

The Mission of the Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals (OASNP) is to:

- Advance the growth of the public education and habilitation of individuals with special needs and to
- Provide a collective voice for the professional, paraprofessional, and support staff working with persons with special needs in Ohio's public schools and county boards of DD.

Strategic Goals:

1. Promote high standards for service delivery staff:

- A. Ensure that all staff providing the same or similar service should be subject to the same requirements regardless of where services are provided.**
- B. Maintain and strengthen current staff certification standards.**

Put the words in action:

- Stress to members the importance of maintaining the certificates and licenses required for their positions.
- Promote and, when possible, provide high quality training for staff that will help them maintain the appropriate certificates and licenses.
- Talk to your administration and board about the importance of all staff who work with consumers being well trained and qualified. Encourage them to carry the message to their professional associations and the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of DD.
- Encourage families to ask providers about whether health and safety, certification/licensure, and staff training/qualification requirements are being met whenever they are considering a provider.
- Encourage staff to become familiar with certification standards and discuss ways to meet and strengthen them.
- Contact the Ohio Department Education and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and make comments about the current standards or make suggestions for improving them.

2. Promote high standards for provider organizations:

- A. Ensure that all providers, public or private, of special needs or CBDD services be held to the same standards.**
- B. Recommend current CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation for all providers.**

Put the words in action:

- Stress to members the importance of maintaining the certificates and licenses required for their positions.
- Become familiar with CARF criteria and standards. Know whether your agency is meeting these standards and is accredited.
- Use Labor-Management meetings or other interactions with your administration to develop a joint plan for monitoring and maintaining these high standards.
- Encourage members to spend their time at work ensuring that these standards are being met and work with others to improve services if they are not.
- Contact your legislators and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to express your support for all agencies being held to the same standards.
- Encourage families to ask providers about whether health and safety, certification/licensure and staff training/qualification requirements are being met whenever they are considering a provider.

3. Promote high standards for services provided:

- A. Improve access to needed services through knowledgeable and competent service coordination.**
- B. Promote adequate health and safety standards for consumer housing options.**

Put the words in action:

- Encourage staff to become knowledgeable about services available to consumers and families.
- Share information about services with consumers and families.
- Help consumers and families express their needs for services to appropriate CBDD departments and workers.
- Help consumers and families brainstorm about other services that would improve the quality of their lives.
- Use Labor-Management meetings or other interactions with administrators to keep updated on available services and how consumers and families can be informed of and access them.
- Encourage consumers and families to be aware of health and safety issues when considering housing options.
- Develop a list of health and safety standards and questions to ask providers. Share the list with families who are considering alternate housing options.

4. Promote and preserve county CBDD boards as a viable CBDD service option for consumers:

- A. Ensure that the entire spectrum of county board CBDD services is publicized and available as a choice for consumers and their families.**
- B. Ensure continued ODoDD support in the delivery of county board CBDD services.**

Put the words in action:

- Work with your administration, SSAs, and other community staff to ensure services of the CBDD board are offered as a choice to consumers. Get a copy of the list that is shared with consumers and monitor it regularly. Keep a copy of the list to share with families and consumers you work with.
- Maintain copies of any brochures or other public information the board publishes to give out to families, consumers, agencies that do business with the board, and other interested community members.
- Start a Public Relations campaign, either as an Association or in conjunction with your Board. Often, funds to conduct PR campaigns are available from your Regional Coordinating Council, UniServ Council, your District Association, or through an OASNP Public Relations grant.
- Partner with parent or family groups, to get the positive message about board services out to the community.
- Talk to your family and neighbors about the valuable service you provide.
- Be a visible and active participant on your UniServ council to share information about your services with regular education counterparts.

Amended at OASNP 2018 Annual Conference, March 3, 2018
Adopted at OADDP 2009 Annual Conference, March 7, 2009
Actions from OADDP *Newsline* issues in 2009-2010.