

NEWS RELEASE

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DODD Director visits Richland Newhope

(Mansfield, OH) – Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin made his first visit to Richland Newhope today as part of his effort to tour all 88 county board programs. Since he was appointed by Gov. Ted Strickland in 2007, Martin has visited more than half of the county boards.

Director Martin's day began at Richland Newhope Industries, Inc., (RNI) 150 E. Fourth St. where he met with several self-advocates.

Following the visit to RNI, Martin traveled to Richland Newhope's Administrative offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., for a luncheon and special meeting with members of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Richland Newhope's Management Team.

Martin's trip to Mansfield ended with a tour of Raintree at 721 Scholl Rd. Raintree is an intermediate care facility for people with developmental disabilities that is owned by the Pediatric Developmental Center, Inc. and operated by Richland Newhope.

DODD has developed a Priority Work Plan, which includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. (Additional details are in DODD's *Pipeline* Volume 3 Issue 22 newsletter at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/documents/Pipeline10-28-09-Final.pdf>.)

Originally from the Toledo area, Martin has a son with disabilities. He previously served as the Executive Director of Sunshine Inc. of Northwest Ohio, a non-profit organization serving people with developmental disabilities and their families.

In 1995, Director Martin also started and became the Executive Director of MRDD Solutions, a for-profit subsidiary of Sunshine Inc. that provides software to more than 100 agencies in 18 states.

Additionally, Director Martin served on the board of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and served as a representative on the Family Advisory Council for (then) ODMRDD from 2003 - 2005.

Richland Newhope currently supports nearly 1,500 individuals through early intervention, preschool, adult, residential, therapy, transportation and other family support programs.

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“Supporting children and adults with disabilities throughout their lifetime”