

The OADDP Newsline

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

OADDP Annual Conference

by Amanda Shaheen

There were many attendees at this year's Conference, held at Mohican State Park Resort, March 6-7. Attendees included not only members, but individuals with disabilities, as well, which was a first for the conference. They were very interested and anxious about the latest news shared by Kathy McKinley, OEA Plan Attorney, and Melissa Clark, OEA Government Relations, related to the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rules related to Home and Community Based Services Waivers (HCBS). These rules have the potential to effect consumers and staff, so OADDP is monitoring them carefully.

Zeke Petrie and Andre Travis, the marathon running team that includes one of them being pushed in a wheelchair, left us inspired and in awe. There wasn't a dry eye in the conference room when Zeke shared his story of being wrongfully imprisoned in a foreign country, then freed, only to find Andre imprisoned in his wheelchair. From that, they have become a successful marathon team! Look up Zeke and Andre's Legacy on YouTube.

Scott DiMauro, OEA V-P, greeted attendees on Friday night. He focused on the challenges facing all areas of education and human services. His words entreated leaders and members to remember there is strength in numbers. Scott also commended the new OADDP leaders for stepping up to the plate.



The members conducted a successful FCPE drive with the help of Bob Matkowski, OEA LRC liaison. Ashland County requested that OADDP leadership speak at a local association meeting. If this is something that your local would also be interested in, contact Chrissy West, OADDP Chairperson, by logging into the OADDP website (oaddp.org) and sending her an email.

Kathy McKinley, a former DD staffer and one of the original founders of OADDP, received the **Friend of DD Award**. The award was presented by Christina West, Current OADDP Chairperson, center, and Jené Wilson, Past Chairperson, left.



The Survey Says...!

Members in attendance filled out evaluations covering a variety of topics. The conference was judged to be excellent or good by 100% of respondents! If you weren't there, you should have been!



Members also filled out a survey that detailed information about their locals. From the survey, it was revealed that OADDP continues to represent a wide variety of hands-on members, both in DDs and in public schools. Membership includes Early Intervention, School Age, Residential and Adult Services staff, as well as members who provide various therapies, transportation, and SSA services.

If there is something you'd like to know about **YOUR** DD association, let us know and we'll include it in next year's survey.

WHY CONTRIBUTE TO OEA-FCPE?

By Hank Haynes

Who controls decisions made about retirement, salary, evaluation, regulations, program funding, licensure, transportation, staff development, calendars, vouchers, and waivers? If you answered "elected officials and their appointees," you are correct.

- Practically every aspect of our work day is decided by elected officials or those hired or appointed by them
- DD professionals not being at the table when decisions are made results in attacks on collective bargaining, huge funding cuts, unfunded mandates, and unfair evaluations.

A commitment to OEA's Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) is essential to ensuring that you as a DD professional have a voice in making these decisions by helping to elect pro-public education and pro-DD services candidates.

How Can I Contribute?

1. You can give online with a credit card at <http://fcpe.ohea.org>.
2. Fill out and return an FCPE contribution form in your membership materials or given to you during your local association's FCPE drive.
3. Contact your LRC or OEA's Government Relations department to request a form or set up an FCPE drive.

More About FCPE

FCPE is the Fund for Children and Public Education. Through voluntary donations to FCPE, we work to advance the mission of improving public education and DD services in Ohio by supporting and helping to elect pro-public education and pro-DD services candidates to statewide offices. FCPE focuses on the ISSUES, not political parties. FCPE supports pro-public education and pro-DD services candidates, regardless of party. Contributions are made to OEA endorsed candidates who understand the issues and support actions that will improve our schools and programs and help those we serve.



Encourage your legislators, your community, and fellow OEA Members!

by Christina West

Our County Board's of DD have been providing multiple services that benefit people with developmental disabilities for many, many years. After all this time, the services that are being provided are in jeopardy of going away. We need to encourage everyone we know to help keep programming running, not only for those currently receiving services, but also to remember that there are children and adults who will need support in the future. So many young children continue to access Early Intervention and other services as they grow; what services will be available to them in 20 years? What about adults who struggle to work and live in the community on their own?

Our communities and our legislators need to be reminded of the long term benefits of county board programs, not just encouraged to continue services for those currently accessing them.

We care about the people we work with everyday. We care about the people who will need our support in the future. Please talk to everyone you can about the importance of county board programming.



OEA is on Board...

by Jené Wilson

OEA has been a supporter of DD causes since the first DD local joined the state organization in 1969. Each year, the leadership has become more informed and more inclusive about DD issues and DD members.

Now comes a new phase of support from Columbus. OEA is looking at initiating an outreach to all OEA members, families, and staff about the issues facing Board of DD employees and consumers. The focus is on the future of consumers who want and need the services county boards can provide, as well as on the employees who are dedicated to them and want to continue working in settings that offer choices and benefits to those who choose to receive services from their local board.

**Last 2014-15
OADDP MEETING
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!**

July 11, Noon

Ferrante Winery & Ristorante
5585 North River Rd. West
Geneva, OH 44041

Spring, 2015

OADDP
1004 Millridge Road
Highland Hts., OH 44143

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit #2101

Local Focus...Geauga County

by Kathy Abrahamson, MEA President

Keep an Eye your Contract during Negotiations!

The Metzenbaum Employees Association (MEA) started negotiations with the Geauga County Board of DD in early spring. After a number of meetings, it seemed that the Board was not bargaining in good faith. Over the Summer and early Fall, the Board brought to the table several issues, but no talk of money. MEA asked for Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS) in late Summer, but the issues were still not resolved.

MEA worked hard to come up with an agreement that both sides could live with when the Board came to the table with their LAST, BEST and FINAL offer, which they then implemented the same day the Association members were meeting to vote on it.

The offer was voted down. The Association filed grievances and also a complaint with the State Employment Relations Board (SERB.) After reviewing what was implemented, the Association found that the Board removed items from our contract that they never even brought to the table to discuss!

I could go on and on, but the long and short of it is - keep a very close watch on your contract.

If I can help you, email me at abr05@aol.com