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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Putnam, Van Wert Business Manager Honored For Statewide Work**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A *Putnam* and *Van Wert* County Boards of Developmental Disabilities administrator recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities* 26th annual CONVENTION at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 2-4.

Business Manager Mike Boaz was honored by the statewide agency for his work. “When another County Board was faced with a difficult situation because of an illness, Mike stepped up to help,” said Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director.

“This award is given to those people with work for *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* that go above and beyond the call of duty,” Mr. Ohler said.

Mr. Boaz ended up doing more than helping Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities through a difficult. He did such a good job that he was able to take over the business manager’s duties in both his home county of Van Wert and Putnam.

“Putnam County has an excellent board. I couldn’t have done it without them,” Mr. Boaz said.

Ohler presented Mr. Boaz with one of the three *Partners In Excellence* awards given at the 26th annual OACB CONVENTION. Melanie Stretchbery, a superintendent from the *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, and Willy Jones, a business manager from the *Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities* also were recognized.

Commissioned in 2006, this annual award is presented to a *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* staff member who demonstrates exemplary service in offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* system as a whole, not just their specific county. The award is presented to a deserving individual as determined by the OACB. That person is recognized either at the annual convention, or at a local Board meeting of the recipient.

All 88 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

**CUTLINE: Mike Boaz, business manager for the *Putnam and Van Wert County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, is pictured with John Martin, Director of the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*, and Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.**

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