

The OADDP Newsline

Spring 2013

OADDP Membership Conference

The Annual OADDP Membership Conference took place March 8-9 at beautiful Mohican State Park Lodge. The weather was fabulous and as always the lodge was beautiful. Conference attendees began arriving around 4:00 to register and enjoy their free snack bags. Attendees relaxed in their rooms, wandered around the lodge or enjoyed sitting by the large fireplace.

The first event of the weekend, dinner, began at 6:00. Everyone gathered in the dining room to greet friends from other locals and enjoy the view of the state park and reservoir. After dinner, the OEA President, Pat Frost-Brooks, kicked off a series of informative presentations by OEA staff and other professional presenters. President Frost-Brooks brought a surprise guest speaker, former Governor Ted Strickland. Following the evening's speakers, everyone adjourned to the lounge for refreshments and more casual discussions.

Saturday morning began with another great meal and another group of presenters. The morning presenters were Kristen Helling, Program Coordinator, ODDD; Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney; and Melissa Clark, OEA Governmental Relations.

After another delicious meal, the afternoon presenter was Kate Harrison, SLP, Cuyahoga County Board of DD. The last event of the afternoon was the OADDP General Membership meeting.

When evaluations were filled out and goodbyes were said, everyone returned to their homes and jobs, hopefully renewed and refreshed.

Highlights of March 2013 Membership Meeting

- Members were informed about a decline in membership due to retirements and privatizing, and were encouraged to recruit more local members.
- An overview of the OADDP website was presented.
- Members were reminded that the OADDP executive board meetings are "traveling," and can come to you!
- OADDP has representatives on all OEA core function committees.
- Becky Higgins was endorsed as a candidate for OEA President.
- A letter of support and a check will be sent to the Strongsville EA.



2013-14

OADDP

**Executive Board Meeting
Schedule**

May 10th, Lunch Break
During the OEA RA

July 13, 10:30 a.m.
Hudson Uniserv Office

Addresses for offices

Hudson Uniserv Office
591 Boston Mills Rd. #100
Hudson

Canton Uniserv Office
4061 Bradley Circle
Canton

WANTED

OADDP appoints a member to each OEA Core Function Committee. There will be an opening on the Professional Efficacy Committee beginning in September.

The Committee meets three times per year in Columbus and all expenses are reimbursed. Interested members contact Jene' Wilson, Jene@mac.com.

Summary of Conference Presenters

As usual, the 2013 OADDP Annual Membership Conference featured several good and informative speakers.

Pat Frost-Brooks, OEA President, talked about current issues affecting members of OEA, particularly the Right to Work legislation being proposed. She cautioned that though it is being called the "Workplace Fairness Act," it is anything but fair and members need to make themselves aware of the ramifications for Ohio workers and be prepared to work to counteract it when necessary.

The members heard an update on Governor Kasich's "Employment First" initiative from Kristen Helling, Program Coordinator at the Ohio Department of DD. This is part of a national movement to get more people with disabilities working in community jobs. The ever popular Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney, detailed several recent legal cases with implications for DD staff that covered picketing, EI Services, application of Positive Behavior Supports, and the expansion of the list of offenses that could cause an employee to be removed from his or her jobs. The also popular Melissa Clark, OEA Government Relations, updated members on legislation that has implications for DD members.

In the afternoon, members learned about "Using Mobile Technology with Consumers" from Kate Harrison, Speech-Language Pathologist and Association member from Cuyahoga County. Kate demonstrated many available applications to educate and entertain consumers.

Each year, members look forward to the conference as a time to connect with other DD members, hear the latest information related to their profession, and learn something new. As important as it is to the members, the wider OEA community also sees it as a valuable source of information. Several LRCs attended, and five candidates for OEA and NEA office spoke to the group about their knowledge of DDs and their visions for the larger organizations.

Of members who filled out evaluations, 100% rated the conference as excellent or good! Make plans to be at next year's conference and hear all the good stuff for yourself!

“Employment First” update

The Employment First Initiative became a reality through executive order signed by Governor Kasich on March 19, 2012. This order gives Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities access to services and supports to work in a competitive job in the community, if they wish. Through statewide collaboration and coordination from the Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee, community employment has become the preferred goal for many consumers.

Kristen Helling is the Project Manager for the Employment First Initiative and works for the DODD of Ohio. She attended the 2013 OADDP conference at Mohican State Park to present an update on this initiative. The Governor’s biennium budget proposal includes an Employment First line item of 1 million dollars per year for two years, and requires county boards to implement an Employment First policy, creates the presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities of working age are capable of community employment, and is requires the development of common definitions across all Taskforce agencies.

According to Ms. Helling, Employment First is about removing barriers that exist in our system to support individuals to work in the community. People with disabilities should have the opportunity to make an informed choice about employment, including where they want to work and what they want to do. Expectations will be set through the IEP for students with DD, ages 14 and up, transitioning from school settings to jobs in their communities.

The Employment First website was launched on March 8th and the Employment First conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio on June 4 & 5, 2013. Check the website for further updates.

Steve Spall



Jim Timlin was recognized by OADDP as the first recipient of the Friends of OADDP award. As OEA Secretary-Treasurer, Jim became involved in understanding the rules, issues and challenges faced by the members of the OEA that work in the Developmental Disability field. Jim took it upon himself to become our champion in Columbus, at OEA and in the statehouse.

Jim was presented with a framed collection of Beatles prints in honor of one of his other loves – music!

Thank you Jim!

OADDP
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FCPE-LEGISLATIVE REPORT- OADDP CONFERENCE- MARCH 9, 2013

At this year's OADDP Conference, Melissa Clark, Bob Matkowski and Dan Ramos, all from OEA, discussed the importance of political action and FCPE contributions, and provided a Legislative Report.

The pending budget bill was discussed, showing slight increases in state funding for DD for each of the next 2 years; however, the budget bill also included a dramatic increase in waivers and the expansion of the Employment First Initiative, which may negatively impact adult service positions at County Boards of DD. Also discussed were proposed changes to the state tax structure and the possibility of right-to-work (for less) legislation to weaken unions in Ohio.

Thirty-six OADDP members contributed \$938.00 to FCPE to help candidates who are supportive of public employees. This is the largest contribution *ever* at an OADDP Conference!

Bob Matkowski