



Spring 2008

The OAPMRDD

Newsline

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

OEA's support vital to MRDD Association



OAPMRDD has been part of OEA since 1984 and has enjoyed the support of the state organization all that time. OEA support has been increasingly needed as the ODMRDD developed its plan for service delivery through the work of the Futures Commission.

With the steady advocacy of OEA Board of Directors' MRDD representative Jurgen Von Tresckow, the OEA Officers, Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly have stepped up to the plate for MRDD members and consumers. This turned out to be a running theme throughout the recent OAPMRDD Leadership Conference held February 29th - March 1st at Mohican State Park Lodge.

The backing of OEA was very evident at the conference – all

three OEA officers, President Pat Frost-Brooks, Vice-President Bill Leibensperger, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Timlin, attended and spoke to the members, expressing their understanding of our issues as we grapple with downsizing and privatization and their effects on the people we serve. The NEOEA President, André Taylor, was also at the conference, letting members know that the general membership is behind us.

Over the last several months, as the Futures Commission has developed its recommendations, the OEA officers, staff and governance established a working relationship with the ODMRDD Director and his staff. Because of that, OEA and OAPMRDD officers are able to directly contact ODMRDD staff;

ODMRDD staff have attended OAPMRDD Executive Committee meetings, kept us updated on the Futures Commission progress, and have invited input during the implementation phase of the report.

Members of the OEA MRDD Task Force reported on the Futures Commission hearings and report during the business meeting of the conference and will continue to keep members updated.

The advantages of membership in OEA for MRDD members, like all members, were evident throughout the weekend conference.

Jené Wilson
OAPMR/DD Vice-Chairperson

Less gloomy future for MRDDs

"We believe the viability of the county boards is absolutely critical," said Michael Rench, ODMRDD Deputy Director of Community Services, to a capacity crowd at the OAPMR/DD conference March 1st.

As the state agency moves to implement the recommendations of the Futures Commission, one of the highest priorities will be to overhaul the regulatory system by "taking some of the administrative burdens off county boards to allow them to increase value-added services. Most county boards of MRDD are doing a good job, we want to focus on the 3% who are not," said Rench.

When asked about funding to county boards, Rench said there is no plan for further budget cuts to county boards; neither is there a plan to eliminate county boards from the array of direct service providers, saying, "The failsafe system in the state is the county boards of MRDD system."

Gloria Stansberry
ACCESS, Cuyahoga County

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

Saturday
May 10th, 2008
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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



The best conference ever

The 2008 OAPMRDD Annual Leadership Conference was a record-breaking event. Members who came to Mohican State Lodge for the conference reported it was both very informative and fun. Plan ahead and mark your calendar for next year's conference for the first weekend of March 2009.

Conference highlights

- Presenters: Pat Frost-Brooks, Keynote Speaker; Bonnie Joseph, OEA Governmental Services; Michael Rench, ODMRDD Deputy Director; Kathy McKinley, OEA Attorney; Gary Broadbent, Motivational Speaker; Gary Carlile, OEA COMPAQ

- Total members in attendance: 88 pre-registered and 5 on-site registrations (plus 5 guests)
- New Members: 18 attendees joined OAPMRDD at the conference
- Total JVS members: 2, from Polaris JVS
- Counties represented: Summit, Portage, Cuyahoga, Stark, Columbiana, Lake, Erie
- The Association with the most attendees: PATMR, with 22 members in attendance
- Scholarship recipients: Vic Simonetta & Marian Graham, Cuyahoga Co.; Christina Gerharstein & Linda Cope, Portage Co.; Cindy Collins, Columbiana Co.; Kenny Arthur, Phil Horvath & Paula Purracchio, Lake Co.
- OAPMRDD Retired member: Hank Haynes
- OEA officers: President Pat Frost-Brooks, Vice-President Bill Leipensberger, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Timlin
- OEA Board of Directors: Jurgen von Tresckow, NEOEA; Arnette Collins, ECOEA.
- OEA Staff: Bob Matkowski, OAPMRDD Liaison; Chlo Leidy, LRC Mentor Office; Theresa Whitney, LRC; Katy Burger, LRC Canton Office

OAPMRDD 2007-2008 calendar

Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!

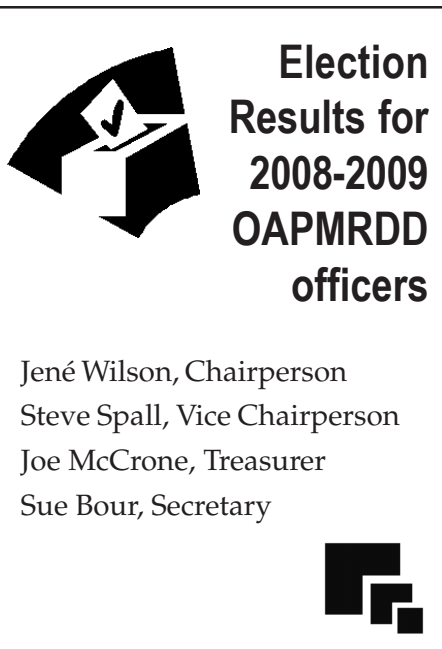
- May 10th, 2008
- July 12th, 2008

*Lunch Mixer at OEA
Rep Assemblies*

- April 25th - 26th, 2008


- OEA Committee Representatives: Kathy Abrahamson, Mary Jo Nagy, Melody Craik, Pat Cohen
- OEA MRDD Task Force Members: Jim Timlin, Chairperson; Jené Wilson; Jurgen von Tresckow
- Futures Commission Representative: Davida Russell, Cuyahoga Co. MR/DD
- NEOEA Officers: President André Taylor; Secretary Donna Palazzo
- NEOEA Board of Directors: Secretary Donna Palazzo, Unit X Representative Jené Wilson

Russ O'Brien
OAPMR/DD Chairperson



Election Results for 2008-2009 OAPMRDD officers

Jené Wilson, Chairperson
Steve Spall, Vice Chairperson
Joe McCrone, Treasurer
Sue Bour, Secretary




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

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For membership information contact Joe McCrone, 4431 West 210th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126, 216/344-1703.

OEA responds to ODMRDD Futures Commission

Last summer, the OEA Officers, Russ O'Brien, OAPMRDD Chair, Jurgen von Tresckow OEA/NEOEA Unit 10, and Melissa Clark, OEA Lobbyist, met with ODMRDD Director Martin to give input to the Futures Commission. The Futures Commission came about as part of the Budget Bill last year. Its charge is to evaluate the way MR/DD Services will be delivered in Ohio.

In October, 2007, Jurgen von Tresckow, Joe and Dina McCrone, ACCESS, Bonnie Joseph, OEA Governmental Services, and Bob Matkowski, OEA LRC, joined with representatives from other involved unions in Columbus to meet with the two labor representatives who are on the Futures Commission. We stressed the need to ensure that County Board Services will be part of the spectrum of services for people with MRDD.

At the beginning of December, OEA Members attended the public hearing for the Quality Services subcommittee with several providing public testimony.

At the December OEA Rep Assembly, the delegates voted to create an OEA MRDD Task Force whose charge it is to respond to the ODMRDD recommendations.

The OEA Officers and the OEA Executive Director met with Director Martin again in December to facilitate that OEA members have input to the Commission. Following that meeting, in January, Lisa Walsh from ODMRDD attended the OAPMRDD meeting and gave us the opportunity to share what is occurring in the various counties that we represent.

Members of the OEA Task Force attended and gave input at the public hearings in February and had their first meeting at OEA

following the hearing. The members of the OEA Task Force drafted a

response to the recommendations of the Futures Commission. These were submitted to ODMRDD and are available for your review at the OAPMRDD website. The recommendations were finalized in March and forwarded to Director Martin. ODMRDD is now charged to develop a plan on how to implement the recommendations.

I am encouraged by the unprecedented openness that ODMRDD staff has been working with OEA and I am hopeful that we will continue to have input into the implementation phase.

Jurgen von Tresckow
OEA/NEOEA Unit 10 Rep



Member representation: tips from OEA plan attorney



Collective Bargaining Law.

Today, Kathy McKinley is an OEA Attorney and often attends events to inform members of their rights and lead spirited discussions on member representation. Here are some of Kathy's tips for member representation:

- Association members have the right of representation but must

request the representation. Such representation extends to any investigatory meeting; however, it does not include a meeting where parents are discussing a child's situation.

- In an investigatory meeting the representative, not the person being investigated, should do most, if not all, of the talking.
- After the meeting, always meet with the person who you just represented, discuss the next steps, and develop a list of evidence which must be obtained to enhance the representation already provided.

- In grievance processing it is most important to follow the timelines for both the filing of the grievance as well as the number of days within which a grievance must be moved to subsequent steps. It is important to recognize that even if the Employer does not answer the grievance in the required number of days, you *must still* move on to the next step within the number of days stipulated in the contract timeline. Failure to follow timelines will usually result in the grievance being lost.

Bob Matkowski, LRC
OEA Liaison



What's your local's Communication Plan?

Every local needs to have a Communication Plan linking their membership to their local Association leaders. The plan can be as simple as a newsletter or a tiered system of electronic and paper updates designed to help members stay in touch. Dr. Gary Carlile, OEA Communications and Political Action Consultant, gives advice on proven methods that locals can use to build member unity and solidarity.

- Make your newsletter the same color of paper each issue and mark it "CONFIDENTIAL—MEMBERS ONLY". Feature local leaders and your positions on bargaining or program issues. Arm members by repeating your message and delivering the facts or talking points so they can feel EMPOWERED. Electronically send the newsletter or collect email addresses and put out updates to a secure, moderated group. RE-MEMBER: Don't use workplace networks for association correspondence of any type!

- Another less complicated method of keeping members in touch is the "10 Minute Meeting". Provide brief updates and encourage members to pass the information on to others.
- If your association is up for the challenge, put up a limited access WEB PAGE. Members will appreciate convenient links to related sites, like NEA/OEA, retirement systems, legislative sites, and professional development. Be sure your association is VISIBLE and receives credit for all you do!

Sue Bour
OAPMR/DD Secretary



www.oapmrdd.org

