



Summer 2009

The OAPMRDD

Newsline

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

Budget Bill increases funding for county boards

The new 2-year "Budget Bill," recently signed by Governor Ted Strickland, will provide some slight funding increases to county boards by increasing subsidies statewide by \$9 million over the amounts that had been drastically reduced in 2008.

The new monies are part of the stimulus package passed by Congress under the Obama administration. In 2010 the county board line item in the state budget will increase to \$66.9 million, and then decrease in 2011 to \$62.2 million, which is an increase of \$9 million over the final 2009 levels.

Among other provisions in the bill are several items affecting county boards of DD:

- Elimination of the requirement that the Department of

Developmental Disabilities adopts rules to ensure the availability of adequate funds in the event a county property tax levy for services to individuals with DD fails.

- Requirement that each county DD board includes in each Individualized Service Plan (ISP) a summary page, agreed to by the board, provider, and individual, clearly outlining the amount, duration, and scope of services to be provided under the plan.
- Revision to the conditions by which a county DD board may satisfy the requirement to have a business manager and Medicaid service manager by allowing county boards to share these individuals.

- Establishment of an ICF/MR Reimbursement Study Council; requiring the Council to submit a report, no later than July 1st, 2010, on its review of Ohio's system for Medicaid reimbursement of ICF/MR services. This provision was vetoed by the Governor and is not expected to make it into the final bill.



OAPMRDD wants to thank the OEA Governmental Services for providing the above information via their Legislative updates.

Jürgen von Tresckow
PATMR, Lake County

"MR" no longer politically correct

On Tuesday, July 7th, Governor Ted Strickland signed into law that the words "Mental Retardation" will be removed from all county boards and state departments. Urged by a group of developmentally disabled citizens expressing their dislike of being called "retarded," Senator James Stewart of Athens County introduced Senate Bill 79 to eliminate the term, "mentally retarded," from county and state agencies. In June, both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill.

Our group, the OAPMRDD (Ohio Association of Professionals for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Delayed) will be looking for an updated acronym. Anyone who would like to make a suggestion may contact us through our web site at www.OAPMRDD.org.

Steve Spall
OAPMRDD Vice-Chairperson

All are welcome to the next OAPMRDD Executive Committee meeting:

Saturday
September 26th, 2009
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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





Apply for a grant!

Offering grants is one of the major activities of OAPMRDD and is a visible reminder of your dues dollars at work. The Public Relations Grant program is designed to:

- Support local associations in developing projects that reinforce the professional image of the MR/DD employee
- Enhance the image of education, work and life skills development for the developmentally disabled

The Executive Committee reviews the grants and awards them based on specific criteria that include sending reps. to Executive Committee meetings, electing delegates to OEA RAs, and writing an article for the *Newsline* when your project is finished. The deadline to apply is October 31st, 2009, but projects do not have to be completed until September 1st, 2010. The amount of the grant for a project depends on the proposal, but is limited to \$500/year.

Grant applications will be mailed to all MRDD Presidents in late August, but they can also be obtained on the website, oapmrdd.org. Complete details and criteria can be found there, along with a list of past grants that have been approved to jog some ideas about what might be helpful in your local.

Please consider applying for a grant. It's fun and it's easy! And, it's a good way to offer a service to members that might not be offered without this support.

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson

Membership still a deal at \$9 a year

"Membership has its benefits." When you renew your OAPMRDD membership at just \$9 for the year, you can count on quarterly issues of *The Newsline*, Public Relations grants, monitoring of legislation specific to county boards of DD, the Annual Issues Conference, and the OAPMRDD website.

Be sure to obtain an OEA membership form from your local treasurer and check off the box on the right hand side of the form to continue your OAPMRDD membership. Unless your local association has opted to include OAPMRDD dues as part of each member's local dues, continuing membership in OAPMRDD is not automatic and must be renewed each year.

Joe McCrone
OAPMRDD Treasurer

OAPMRDD 2009-2010 calendar

Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!

- September 26th, 2009
- November 14th, 2009
- January 9th, 2010
- April 17th, 2010
- July 10th, 2010

OAPMRDD Public Relations Grant Application Deadline

- October 31st, 2009

OAPMRDD Annual Issues Conference @ Mohican State Lodge

- March 5th- 6th, 2010

Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies

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



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: 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, jmccr@att.net.



High Standards for Service Delivery - put the words in action

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 Newslines*. See our website, oapmrdd.org, for the Mission Statement and all the goals, as well as *The Newslines* containing the ideas for the first goal.



The second Strategic Goal is: *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.

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, jene@mac.com.

- Stress to members the importance of maintaining the certificates and licenses required for their positions.
- Promote and, when possible, provide high quality training for staff that will help them maintain the appropriate certificates and licenses.
- Talk to your administration and board about the importance of *all* staff who work with consumers being well trained and qualified. Encourage them to carry the message to their professional associations and the Ohio Department of DD.
- 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.
- Encourage staff to become familiar with certification standards and discuss ways to meet and strengthen them.
- Contact the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and make comments about the current standards or make suggestions for improving them.

Website giveaway winner

We're happy to announce our first winner of the OAPMRDD website giveaways. Cindy Nickle from ACCESS spotted her OEA membership number on the OAPMRDD website and won a \$40 gift card.

Four times a year, coinciding with the publication of *The Newslines*, five OEA membership numbers are drawn at random from the OAPMRDD membership list and posted on our website at www.oapmrdd.org. If one of the numbers matches your OEA membership number, you win a \$40 gift card.

Check the OAPMRDD website today. You might be the next winner. Contact OAPMRDD Chairperson Jené Wilson at jene@mac.com if you spot your number.

Gloria Stansberry
The OAPMRDD Newslines editor

OAPMRDD Officers 2009-2010

Chairperson	Jené Wilson	ACCESS (Cuyahoga)
Vice-Chairperson	Steve Spall	PATMR (Lake)
Treasurer	Joe McCrone	ACCESS (Cuyahoga)
Secretary	Sue Bour	SCEPTA (Stark)
.		
Past Chairperson	Russ O'Brien	PCEMR (Portage)
Newsletter Editor	Gloria Stansberry	ACCESS (Cuyahoga)
Web Designer	Hank Haynes	ACCESS (retired)
OEA Director	Patricia Cohen	PATMR (Lake)
Past OEA Director	Jürgen vonTresckow	PATMR (Lake)
OEA Liaison	Bob Matkowski	OEA Staff

Jené Wilson
OAPMRDD Chairperson



Lake County MR/DD and PATMR local approve 2-year contract

With the economic doldrums affecting all of us, the Lake County Board of MR/DD and PATMR agreed to a 2-year contract extension with no base increase. Longevity pay will stay in effect and there will be no changes in the health care benefits. The membership ratified the proposal on June 8th.



The Board is considering asking residents to approve a new levy next year. The last time Lake County residents were asked to approve a levy was 12 years ago.

We hope that the settlement of our collective bargaining agreement will show our community that all parties are serious about preserving Lake County's existing programs and services and that we are being fiscally responsible in this time of economic uncertainty.

Jürgen von Tresckow
PATMR, Lake County



Website giveaways at www.oapmrdd.org

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 jene@mac.com.

Gloria Stansberry
The OAPMRDD Newsline editor

4431 West 210th Street
Fairview Park, OH 44126

