



Fall 2006

The OAPMRDD

Newsline

Ohio Association of Professionals for the Mentally Retarded/Developmentally Disabled
An Affiliated Department of the Ohio Education Association

Ted Strickland supports quality services for MR/DD consumers

The only way to ensure the continuation of quality services that are presently provided to MR/DD consumers is for those services to continue to be provided by qualified OEA members.

Throughout his career in Congress, Ted Strickland has supported efforts to guarantee adequate funds were available to meet the needs of MR/DD consumers, as well as providing funding for salaries and benefits which are commensurate with the work performed in meeting the needs of MR/DD consumers.

As Governor, Ted Strickland will actively work to ensure that matching funds are available to secure full funding for all available federal funds.

Ted has also opposed the privatization of public services when the quality or safety of the services provided would be negatively impacted. This is a very important position, as private companies will attempt to use consumer "self-determination" decisions to increase their profits at the expense of both MR/DD consumers and OEA members.

"Ted Strickland has demonstrated that he truly supports public education through his proposals for great public schools in Ohio," said OEA President Gary L. Allen.

"Our members have told us very clearly that they want to be partners with parents, communities and school districts to lead innovation in education for Ohio. In Ted Strickland, we see the kind of leadership and partnership we need," said Allen.

Ted Strickland is the OEA endorsed candidate for governor of Ohio. Ted Strickland is the right choice for OEA members!

Bob Matkowski, LRC
OEA Liaison

Support the OEA/NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

When I first began my teaching career, I had no interest in politics. I was too busy to be involved. It did not take me long, however, to realize that almost all decisions regarding education are made by politicians. Local decisions are made by elected school board members. State-wide decisions are made by elected legislators, the State Board of Education and, we mustn't forget, the Governor. This process repeats itself at the federal level.



This is why every Association must raise money for the Fund for Children and Public Education. It is very important that we are able to give our support to candidates who are endorsed by OEA. OEA is not allowed to use dues money to support candidates; therefore, the additional fundraising is necessary.

Spend a few minutes and collect for the Fund for Children and Public Education.

Russ O'Brien
OAPMR/DD Chairperson

All are welcome to the next OAPMR/DD Executive Committee meeting:

**Saturday
November 11th, 2006
10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Hudson UniServ Office
591 Boston Mills Road
Hudson, Ohio
800/654-4034
330/929-2882



OEA asks for increased input from MR/DD staff; time to get involved

Since the beginning, OAPMR/DD has been operated by a small group of individuals. Executive Committee meetings usually consist of officers and representatives from only a few associations. This small group operates the department. It has been a lot of work but we have been successful.

We have reached a point where the officers need your help. The Ohio Education Association is asking OAPMR/DD to serve a



greater role in the organization. We need more OAPMR/DD members to become actively involved in our group. We need your help!

The OAPMR/DD Executive Committee meets five times per year, Saturday mornings, at the Hudson UniServ office. Each Association is entitled to one representative at meetings. Members who attend will get their expenses, mileage, and meals reimbursed.

Russ O'Brien
OAPMR/DD Chairperson

Actions of the OAPMR/DD 9/19 Executive Committee meeting

- Approved a budget for 2006-07
- Heard reports from the OEA and NEOEA Executive Committee representatives
- Heard a report from the LRC liaison about legislation affecting MR/DD members, particularly the Abuser Registry rules
- Planned the Fall issue of *The Newslines*
- Continued planning the Annual Conference, to be held March 2nd-3rd
- Discussed amending the Constitution & Bylaws to include Life Members
- Reviewed and approved two grants from the 2005-06 grant cycle

The next meeting is November 18th. Be there and hear all the news for yourself!

Jené Wilson
OAPMR/DD Vice-Chairperson



OAPMR/DD 2006-2007 calendar

Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!

- November 18th, 2006
- January 13th, 2007
- May 12th, 2007
- July 14th, 2007

Deadline to apply for P.R. Grant

- October 31st, 2006

OAPMR/DD Annual Issues Conference

- March 2nd - 3rd, 2007,
Mohican State Lodge

Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies

- December 2nd, 2006
- May 4th, 2007



The OAPMRDD Newslines

Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Professionals for the Mentally Retarded/Developmentally Disabled

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Associate Editor: Jené Wilson
OEA MR/DD Liaison: Bob Matkowski

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MR/DD legislative update

Melissa Clark, OEA Lobbyist, recently issued a report on MR/DD legislative issues.

- Ohio conducted an independent review of the 10 remaining developmental centers. It determined that counties should form task forces to develop transition plans for individuals, whether they choose to leave or remain at the centers. It also indicated that Ohio should operate fewer residential facilities and open centers for community use and expanded services.
- ODMRDD is proposing to change the Abuse & Neglect Registry, to further restrict rights and protections of employees. Failure to report would be a registry offense. Misappropriations would now involve a minimum of \$100. "Knowingly neglect" would be deleted from the language, leaving simply "neglect." The rule also seeks to eliminate the use of time-out and restraints.
- OEA President Gary Allen has been corresponding with ODMRDD Director Ken Ritchey on behalf of MRDD members. He has suggested alternatives to the proposed MUI Rule 5123; 2-17-02, which denies employees any summary informa-

tion. The OEA recommends requiring that the Primary Person Involved (PPI) receive a copy of the investigative summary. Often the PPI is left on a non-direct care assignment, unaware that the investigation has concluded or that extensions have been granted. While the rights of people with MR/DD are protected, nothing is mentioned to secure the rights of employees to representation during investigations of alleged incidents. Allen insists that these measures be included.

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently notified MRDDs that they have questions regarding payment rates for IO & L1 waivers. Changes establish four services/payment rates: S.E. -community; S.E. -enclave; Day Support; and Vocational Habilitation. Amendments will also include non-medical transportation rates.

OAPMR/DD, in conjunction with OEA, is actively advocating on behalf of its MRDD members to insure that our rights are protected when our jobs, licenses, and careers are on the line.

Sue Bour
OAPMR/DD Secretary

OEA committees need to hear the voice of MR/DD members

The purpose of this article is to encourage MR/DD members to get involved with OEA. As of September of this year, OEA is operating under its new committee structure. Under the new structure OEA formed a

number of core committees that relate to the core functions identified as priorities of OEA members.

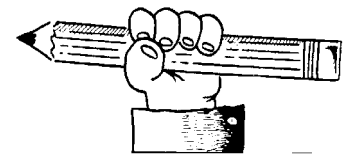
As a member you can, and hopefully will, get involved with these committees. There are a number of openings for MR/DD members. Your participation would be of great assistance in spread-

ing the message of what we, as MR/DD members, need from OEA, as well as in helping us to understand the rest of our OEA colleagues.

Commitment levels are different for different committees. Please consider getting involved. Remember, OEA is a membership organization - it belongs to us and is only as effective or as good as we are.

If you feel Columbus is too far away to go to participate on a committee, please consider getting involved at your local District level. Should you be interested in getting involved with the core committees, please contact Jerrilyn Foltz at 1-800-282-1500.

Jurgen von Tresckow
OEA/NEOEA Unit 10 Rep



OEA committee openings for MR/DD members

- Resolutions
- Collective Bargaining
- Local Development & Training
- Member Rights & Protection
- Organizing Strategy
- Professional Efficacy
- Convention Planning
- Legislative





PATMR settles 3-year contract, compressed 3-day bargaining a success again

Lake County Board of MRDD and the Professional Association for the Teaching of the Mentally Retarded have agreed to a new 3-year collective bargaining agreement.

PATMR and the Board engaged in compressed bargaining for three days in the beginning of August. This was the second time we've used compressed bargaining. Both sides agreed to limit their issues that they would bring to the table and agreed again to a three-day bargaining session in a local hotel.

The new settlement raises the base salary 3% for each year. PATMR was able to maintain professional positions in the Supported Employment Program and provide the Early Intervention Staff the objectives that they had requested.

Due to our healthcare provider ceasing to exist by the end of the year, we had to make some changes

in the health insurance. These included a slight increase of co-pays for office visits and prescriptions in addition to an annual deductible of \$150 for singles and \$300 for family coverage.

PATMR's team included a number of new bargaining team members – this will help to prepare the organization for the future.

Jurgen von Tresckow
OEA/NEOEA Unit 10 Rep



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