

The OADDP Newsline

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

Greetings!

So many changes have been occurring throughout our state in DD world. Even as this is happening, we at OADDP know that your locals have been working hard to make sure the people we serve continue to receive great services.

Now is more important than ever for our members to be involved! The next few years will be challenging and we need to support each other as well as share our experiences and learn from each other.

If you are already involved, thank you! We appreciate everyone who has stepped up to represent the many county board employees and special education teachers throughout the OEA that work so hard to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have opportunities to live their lives to the fullest.



OADDP is exploring options to provide educational opportunities to those who work alongside people with developmental disabilities, so that we can provide the best services possible into the future.

For only \$9 a year, members receive this quarterly newsletter, can apply for Public Relations grants, and are eligible to attend the Annual Conference and member meetings. OADDP continues to monitor legislation specific to county boards and will share this information with members.

Please reach out to coworkers about the benefits of being involved; we need to support each other! We are a unique group of professionals with many different ideas and concerns.

We look forward to seeing you. If your local is interested in hosting a meeting, please contact me at cwest@oaddp.org. We would love to meet with members in other areas of Ohio and hear their concerns.

Check our website, oaddp.org for frequent updates throughout the year!

Sincerely,
Christina West, Chairperson



The State Budget and DD

- Provides increase to DODD programs of approximately \$51 million in 2016 - a 9.7% increase; and nearly \$60 million in 2017 - a 10.3% increase over 2016
- \$44.1 million for County Board Subsidies in 2016 and 2017, a .7% reduction compared to 2015
- \$5.8 million in each year of the Employment First Initiative to promote community employment and integrated day services
- Specifies that individuals receiving adult services currently, including those in sheltered workshops, 1) be informed of any new home and community-based services and their options to access those services; and 2) continue receiving services in a variety of settings if they offer community integration
- Prohibits SSAs for county DD boards from providing programs of service to individuals with developmental disabilities through self-employment

CMS approves State's request for Corrective Action Plan

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) announced that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has accepted Ohio's plan for Conflict Free Case Management. The plan allows county boards until 2024 to come into compliance with the CMS requirements.

The Ohio proposal includes:

County boards of DD will not be permitted to provide waiver services to new enrollees unless there is no other provider in the area willing and able to provide the service.

County boards will be permitted to continue to provide waiver services to existing enrollees who choose them until 2024. In the meantime, county boards are to work on recruiting private providers and transitioning individuals to them.

Additionally, DODD is to ensure that county boards will reduce the number of waiver enrollees served directly by boards to 30% statewide by 2020. Private providers will be responsible for the other 70%.

THIS is why you need to Belong!



Along with OEA officers and staff, OADDP leadership spent many hours meeting with DODD to express our concerns about the rapid and sometimes seemingly contrary proposals that are being imposed by CMS. Contrary because many consumers and their families are not comfortable with the changes being made and their choices being taken away.

OADDP will continue to monitor the state plan and its implementation to ensure the best outcomes for consumers and to help staff through the transitions.

OADDP Legislative Watch

by Hank Haynes

If you have been following recent moves by the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio Department of DD, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, you know that education and habilitation service decisions are *political* decisions. There is a great deal of information available. As your employee association, OEA has many reports online and has highlighted OADDP member efforts at influencing the discussion. The Ohio DODD also has detailed information regarding changes coming to County Board services. Check these links for more information:

On the OEA website:

- <https://www.ohea.org/legislation-and-issues> - Legislation & Issues; Legislative Watch; State Budget.
- <https://www.ohea.org/preserve-free-choice-of-provider-for-ohioans-with-developmental-disabilities> - OEA Statement: Preserve Free Choice of Provider for Ohioans with DD.

On the Ohio DODD website:

- <http://dodd.ohio.gov/NewsRoom/Pages/default.aspx> - Ohio DODD Newsroom; Pipeline Newsletter.
- <http://dodd.ohio.gov/OurFuture/Pages/default.aspx> - Ohio DODD resources for changes to Ohio's DD system.

OEA & NEA Cyber-Lobbying

Do your part to educate politicians about the issues affecting you and the people you serve. Cyber-Lobbying is the quickest and easiest way to make your voice count in the political discussions affecting our profession.

Sign up to receive an email from OEA and/or NEA when an important issue is under discussion. You will get sample email text to use as is or edit and add your own words. If you need additional information, links will be available. Based on the address you provide, the email will be pre-addressed to your legislative officials. Just click to send! OEA and NEA lobbyists will then have messages from thousands of members to back up their arguments with legislators.

How to Sign-up for OEA and NEA Cyber-Lobbying:

- Go to the OEA website at <http://www.ohea.org/get-involved> and click on Item #1, under "The Educator-Activist's To-Do List" - #1 "Take action online! Sign up to receive OEA action alerts and the Legislative Watch."
- Go to the NEA website at <http://www.nea.org/home/19546.htm> and Sign up to be a Cyber-Lobbyist.

OADDP 2015-16 Calendar

September 19, 2015

November 7, 2015

December 5, 2015

Lunch at the OEA RA

January 9, 2016

March 4-5, 2016

OADDP Annual

Membership

Conference!

Mohican State Park

Lodge and Resort

April 16, 2016

May 13, 2016

Lunch at the OEA RA

July 9, 2016



**Sites of meetings to
be announced -
check the website
and watch your e-
mail**

OADDP
1004 Millridge Road
Highland Hts., OH 44143

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

Local Focus...Summit County

by Leslie Frank

Summit DD, as are all the county Boards in Ohio, is undergoing changes. Next year, one of the six work centers will close, as the Board has decided not to renew that building's lease. This will not only affect the approximately 90 persons served, but the staff and bus personnel who serve them. The plan is to incorporate as many persons served as possible into community employment, with the rest going into the remaining work centers. In 2017 there is the possibility of another work center closing, as that building's lease will be up. Time will tell!

Two of Summit DD's work centers are running a "self directed day." Up to three different activities are offered for three of the six hours that persons served are attending. Instead of staying in a particular classroom/area all day, persons served choose (some with staff support) among the activities offered during each of those three hours, with production being offered as work is available. This 'self directed day' usually does not include persons served who are in strictly production groups. Summit DD has contracted with several area partners - the Y, art instructors, a licensed manicurist, etc. - who come in to lead some of the activities. The amount of community outings has increased as well, with outings to the Y-yoga and open gym, all paid for by the Board.

Summit DD continues to include persons served with as much community integration as possible - inside the work centers as well as in the community!