



Summer 2008

# The OAPMRDD

# Newsline

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

## ODMRDD Futures Commission begins work on implementation of recommendations for change

The ODMRDD Futures Commission has begun the implementation phase for the recommendations that were developed in the public meetings held last spring.

There are six work groups for this phase of the project, covering all the concerns and topics that were generated from the testimony by commission members, consumers and their families, county board administrators, private providers, and BMRDD staff.

During the testimony phase, OEA members and leadership attended several of the meetings to offer suggestions and concerns from the point of view of the MRDD worker. A written response to the recommendations was also developed and forwarded to the commission.

Communication between OEA and OAPMRDD leadership



and ODMRDD deputies has kept everyone informed of the progress of the commission. OEA members and leadership will now be involved in monitoring this part of the plan, as well.

ODMRDD staff members are charged with completing the bulk of the work toward implementation and they will comprise the membership on the committees. However, the names of six OAPMRDD members have been submitted as expert witnesses to be called to give recommendations and ideas. The six are Joe McCrone and Jené Wilson (Cuyahoga), Donna Palazzo (Erie), Jurgen von

Tresckow (Lake), and Arnette Collins and Eric Smith (Stark).

The effort to include OEA members and keep county boards visible continues to be spearheaded by Jim Timlin, OEA Secretary-Treasurer. He is in frequent contact with ODMRDD administrators and committee chairs, reminding them of the commitment by Director Martin to maintain hands-on staff and boards of MRDD in the process.

Further information will be forwarded as the committees become operational.

Jené Wilson  
OAPMRDD Chairperson

## Drop the “MR” in MRDD??

Have you had a discussion in your local about the merits of dropping the “MR” from MRDD? A few county boards of MRDD in Ohio have already questioned if it’s still appropriate to use the term *mental retardation*. Now the ODMRDD wants constituents to weigh in on “What’s in a Name?” The virtual floodgates have opened to a free-flowing discussion via [feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us](mailto:feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us) and prompted readers throughout the state to share their thoughts, air their opinions, and guide ODMRDD to think about all the options. What’s the consensus? The general direction is change. Is it time for OAPMRDD to consider change?

Gloria Stansberry  
The OAPMRDD Newsline editor

All are welcome to the next OAPMRDD Executive Committee meeting:

**Saturday**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

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



## Budget bill pending

Through affiliation with OEA, OAPMRDD reaps the benefits of having a Governmental Services staff person monitor legislation to find those issues that have a potential effect on MRDD staff, consumers, and programs. Melissa Clark, the staff person assigned to this task, prepared a summary of the recent Ohio legislature capital appropriations and budget corrections bill. The bill is pending review and Governor Strickland's signature.

- Operators of ICF/MRs now have the opportunity to convert all of the beds in the facility from providing these services to home and community-based services, provided certain conditions are met. The bill limits these conversions to 100 new slots throughout the state.
- A new provision of the budget bill would allow school districts and other providers, including county boards, to receive federal funds for certain Medicaid services provided to school-aged children. This could include therapy provided during the school day. These funds would help to replace the CAFS funding that was eliminated in 2005.
- Some of the fees currently charged by ODMRDD to boards of MRDD for Medicaid case management would be eliminated.
- Currently, the franchise fee paid by ICF/MRs to ODMRDD is used for Home and Community-Based Services. This bill increases the fee and divides the funds between the HCBS fund and a new one, for children under age 21, called the Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs Program Fund. Programs supported by this money have not yet been established but will be under auspices of ODMRDD.
- HB 405 has already been enacted and eliminates the requirement for each CBMRDD to maintain a service substitution list. ARC and the County Boards Association supported this bill because of the complicated nature and time constraints of the current system. OEA opposed the bill because of concerns that eliminating the registry would hurt the planning process for families and consumers and possibly lead to a deterioration of services.



Jené Wilson  
OAPMRDD Chairperson

## OAPMRDD 2008-2009 calendar

*Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!*

- September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009
- July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## *OAPMR/DD Public Relations Grant Application Deadline*

- October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

## *OAPMR/DD Annual Issues Conference @ Mohican State Lodge*

- March 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## *Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies*

- December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## **The OAPMRDD Newsline**

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

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Send inquiries to Jené Wilson, phone: 440/449-1597 or e-mail: jene@mac.com. *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.

## Executive Committee votes to revamp the OAPMRDD website

The OAPMRDD executive committee voted in July to revamp our website, [www.oapmrdd.org](http://www.oapmrdd.org), with a new look, more information, and more news on current issues and events of interest to members.

We will post links to other MRDD locals and their websites, in addition to having links to OEA, NEA, and district websites. Look for links to ODMRDD and the Futures Commission, two sites that members will want to review frequently. The Executive Committee schedule and a calendar of other important dates will help everyone with planning. We will also include summaries of actions taken by the Executive Committee, along with updates on current issues.

Our website will now be hosted by OEA and retired OAPMRDD member Hank Haynes will serve as our webmaster. Web-hosting is a benefit offered since 2004 through the OEA *DIY Website* program and is available to OEA local affiliates and organizations, including Regional Coordinating Councils and OEA District Associations.

Please explore our new setup and see how your dues dollars are working for you. If you have any ideas on what you would like to include, please let us know.

Jurgen von Tresckow  
PATMR, Lake County



## OAPMRDD to offer PR grants again this year

The Ohio Association of Professionals for MRDD will be offering public relations grants again this year. The PR Grant program is designed to support local associations in developing programs to reinforce the professional image of the MRDD employee, and to enhance the image of education, work and life skills development for the developmentally disabled. The amount of the local's grant depends on the proposal, but is limited to \$500.

The OAPMRDD Executive Committee will review grant applications in November. Please review the grant requirements:

- Application deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- Elect delegates to the Fall and Spring OEA Representative Assemblies. Delegates must attend and vote at all assemblies.
- Send members to the annual OAPMRDD conference.
- Send a representative to at least three OAPMRDD Executive Committee meetings.
- Submit an article about your project to the OAPMRDD *Newsline*.
- Grant money must be used for the benefit of your local membership.

## OAPMRDD membership drive

When you renew your OEA membership, please remember to renew your membership in OAPMRDD also. This year, encourage at least one other OEA member to join OAPMRDD. Membership dues are \$9 (that's only **9 dollars**) per year.

OAPMRDD is the department of OEA that represents MRDD employees. If we are to continue to provide quality services to MRDD members, we need the support of all MRDD employees through their membership.

### Benefits of membership

- The quarterly newsletter, *The OAPMRDD Newsline*
  - Leadership training at our Annual Issues Conference
  - Monitoring of legislation specific to MRDDs
  - Public Relations grants
  - The OAPMRDD Website, [www.oapmrdd.org](http://www.oapmrdd.org)
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- Submit financial statement with receipts by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.
  - Completion deadline is September 2009.

Grant applications are mailed to all MRDD presidents in early September. If you would like to apply, see your president or contact OAPMRDD Chairperson Jené Wilson at [jene@mac.com](mailto:jene@mac.com).

Jené Wilson  
OAPMRDD Chairperson



## OAPMRDD PR Grant supports Membership Involvement Committee projects

Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD, like most other boards of MRDD around the state, has experienced loss of school-age services, ups and downs in early childhood services, elimination of funding for therapy services, and the closing of some of our facilities.

ACCESS, the Association local representing staff affected by these changes, has continued with diligent representation of a decreasing membership and advocacy for the best services for children and adults with disabilities.

As our agency entered its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, many of us won-

dered how many more years we would have. Although there were many official agency acknowledgements and celebrations of the anniversary, the ACCESS Membership Involvement Committee wanted to recognize the contributions of *our* members and *our* experiences.

Our project, "ACCESS Memories," aimed to involve members in recording their memories, opinions and hopes for the future in books that were circulated among members. The books were shared at an after-work party and at our spring General Membership meeting. More than 120 members partici-



pated in the events.

Our project was made possible through support from a grant from the OAPMRDD. Thanks OAPMRDD!

Gloria Stansberry  
ACCESS, Cuyahoga County

