

The OADDP *Newsline*

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals

A Department of The Ohio Education Association

Important

Dates

Annual Conference

March 2-3, 2018

**Mohican State Park
Lodge and Resort**

Board Meetings

**September 9, 2017
Hudson Uniserv**

**November 18, 2017
Canton Uniserv**

**December 2, 2017
Lunch at OEA RA**

**January 20, 2018
Hudson Uniserv**

**May 11, 2018
Lunch at OEA RA**

**July 14, 2018
TBD**

Meetings start at 10:30.

**Check the website,
oaddp.org,
for location addresses.**



From: Christina West, Chairperson

OADDP Moving Forward through the Years

Since the beginning, OADDP has provided support to those professionals that impact people with disabilities. Through a name change of the organization, losing members to privatization, and many rule changes from state and federal authorities, we have moved forward, dedicated to making the lives of people with developmental disabilities better.

We continue to work closely with OEA to monitor legislation and changes that directly affect us and those we work with. We encourage those professionals who work alongside those with developmental disabilities and special needs to stand with us and advocate for what is important.

OADDP wants to continue to provide support to all DD and Special Education professionals, no matter what building or setting we walk into each morning. It doesn't matter which way our work paths lead, we are all here because we are passionate about what we do and we strive to do better.

As we move towards the future, any input you have to help us grow stronger and more relevant as an organization is appreciated. Please use the survey on our website to provide us with any information you think would be beneficial.

Thank you for all you do every day to support those with disabilities throughout the state of Ohio.

NEOEA Special Education Work Group

by Hank Haynes

The Ohio Association of Developmental Disabilities Professionals (OADDP) was formed in 1983 to represent the needs of County Board of DD staff. Now that most students with DD are served by their local schools, K-12 special education members are experiencing similar challenges that DD staff faced back then.

An NEOEA Special Education Work Group was recently formed to consider ways to address these concerns. There is no OEA affiliate or associate organization for special education other than OADDP.

Two meetings have been held to explore working within OEA to effect change to support K-12 Special Educators and the learners they serve. With participation balanced between K-12 and DD staff, discussion has been lively!

The Work Group discussed issues affecting special educators by sharing personal experiences and reviewing the OADDP Special Education and DD Services Survey results from last year. The overwhelming concern is more professional development for all staff, especially in the areas of appropriate IEPs, classroom and behavior management, class size and caseload. OEA Legislative Policies and Resolutions addressing special education were also considered.



Working within OADDP to expand the scope of the organization to include K-12 and increase membership was a focal point, as 16% of OADDP membership work in K-12 schools. Adjustments to the OADDP Mission and Strategic Goals could better position OADDP to be helpful in this effort.

One hurdle to expanding membership among K-12 special educators is the organization's name. The K-12 staff stressed that they do not identify with the term "developmental disabilities," while the DD staff definitely do. Adding "Special Education" to the OADDP name may meet this concern.

The Work Group will focus on developing proposals for changes to the name and mission, as well as provide input to NEOEA and OADDP, and develop a new business item for upcoming RAs. Teaching and non-teaching special educators and support staff in K-12 and DD settings are invited to join in this effort.

A page on the OADDP website has been set up for the NEOEA Special Education Work Group at <http://oaddp.ohea.us/neoea-special-education-work-group/>. OEA Members can download working documents, reports, meeting notices, agendas, and minutes. Members



OEA Strengthening Future of School Age Programs, Meeting Needs of Adult Service Staff

by Bob Matkowski

OEA has formed a task force charged with developing a plan to insure the continuation of schools operated by County Boards of DD

and to meet the needs of adult service staff being impacted by the CMS decision to push greater community integration in adult day settings.

The school age plan is focusing on informing all members of the roles played by County Boards of DD schools and encouraging their attendance at upcoming open houses. OEA will also have a discussion with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) regarding the importance of these programs. Superintendents will be encouraged to meet with local OEA leaders to discuss the role of DD programs in meeting the needs of students with developmental disabilities.

OEA also looks to provide Adult Service Staff with assistance in resume writing, interviewing skills, unemployment compensation questions and employment opportunities in other school districts where OEA locals exist, as well as working with other unions to identify additional employment opportunities.

OEA continues to push the fact that any transitions to greater community integration can be achieved within the county board system by modifying current adult service programs, as well as pushing the date for transition back to 2022.

Summit DD closed two of their five remaining day programs, the Ellet and Southern Centers, this past June; Akron Center closed in June, 2015. Of the three remaining centers - Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, and Tallmadge - two are expected to close next June and the final center will be done in December 2018.

Summit DD has contracted with Career Curves, an agency to aid employees with developing resumes, interview skills, etc. Once an employee receives notice of their impending termination, they are able to reach out to the agency, if they desire, to begin the process. All of this assistance is provided over the phone.

Summit DD's superintendent, John Trunk, and his team, continue to provide a six month timeline to let employees know when their position will be eliminated and what positions they might be able to bump into. Currently, employees who have not received a notice, are "safe" until January, 2018. Several employees have gotten positions with the new day programs.

With the three centers that recently closed, there was some training offered to the consumers being served in regards to the downsizing and their feelings about it. This will occur at the last three centers, as well.

Summit DD offers persons served the option of returning within 60 days to the center they left if their new program does not work out, or they can be helped to look for a new program. There have only been a few people who have opted to return.

by Leslie Frank

Local Focus...Portage SSA

by Christina West

The Service and Support Administrator's (SSA) for Portage County have been working for almost a year without a contract. Through all of the changes, the SSA's continue to be a consistent source of support for people with disabilities and their families, and strive to provide the best services possible.

However, increased health care costs and no cost of living adjustments for the last nine years have impacted this group considerably. Still, the negotiations team representing the SSA's continues to try to negotiate a fair and equitable contract with management.

At the August 16th Board meeting...

Many families, providers, and people that the SSA's support on a daily basis attended the board meeting to show they stand behind their staff in the Department. The SSA's look to those that they serve, their families, and their peers to continue to be their champions as they work through the negotiations.

