contact Ele Garcia in the Office of Community Development at Ele.Garcia@development.ohio.gov.

**To attend a meeting listed, please contact the sponsoring organization. Meeting dates and times may be subject to change.*



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If you have a story idea for the newsletter, please sent it to our editor