

Fall 2008

The OAPMRDD

Newsline

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

State associations, legislature take action on taking the "MR" out of MRDD

There has been a lot of talk among consumers and their families, and the staff and administrators who work with them, about the continued use of the term, "mental retardation," and its abbreviation, "MR," in agency titles and in the language we use at work.

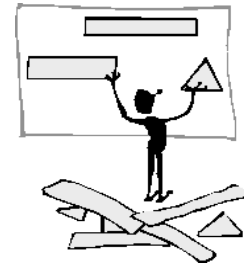
Changes in language can alter the way people think. Many advocates for the elimination of the term, "mentally retarded," feel that the phrase has become stigmatizing.

In response, the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD recently passed a resolution to remove "mental retarda-

tion" from the legal name of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. An amendment to the resolution would allow local County Boards of MRDD to use "MR" in levy language, if they wished.

In the Ohio House of Representatives, State Representatives Jimmy Stewart and Fred Strahorn have introduced the resolution as House Bill 621. It will now be presented to Ohio legislators for consideration and passage.

Additionally, the Representatives are sponsoring HB 620, which would remove the MR from the title of the Ohio Department of



MRDD. The new name of the department would be the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Similar names changes are also proposed for the Joint Council on MRDD, the MRDD Developmental Center Closure Commission, and some state funds with "MR" in their titles.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

OAPMRDD members given voice in Futures Commission Task Force

The influence of OEA officers and the Executive Director convinced Governor Strickland to ensure that hands-on staff members are included in the implementation process of the ODMRDD Futures Commission Task Force. When the Task Force began its work, Director Martin's office and some of his deputy directors indicated that the opinions of OEA members in MRDD locals would be sought at every step of the way. Several members did speak at hearings and OAPMRDD submitted written testimony on the whole report, as well.

When it was time for the implementation phase to begin, the names of six OAPMRDD members were submitted as point persons for needed comments. However, despite assurances that they would be contacted, after several months it looked as if their opinions would not be solicited. After OEA intervened, all six members were contacted and submitted comments to the Department.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

All are welcome to the next OAPMRDD Executive Committee meeting:

Saturday
January 3rd, 2009
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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





OAPMRDD Executive Committee Recommends Strategic Direction

The OAPMRDD Executive Committee, at its September 20th, 2008 meeting, voted to recommend a refocus of the Mission and new Strategic Goals for adoption at the OAPMRDD Annual Meeting, March 7th, 2008, at the Mohican State Park Conference Center. OAPMRDD Local Presidents have been asked for comments regarding the proposed Mission and Strategic Goals, reprinted below. OAPMRDD members may send comments to Chairperson Jené Wilson at jene@mac.com.

Hank Haynes
OAPMRDD Retired

Proposed revision to the OAPMRDD Mission Statement (from the Preamble of the OAPMRDD Constitution and Bylaws; proposed revisions in bold) and proposed new OAPMRDD Strategic Goals:

"The mission of the OAPMRDD is to:

- Advance the growth of the **public** education and habilitation of individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities and to
- Provide a collective voice for the professional, paraprofessional, and support staff working with persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities **in Ohio's county boards of MRDD and public schools.**

"OAPMRDD Strategic Goals:

Promote and preserve county MRDD boards as a viable MRDD service option for consumers –

- Ensure that the entire spectrum of county board MRDD services is publicized and available as a choice for consumers and their families.
- Ensure continued ODMRDD support in the delivery of county board MRDD services.

Promote high standards for service delivery staff –

- Ensure that all staff providing the same or similar service should be subject to the same requirements regardless of where services are provided.
- Maintain and strengthen current staff certification standards.

Promote high standards for provider organizations –

- Ensure that all providers, public or private, of MRDD services be held to the same standards.
- Recommend current CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation for all service providers.

Promote high standards for services provided –

- Improve access to needed services through knowledgeable and competent service coordination.
- Promote adequate health and safety standards for consumer housing options."

OAPMRDD 2008-2009 calendar

Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!

- January 3rd, 2009
- April 11th, 2009
- July 11th, 2009

OAPMR/DD Annual Issues Conference @ Mohican State Lodge

- March 6th - 7th, 2009

Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies

- December 6th, 2008
- May 8th, 2009

Submission deadline for the Winter issue of The Newslite

- January 7th, 2009



The OAPMRDD Newslite

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

Send inquiries to Jené Wilson, phone: 440/449-1597 or e-mail: jene@mac.com. *The OAPMRDD Newslite* is published quarterly by OAPMRDD, an affiliated department of the Ohio Education Association, and is distributed to all OAPMRDD members. For membership information contact Joe McCrone, 4431 West 210th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126, 216/344-1703.

Negotiations in three Summit County MRDD OEA locals in second year

Over 400 OEA members in Summit County have been denied a new contract for nearly a year.

The members are represented by three locals at the Summit County Board of MRDD and include teachers, workplace trainers, service coordinators, direct service staff, employment coaches, speech therapists, travel trainers, maintenance staff, and many others.

The key outstanding issues in negotiations involve pay raises



and outsourcing of jobs; a number of jobs have already been lost to private contractors.

The three unions have already authorized the issuance of a

10 day strike notice if ongoing negotiations do not quickly result in a new collective bargaining agreement. The Board states if there is a strike they will operate the agency with non-union staff members and local providers.

OAPMRDD members, we must provide whatever assistance is requested by these three local unions.

Bob Matkowski, LRC
OEA Liaison

November 4th election results:

Voters pass levies for eleven County Boards of MRDD

Congratulation to the following boards of MR/DD that passed levies in the recent election: Ashland, Ashtabula, Coshocton, Greene, Geauga, Hardin, Henry, Portage, Lucas, and Trumbull. These 11 ballot issues (Ashtabula had 2) passed with an average of 63.8% support.

Further details of these election results are available on the www.mrdd.ohio.gov website as part of the *Pipeline Election Extra!*

Joe McCrone
OAPMRDD Treasurer

Locals urged to seek support from OAPMRDD

Part of the preamble of the mission of OAPMRDD reads: to provide a collective voice for the professional, paraprofessional, and support staff working with persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in Ohio's county boards of MRDD and public schools.

This means that OAPMRDD as an organization is committed to helping all locals remain strong and ready to advocate for their members and the consumers they serve.

Affiliated locals who find themselves in a difficult situation, such as being in danger of having to go on strike, should call upon the OAPMRDD for help.

Other members would be glad to offer support, attend meetings, or attempt to provide whatever other help is needed.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

Membership renewal needed each year

We need you to spread the word to your colleagues that they need to secure a new membership form from their local treasurer each year and check off the box on the right hand side of the form to continue their OAPMRDD membership or to join this year.

Unless your local association has opted to include the OAPMR/DD dues as part of each member's local dues, continuing membership in OAPMRDD is not automatic.

OAPMRDD dues are an affordable nine dollars per year.

Gloria Stansberry
ACCESS, Cuyahoga County



Save the dates

MARCH 6-7

OAPMRDD Annual Leadership Conference
Mohican State Lodge

Stay informed.
Become involved.



See the new
Legislative Links
on our website

www.oapmrdd.org

School-based Medicaid Program creates hurdles for MRDDs

The State Legislature recently passed HB 562, which requires the state to seek federal approval to establish the Medicaid School Component of the Medicaid Program. This program replaces CAFS and allows school districts and other providers (County Boards) the ability to receive federal funds for certain Medicaid services provided to school aged children (ex. Occupational Therapy).

OEA and other education stakeholders have provided the Ohio Department of Education with feedback on the draft rules of the School Based Medicaid program.

Of particular concern is the provision included in the rule that does not allow County Boards of MRDD to direct bill for services they provide. Instead, County Boards would have to develop contractual relationships with the resident school districts.

We believe this process will jeopardize the access of federal dollars being received by County Boards of MRDD. OEA and the other education stakeholders are awaiting a response from ODE.

Bob Matkowski, LRC
OEA Liaison

