



Winter 2009

# The OAPMRDD

# Newsline

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

## New Medicaid program proposed for school districts, OEA advocates for MRDDs

When the Medicaid CAFS (Community Alternative Funding System) program ended in 2005, both MRDD school programs and county boards of MRDD lost an important funding stream for services provided by nurses, speech-language pathologists, and occupational and physical therapists.

A portion of Ohio HB 562 establishes a new Ohio Medicaid Schools Program (MSP). This program would allow school districts and other providers to receive federal funds for certain Medicaid services provided to school-aged children. It's yet to be determined which services will be reimbursed, but it is expected to be similar to

what was billed under CAFS.

The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS), which is drafting the MSP rules, does not allow for MRDDs or county Educational Service Centers (ESCs) to be direct providers of services. This means there can be no reimbursement for services provided to students who attend MRDD programs unless the school district also collects and submits data on students receiving similar services in the district's schools. This puts MRDDs at the mercy of the local school districts.

This year, OEA, on behalf of professional school associations across Ohio, has twice provided

ODJFS with written feedback to the draft rules. OEA is requesting that MRDDs and ESCs be allowed to participate in the program as direct providers so they can bill for services.

A letter will soon go out to the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly asking for reconsideration. OEA's lobbying efforts on behalf of MRDDs is outstanding and due largely to the "watch dog" efforts of Governmental Services and OAPMRDD, who recognized the impact that HB 562 could have statewide. These are your DUES DOLLARS AT WORK!

Sue Bour  
OAPMRDD Secretary

## Plans set for OAPMRDD conference

The 2009 OAPMRDD Leadership Conference will be held at Mohican State Park Lodge on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our keynote speaker following dinner on Friday is Dr. John Martin, Director of ODMRDD. Jim Timlin, OEA Secretary-Treasurer, and Melissa Clark, OEA Governmental Services, will also speak that evening to provide legislative updates on MRDD issues.

Saturday's presentations include legal briefings from Kathy McKinley, OEA Attorney, a short OAPMRDD business meeting, an FCPE drive led by Bonnie Joseph, from OEA Governmental Services. Gary Carlile, OEA Com-Pac, returns to follow up on last year's presentation on developing our message. OAPMRDD members Gloria Stansberry and Sue Bour will give tips on how locals can apply for and be awarded OAPMRDD Public Relations Grants. Hope to see you at the conference!



Joe McCrone  
OAPMRDD Treasurer

All are welcome to the next OAPMRDD Executive Committee meeting:

**Saturday**  
**April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

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





## Your response is necessary...

Governor Strickland, along with several other governors from states that have been devastated by the economic crisis, are requesting \$100 billion dollars in unrestricted block grants. These funds are necessary in order to prevent a new 2-year budget with significant cuts.

Contact your congressperson NOW to SUPPORT unrestricted block grant money for Ohio.

Contact your congressperson via cyber lobbying at: [www.ohea.org](http://www.ohea.org). Click on political action/contacting legislators/cyber lobbying, then follow the directions.

It's Your Future – make sure Your Voice is HEARD!

Bob Matkowski, LRC  
OEA Liaison

## MRDD at the State level

### Free newsletter from ODMRDD

I hope all of you are receiving the *Pipeline* newsletter that comes out about twice a month from the Ohio Department of MRDD (ODMRDD). *Pipeline* aims to keep citizens informed about what's going on with MRDD issues at the state level. If you are not receiving *Pipeline* in your email, you can either sign up on the ODMRDD website, [www.odmrdd.state.oh.us](http://www.odmrdd.state.oh.us), or I will be glad to forward the newsletter to you from my own distribution list. Email me at [batzi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:batzi@sbcglobal.net) and include "OAPMRDD" in the subject line.

### New review/compliance tool

I recently participated in a conference call with ODMRDD about a new state review/compliance tool being developed to monitor MRDD providers. ODMRDD is considering combining all the

various existing compliance tools into a single tool that would be applied to all providers (with separate sections for different types of providers, such as ICF/MR facilities and waiver providers). ODMRDD hopes to complete a draft of the new tool in the next several weeks and for it to be piloted by late spring. OEA believes that all providers, whether public or private, should be held to the same standards.



### OEA support & advocacy for MRDDs

Thanks to the advocacy of Jim Timlin, OEA Secretary/Treasurer, several OEA members were invited to give input to the Futures Commission subcommittees. Although ODMRDD is reportedly interested in hearing from all the stakeholders, the County Boards Association had been the primary

## OAPMRDD 2008-2009 calendar

*Executive Committee meetings - open to all members!*

- April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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

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

*Lunch Mixer at OEA Rep Assemblies*

- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

voice representing county boards of MRDD, and those views did not always align with the interests of OAPMRDD members.

### Additional funding cuts coming

By now everybody should also be aware of the massive funding cuts that are being implemented due to the economic crisis facing Ohio. ODMRDD may need to cut 25-30% of funding on top of the cuts we have already seen.

Jurgen von Tresckow  
PATMR, Lake County



## 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](mailto: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.



## Notice of upcoming vote on Constitution & Bylaws

As reported in the fall issue of *The OAPMRDD Newsline*, consideration is being given to adopting a Mission Statement based on the Preamble of the OAPMRDD Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee developed the Mission Statement and the accompanying Strategic Goals for several reasons:

- To refine the mission of OAPMRDD
- To focus OEA MRDD locals around a single mission
- To organize other MRDD locals that are not currently part of OAPMRDD
- To respond to the State Futures Commission recommendations

The Executive Committee discussed whether to adjust the Preamble to mirror the Mission Statement or to have it be a stand-alone document. Members attending the OAPMRDD Conference on March 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> will have a chance to discuss

this issue and then learn how to translate it into a communication tool at the state and local level. Adding it to the C&B will require a vote of those members attending the conference, with notification in advance. This article serves as notification of the possibility of a vote at the conference. Those not attending the conference are encouraged to make comments, as well.

The current Preamble is as follows, with the proposed changes indicated in **BOLD**:

“We, as members of the United Education Profession, unite 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**, hereby adopt this constitution.” (Rev. 2001)

You can find the proposed Mission Statement and the accompanying Strategic Goals on the website ([www.oapmrdd.org](http://www.oapmrdd.org)). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jené Wilson at [jene@mac.com](mailto:jene@mac.com) or 440-449-1597.

Jené Wilson  
OAPMRDD Chairperson

### OAPMRDD leadership reaches out to locals in new membership drive strategy

OAPMRDD strives to be the voice for all MRDD members. This can best be accomplished when all locals participate in the organization. To this end, the Executive Committee is reaching out to some of the locals who have not been able to attend meetings or conferences and encourage them to be part of the action.

It was decided to focus attention on Auglaize and Allen counties’ associations first as a pilot to try to increase participation. OAPMRDD officers will attend a membership or executive committee meeting in those locals to explain OAPMRDD and encourage joining. *The Newsline* and conference information will be sent to the presidents for distribution, or to members directly, even though no one is an OAPMRDD member in those locals, so that they can see what OAPMRDD does.

Jené Wilson  
OAPMRDD Chairperson

## \$20 website giveaways begin with this issue

In an effort to encourage members to visit the new and improved OAPMRDD website, OAPMRDD will draw five membership numbers at random from our membership list and post them on the OAPMRDD website at [www.OAPMRDD.org](http://www.OAPMRDD.org).

If you find your OEA membership number (the individual ID number listed on your OEA membership card) on the website, you will win a \$20 gift card by contacting OAPMRDD Chairperson Jené Wilson at [jene@mac.com](mailto:jene@mac.com).

New membership numbers will be selected when the next *OAPMRDD Newsline* comes out. Check out the website now for up-to-date Annual Conference registration information, links to professional organizations, and more.

Hank Haynes  
OAPMRDD Retired



# ACCESS, Cuyahoga County Board of MRDD join with RePlay for Kids for Toy Distribution Event

In early December, ACCESS, the Association of Cuyahoga County Employees for Special Students, and Cuyahoga County Board of MR/DD joined with RePlay for Kids to host RePlay's end-of-the-year Toy Distribution Event. One of CCBMR/DD's sites was transformed into a toy wonderland as 230 switch-adapted toys were displayed for donation throughout the building.

Representatives from twelve area agencies attended the event to make toy selections to add to their toy lending libraries. In addition, 30 of the toys were designated for

13 different Cuyahoga County school districts with students who receive services from CCBMR/DD staff.

RePlay's toys are all battery-operated and have been adapted by volunteers to enable children with physical disabilities to activate them through attached switches.

ACCESS obtained a grant from the Ohio Association of Professionals for MR/DD to purchase switches to go along with the toys. The switches are needed to activate the adapted toys. ACCESS members helped with planning,

set up, and running the event.

Thanks to OAPMRDD for your support to help make this a successful event!

Gloria Stansberry  
ACCESS, Cuyahoga County

