



Fall 2009

The OAPMRDD

Newsline

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

OAPMRDD searches for a new name

As everyone is aware, the Ohio Legislature passed a measure to remove the term, "mental retardation," from the state department's and related agencies' names, as well as from the names of all the county boards. In keeping with the spirit of the law, the Executive Committee of OAPMRDD has decided to also change its name to eliminate the term.

What name will reflect who we are, what we do and who we serve, and still lend itself to an acronym that is easy to remember? The Executive Committee had a few ideas, but it was decided that

a member out there might have a great idea. Therefore, OAPMRDD members are invited to submit ideas for new names.

If you have an idea that meets the criteria above, without the "MR," please submit it to Jené Wilson at jwilson@oapmrdd.org by January 1st. The Executive Committee will consider the suggestions at the January 9, 2010, meeting and choose one to recommend to members.

Because this is a Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) change, there is a specific procedure that needs to be followed. The C&B requires

that the proposal be circulated among members for at least ten days before being voted on. Therefore, notification of the proposed name change will be in the Winter edition of this newsletter.

Voting will take place at the annual membership meeting, which occurs during our annual conference. This year the conference is March 5th-6th, 2010, at Mohican State Park. All members are invited to attend.



Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

Three locals awarded PR grants

The Public Relations Grant program offered by OAPMRDD is designed to support local associations in developing projects that reinforce the professional image of the MRDD employee, as well as enhance the image of education, work and life skills development for the developmentally disabled. This year three grant requests were submitted by the October 31st deadline and all were approved.

- *The Stark County Educators and Professional Trainers Association (SCEPTA)*: \$500 to fund an end-of-the-year "Appreciation Luncheon." The luncheon will honor the 30 to 40 high school students who work at volunteer community-based sites.
- *The Professional Association for the Teaching of the Mentally Retarded (PATMR)*: \$500 to purchase T-shirts for community participants of the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure for breast cancer.
- *The Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students (ACCESS)*: \$500 to join with "Replay for Kids" in its annual toy distribution event. Up to 500 switch-adapted toys and switches will be donated to area agencies for toy lending libraries, assessment, and student use.

Congratulations to the recipients.

Steve Spall
OAPMRDD Vice-Chairperson

All are welcome to the next OAPMRDD Executive Committee meeting:

Saturday
January 9th, 2010
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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





OEA's MRDD legislative update

OEA is actively supporting HB 318 to postpone for two years the last of five scheduled income tax rate reductions and to reduce salaries of General Assembly members by five percent.

It is imperative this bill pass in its current format. The Ohio Senate, dominated by Republicans, is proposing only a partial delay in the income tax reduction, along with significant cuts in funding to help the poor with affordable housing and housing assistance, in order to fill an \$850 million dollar gap in the state budget.

OEA is actively supporting SB 40 to allow credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials.

OEA is actively opposing SB 47, which would increase the membership of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities because the expansion of the boards would mean adding additional non-elected members.

OEA is actively supporting SB 111, which would make permanent the temporary reimbursements for local government and school district tangible personal property tax losses. School districts cannot afford to lose any funding currently provided.

Bob Matkowski, LRC
OEA Liaison

Current trends in bargaining

At this moment, members of the Stark County Educators and Professional Trainers Association (SCEPTA) are working without a contract and have gone to "fact finding." The Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students (ACCESS) finally settled their contract in late September, but only after a mediator was brought in.

Statewide, due to a loss of various funding sources, county boards are becoming very creative in their negotiation strategies. If you are bargaining soon, here are

some trends you could expect to see at the table:

- a request for "give-backs," whether it's your sick-leave, vacation or insurance benefits
- multi-tiered salary schedules
- increased health care costs
- increased delegated nursing duties
- staffing to the "acuity rate"



OAPMRDD 2009-2010 calendar

Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!

- January 9th, 2010
- April 17th, 2010
- July 10th, 2010

OAPMRDD Annual Issues Conference @ Mohican State Lodge

- March 5th- 6th, 2010

Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies

- December 4th, 2009
- May 7th, 2010

These measures could adversely affect the health and safety of all individuals served, as well as weaken your benefits and decrease your association's membership. Be prepared to stand strong and support your bargaining team when they ask for your input, committee involvement, or attendance at meetings.

Sue Bour
OAPMRDD Secretary



The OAPMRDD Newsline

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

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

Send inquiries to Jené Wilson, phone: 440/449-1597 or e-mail: jwilson@oapmrdd.org. The OAPMRDD Newsline 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, jmccrone@oapmrdd.org.

High Standards for Provider Organizations - your role as an OAPMRDD member

At the OAPMRDD Annual Conference, held March 6th and 7th, members adopted a Mission Statement and four Strategic Goals for the organization, with the idea that these would become guiding principles for our association.

The Executive Committee decided to offer ideas for implementation of one goal each over four issues of *The Newsline*. See our website, oapmrdd.org, for the Mission Statement and all the goals, as well as *The Newsline* containing the ideas for the first two goals.

The third Strategic Goal is:
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 providers.



How can locals and members work to achieve this Strategic Goal? Here are some ideas to get you started; feel free to think of your own. Please report your ideas and progress to: Jené Wilson, jwilson@oapmrdd.org.

- Stress to members the importance of maintaining the certificates and licenses required for their positions.
- Become familiar with CARF criteria and standards. Know whether your agency is meeting these standards and is accredited.

- Use Labor-Management meetings or other interactions with your administration to develop a joint plan for monitoring and maintaining these high standards.
- Encourage members to spend their time at work ensuring that these standards are being met and work with others to improve services if they are not.
- Contact your legislators and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to express your support for all agencies being held to the same standards.
- Encourage families to ask providers about whether health and safety, certification/licensure and staff training/qualification requirements are being met whenever they are considering a provider.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

New Members Only area on the OAPMRDD website



The oapmrdd.org website now has a Members Only Area where reports and member-only information will be posted. An OEA MRDD Legislative report was the first information to be posted. Executive Committee meeting minutes and other reports will be coming soon, so check back often. The user login () and password () should not be shared with non-members.

Visit our website and look for your OEA membership number on the home page (the individual ID number listed on your OEA membership card). If you see your ID number in the left hand column, you have won a \$40 gift card! Contact OAPMRDD Chairperson Jené Wilson at jwilson@oapmrdd.org.

Hank Haynes
OAPMRDD Retired

Leslie Frank joins OEA Resolutions Committee

Thanks go to Leslie Frank, of Weaver Workshop & Support Association in Summit County, for volunteering to join the OEA Resolutions Committee as the MRDD representative. The committee meets three to four times a year at the OEA headquarters.

Leslie replaces Melody Craik on the committee.

Gloria Stansberry
ACCESS, Cuyahoga County



OAPMRDD leaders reach out to the locals

One of the activities of the OAPMRDD leadership is to encourage OEA members of MRDD locals to join and become more active in OAPMRDD.

Thanks to the Ohio Education Association for awarding funds to the OAPMRDD for these organizing activities.

Already, several projects have been developed and implemented:

- We sent *The Newslines* directly to the OEA members of MRDD locals with few OAPMRDD members so they can read about the work being done on their behalf.
- OAPMRDD officers have visited membership meetings in locals with few members to relay personally what OAPMRDD does and to answer members' questions.
- We sent welcome letters and large magnets listing OAPMRDD meeting dates to all presidents of MRDDs, including those with few or no OAPMRDD members.
- We subsidized some members from two locals, where membership and participation is low, to attend the OAPMRDD annual conference.

If any local would like an OAPMRDD officer to attend their Executive Committee or Membership meeting, or if you would like more information, please contact me at jwilson@oapmrdd.org.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

Save the dates



**OAPMRDD Annual
Leadership Conference
Mohican State Lodge**

