

The OADDP *Newsline*

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

OADDP Annual Membership Conference

Popular event returns in March, 2016, with topics you need to know about!

The OADDP Annual Membership Conference will be held March 4-5, 2016, at the Mohican State Park Lodge and Resort. This year's theme is "Jumping into the Future," which is intended to get everyone thinking about how our futures are so closely tied to the future of the DD services we are dedicated to.

The keynote speaker on Saturday afternoon will be Harvey Yeager, a former member from Cuyahoga County Board of DD and now a private provider. He will share with us how to be part of that endeavor, as it increasingly becomes the way that services are provided to people with developmental disabilities. With county boards not enrolling any new consumers, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pushing for increased privatization of services, many current Board of DD staff will want to continue in this line of work in a new capacity.

In addition to Harvey, there will be the popular informative sessions by Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney, on legal decisions affecting DDs; legislative updates by Melissa Clark, OEA Government Relations; and remarks by OEA officers. Professional Development units have been applied for. All this for only \$25/members, \$35/non-members. Watch your mail for further information about speakers and registration.

Why you need to attend:

1

IMPORTANT INFO

Things you need to know about DDs that you'll only hear here!

2

NETWORKING

Talk to members from other locals about what is happening.

3

FOOD AND FUN

Good breakfast, lunch, dinner and social hour!
Raffles!

Important Dates

Annual Conference
March 4-5, 2016

Board Meetings

January 9, 2016

April 16, 2016

May 13, 2016
OEA RA, Columbus

July 9, 2016

Watch your email or check the website, oaddp.org, for meeting times and locations.

YOU are Needed!

Yes, we mean you...



At the September OADDP Board meeting, besides planning the upcoming conference, the discussion centered heavily on the changes being mandated by CMS and the impact of Employment First in the various county boards of DD. Our outreach activity for the OEA Representative Assembly in December was planned at the November meeting, and will include a table with several raffles, giveaways, and flyers explaining the work that OADDP does. Also at this meeting, the discussion continued about the how the CMS rules are changing locals, including the fact that boards of DD are not enrolling any new consumers and that the services traditionally provided by the public boards are now increasingly handled

by private entities. This trend will continue until the deadline of 2024, when it seems that most direct services will be privatized. Every meeting includes a discussion of what is going on in locals in attendance.

Despite the fact that every DD local is entitled to send representation to these meetings, the September meeting was attended by only seven people, one of whom was the Labor Relations Consultant (LRC) assigned to the Department. Of the other six, three were retired. At the November meeting, there were ten people, including two LRCs and three retired members. While it is great that the retired members want to continue to be active and are very involved in the activities, if the organization is to continue being viable, it is essential that more active members participate to share their experience and knowledge and learn from others' situations. The working members have the advantage of knowing what is going on in the various boards and how the changes are effecting their consumers and colleagues. This is important in order to be able to best respond to the needs of members.

OADDP monitors legislation and legal decisions that effect members and consumers; has a relationship with the Ohio Department of DD, assists locals with organizing, puts on an annual conference, sends out periodic updates with important information, sends out a quarterly newsletter, and gives PR grants, all for only \$9 dues/year. If you think these services are needed for your local, more active members have to become involved, as eventually the retired members might really retire!

MORE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

OADDP is able to appoint members to all OEA committees to represent our interests in Columbus. At this point, due to retirements and term limits, there are several openings that you might be interested in. Meetings happen twice/year in Columbus, with expenses covered. The open slots are on the following committees: Convention Planning, Collective Bargaining, Local Development and Training, and Organizing Strategies.

We also need a new Treasurer, as the current one retired and moved out of town. While he can manage the books for a little while from afar, having one closer to home would certainly be preferable!

Can **you** see yourself in one of these jobs or want further information? Contact Christina West,

For Sharing...

The OADDP Board of Directors has developed a Power Point explaining the work that OADDP does, in concert with OEA. It is available for you to share with your members, as an organizing tool with potential members, at your Uniserv Council meetings - anywhere that others want and need to know more about the organization. Contact Christina West, Chairperson, cwest@oaddp.org; or Jené Wilson, jene@mac.com; or your LRC; or <http://oaddp.ohea.us/files/2012/02/OADDP.pptx>; or <http://oaddp.ohea.us/oaddp-members-only-area/>.

André and Zeke and

The Ironman



The push-chair team of André Travis and Zeke Petri were the keynote speakers at the 2015 OADDP Annual Membership Conference. They were inspiring, to say the least, with their

story of competing in marathons and Ironman competitions. They compete as a team, with Zeke pushing André in his wheelchair while running, pulling him on a raft while swimming, and towing a cart with André in it behind a bike. This goes on for over 70 miles and has to be done in less than eight hours, with both of them putting everything they have into it.

At the Spring OEA Representative Assembly, OADDP contributed \$32 to their efforts, which was the profits from several raffles. At the Fall RA, it is hoped that there will be even more to share with them.

Organizing in Defiance

Staff working in the Defiance County Board of DD have signed cards to organize an association affiliated with OEA. There are about 45 employees seeking to become members. All work in the school, which is the only facility being operated by the board and being organized.

True to the name of the county, the employees are doing so despite heavy objection and intense lobbying against it from the administration there.

It has been quite a while since a DD has been organized and the fledgling local needs all the help it can get. OADDP has sent a letter of encouragement with pages of signatures of members from DD locals to show our support for them. If your local would also like to show your solidarity with them, letters can be sent to Jeremy Baiman, OEA Organizer, 225 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43216.



Local Focus...Stark County

by Amanda Shaheen

In Stark County, the professional union, Stark County Employees Professional Trainers Association (SCEPTA,) has been targeted for having rapidly decreasing membership numbers. This, despite the fact that there have been two Early Retirement Incentive Programs (ERIP) within the last six years and a very involved and responsive leadership team. And, in spite of efforts of the negotiating teams, Fair Share Fee is still not part of the contract.

But, OEA is here to help! They have a team that specializes in organizing and growing membership. Organizers have come out to the local talk about the plan and will be out again to train building reps., since the best way to grow membership is through one on one conversations. In addition to supporting SCEPTA in doing this, OEA will be showing leaders how to organize information and are getting t-shirts for members with the membership campaign focus on them. The SCEPTA president is very hopeful that this OEA supported membership campaign will be a success.