

The Vision of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD is to promote self-directed and self-determined choices in programs, services and supports for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS

CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF OHIO'S 80,000 DISABLED INDIVIDUALS OF MRDD

National Award Bestowed On Late Franklin Co. Advocate

One of Ohio's most significant advocates for the developmentally disabled was honored posthumously in Washington D.C.

Dr. Raymond Horn, long time Franklin County Board of MRDD member and a trustee for the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB), was chosen to receive the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) 2008 Education Award.

Dr. Horn's wife, Mary Lee, accepted the award on his behalf May 27, 2008 in the nation's capitol.

"It was an honor to serve with Dr. Horn and learn from his vast years of knowledge," said Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director. Ohler nominated Dr. Horn for the prestigious national award last year.

The Franklin County man's motivation was personal – he had a child with developmental disabilities who still receives services in Ohio today. His passion for Ohio's most vulnerable population quickly expanded from his own family to the entire state.

"Many people do not know how instrumental Dr. Horn was in moving people with developmental disabilities away from institutions, and back into



their communities," Mr. Ohler said.

Dr. Horn wrote the 1960 study in Ohio that led to the creation of Ohio's 88 County Boards of MRDD - entities that in 2007 celebrated their 40th anniversary and that coordinate the provision of services for approximately 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Because of his tireless work to help those with developmental disabilities and their families, Dr. Horn was awarded the OACB's Lifetime Achievement Award. At the time of his death in

See "DR. HORN"
Continued on Page 6



OUR MISSION:

To support County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.

www.oacbmrdd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEB-BASED SEMINARS

The OACB is proud to announce new training opportunities over the next few weeks to include seminars conducted through the Internet. The first will address a major issue. "Many of the processes/procedures and job duties performed by an SSA hang from a Federal and State framework of complex laws and regulations," said Associate Director Kim Linkinhoker.

GOLF OUTING

OPAC-MR Golf Outing will be Sept. 25 at the prestigious Golf Club of Dublin. This event offers something for hackers and experienced golfers alike. In addition to a great day on the links, attendees will be treated to a great dinner and amazing auction items. Plan on attending now!

SUMMER CONFERENCE

OSCBMRDD Summer Conference will be August 6-8 at the Netherland Hilton in Cincinnati. Rooms are still available. Please make your accommodations now.

73 East Wilson Bridge Road, Suite B-1 • Worthington, Ohio 43085
614-431-0616 • Fax: 614-431-6457

Advocacy Can Be A Life Or Death Decision

By Robert Milliken

President, OACB

MillikenR@starkmrdd.org

Many of you know that I grew up with two brothers who were mentally retarded. It goes without saying they shaped every aspect of my life. For that I am grateful. Without those experi-



Robert Milliken

ences, I would not be in the position I am today of serving on the *Stark County Board of MRDD* or as *President* of the *O A C B M R D D Board of Trustees*.

Probably only a few of you know some of my core political beliefs. While I personally find the death penalty as a punishment just plain wrong, I find it even more appalling for someone with an IQ of 70 or lower.

A recent case was in front of Ohio's Supreme Court. Clifton White, a 35-

year old man, had been sentenced to death by the Summit County Common Pleas Court and Court of Appeals. The lower courts said he should be held responsible for the murder he committed because he had developed "adaptive" skills to overcome the fact he had an IQ of 52.

All of us know of the many, many adults with MRDD who have developed the skills to live very typical lives. They work in their communities, attend social events, and understand the difference between right and wrong.

That's the dilemma our courts are facing. Without question, everyone who can understand the difference between right and wrong should be held accountable for their actions. The difficult decisions judges face are to what level do you hold people with MRDD accountable?

Certainly, no judge would sentence a pre-teen to death, even if they did kill someone. Many individuals with MRDD have pre-teen intellects. On the flip side, some of these same individu-

als have developed the "street smarts" to live successfully in their communities. Should they be exempt from the same punishment as others?

In the White case, the Supreme Court of Ohio unanimously agreed that the lower courts were incorrect in their interpretation of the law. White's death penalty sentence was overturned for life in prison instead.

While the lawyers can sit around and talk about legal interpretations, those of us who are personally invested in the MRDD system are dealing with the wants and needs of physical, emotional and spiritual beings. We care about these folks. Like court cases, every individual is different and brings their own mental and/or physical issues with them.

Despite their differences, they all need advocates who will fight for them. Certainly, that means we hold them responsible for their misdeeds. We also need

**See "Milliken"
Continued on Page 5**

Hancock Hosts Elected Officials At Luncheon

Congressman Jordan and Representative Hite were visiting Hancock County as part of the *Hancock County Board of MRDD's* Elected Officials Luncheon. Also in attendance were State Senator Steve Buerher, County Commissioners Edward Ingold and Dr. Emily Walton, Mayor Pete Sehnert, Probate Judge Alan Davis, and County Board Members Larry Grove, Bill Heidlebaugh, Mary Walsh, Eddie Gossman, and Phil Haggard.



Boards Have New Manuals As Resource

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, OACB
dohler@oacbmrrd.org

Everyone looks forward to spring in Ohio. In addition to a host of other reasons, I look forward to spring because it means I will be on the road a couple of nights a week meeting new Board Members and getting reacquainted with ones I previously have met.



Dan Ohler

These meetings typically take place during our annual Board Trainings. These are extensive, 3-4 hour trainings that accomplish several goals. First, they fulfill every County Board Member's requirement that they receive four hours of training each year. Secondly – and most importantly - they actually prepare people for the important jobs they have been appointed to – overseeing each of the state's 88 *County Boards of MRDD*.

I am pleased that invariably at each and every Board Training, at least one Board Member talks to me afterwards, and says something along these lines: "I have been a Board Member for many years, and I learned something this evening."

It is always nice when you are giving information that people not only appreciate, it is information that can and will use.

One of the tools we left with Board Members this year was an updated Board Reference Manual. Not only have Board Members relayed how important this document is to them, but Superintendents



Todd Dickman, OACB Support Service Manager, shows off the Association's new website design, which launched May 2.

OACB Website Simplifies Data

If you have visited the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD* website recently, you know we have been busy.

Not only is the appearance of the website different, there are many new options and "new and improved" information, including contact information for all legislators, pending legislation, recent publications – including *NewsAlerts* – as well as some old favorites, like training information and our Job Bank.

There was only one goal in the website revamping – making the website more user friendly with information that people really need. We hope you find everything you are looking for, but if you do not, please contact us immediately. Chances are if you are having problems finding something, so is someone else, and we want to make our website as, well, user friendly as possible.

A big "thanks" to Todd Dickman for the hundreds of hours he logged in researching the best way to provide this service to our membership, and then making it happen. It takes an individual with Todd's expertise to pull off a project of this magnitude, and we appreciate his efforts.

Like any website, the best way to utilize it to its fullest is to take the time to "explore" it now. We hope you will be pleasantly surprised by the attention to detail, many links to contact lists, and the fact it is updated daily.

Public relation specialists throughout the state have been encouraged to submit photos, press releases, news articles, etc. so that they can be published on the front page of the website. These articles and photos will be archived for future use as *County Boards of MRDD* are researching literally thousands of possible projects and problems.

To comment or make a suggestion, contact Mr. Dickman at tdickman@oacbmrrd.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

See "OHLER"
Continued on Page 6

OACB Staff Continues Watching Waivers

By Lori Stanfa

Technical Consultant, OACB
loristanfa@buckeye-access.com

As waiver reimbursement transition is finally winding down, OACB representatives continue to work with ODMRDD on a number of critical issues related to implementation. We have provided feedback on ongoing Information Technology concerns from the field, made recommendations on enhancements to the Daily Rate Application (DRA), and worked on improvements to the PAWS system.



Lori Stanfa

In addition, we continue to recommend revisions to Prior Authorization to streamline and expedite the process. We are hopeful that this will occur in the very near term.

As we move forward, your input will continue to guide us in our discussions about “simplifying” a very complex system. Meetings are scheduled over the next several weeks to continue this effort. It is imperative that you share your comments and concerns with us.

The OACB continues to work closely with ODMRDD on implementation of the Martin settlement, in particular the recent developmental center targeting. At our request, a memo from Director Martin dated April 24 clarifies the waiting list priorities to be used when enrolling someone from a DC on a Martin waiver.

In addition, we are working with department staff to find answers to concerns that have arisen regarding enrollment of individuals into these “redirected” slots. Comments were recently submitted from the OACB on the draft “money follows the person/home choice” rules. We continue to support the approval of this program as it may provide start up costs associated with Martin enrollment from institutional settings.

We are pleased to report the CMS approval of the expansion of Level One waivers, received May 5. This expansion, based on the *County Boards of MRDD* request, will provide more than 1,500 new slots to serve individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. In addition, replacement capacity will finally be available for *County Boards of MRDD* to fill slots when they are vacant.

We continue to participate in workgroups on a number of *County Boards of MRDD* initiatives, including the Ohio Medicaid Schools Program (OMSP). A letter was recently sent to Director Martin requesting his assistance in the inclusion of *County Boards of MRDD* as eligible providers within this new program. We are also exploring new *ODJFS* rules that allow for an expanded definition of skilled therapy services for children from birth to 6 years of age to determine if and how *County Boards of MRDD* may participate as providers. We will communicate more as we have more information.

Emailing Packets Saves OACB Thousands of Dollars

In an effort to reduce costs, the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD* is constantly looking for more cost effective ways to operate. For the past two years, the OACB has made a concerted effort to email as much information as possible.

The cost savings is two-fold: 1) membership dues are not spent on postage, paper, etc. and 2) it doesn't take staff as long as to do the mailings.

Recently, Executive Assistant Lisa Brewer did a cost benefit analysis of just one monthly membership mailing. She learned the OACB saved \$609.15 (postage and supplies) by emailing its monthly board packets to 402 members. That's \$7,309.80 per year!

That means we are still “snail mailing” to 214 members at a cost of \$339.83.

While we realize it is not practical for our entire membership to receive their communications by email, we will endeavor to continue to find ways - such as emailing board packets - in order to save membership dues for more pressing matters.

Rainman Kim Peek To Highlight 25th Anniversary Conference

The 25th Annual Convention will be held Oct. 27-29, 2008 at the Easton Hilton in Columbus.

This highly attended event will feature Kim Peek, the man behind the feature film *Rainman*. Mr. Peek has agreed to spend all three days at the convention to allow one-on-one time with conference goers. As always, there will be plenty of educational opportunities for everyone.

It is highly recommended that if you want to stay at the Hilton Easton that you register as soon as possible. Rooms at the Easton quickly fill up. There are nearby hotels for additional rooms.

Ann Neu is the Event Coordinator for the OACB. For questions, reservations, or any concerns involving any of the Association's many events, please contact Ann. She can be reached at aneu@oacbmrdd.org or at 614- 431-0616.



Ann Neu

Spring Conference Is Huge Success

More than 400 people attended each day of the annual OACB's Spring Conference, making it the largest Spring Conference in the history of the event. "Having consistently strong speakers, and offering information that people have requested," was Dan Ohler's explanation for the larger than usual crowd.

Ohler, the OACB's Executive Director, said he heard positive comments about many of the sessions, especially Val Bradley's seminars on using data to help improve services to consumers.



Representative Shannon Jones, right, was the featured legislator at a reception May 22. Representative Jones, House Majority Asst. Whip, is pictured with Dr. Terry Ryan, Superintendent of *Cuyahoga County Board of MRDD*, and Linda Oda, *OACB Director of Communication*, at the *Ohio Political Action Committee for Mental Retardation*. *OPAC/MR* hosts several events throughout the year to raise awareness for MRDD issues.

Milliken *(From Page 2)*

to take into account their mental capacity at the time the mistake was made. The bottom line is we still need to advocate for all 80,000-plus individuals with MRDD in Ohio. We just need to be knowledgeable and think each case through with thoughtful consideration.

In the months and years to come, we need to continue to educate ourselves so that we can speak more definitively on Ohio's most vulnerable population and their abilities. We need to be able to offer our expertise to the judicial system to better equip our judges in making the best decisions.

We have come too far to begin labeling our adults as "children" when they have the capacity to know the consequences of their actions. On the flip side, we have just as many people who can't distinguish right from wrong. For those individuals, we need to be prepared to supply logical and understandable explanations for the complexities of their disabilities.

As advocates for the MRDD community, we need to be able to discern the difference between those who have no understanding of their actions and those who may use it to their advantage.

The Supreme Court of Ohio did the right thing in overturning Mr. White's case. All of us need to be preparing for the next time an individual with MRDD needs our help.

Ohler *(From Page 3)*

throughout Ohio also have acknowledged these manual's benefits.

I must compliment my staff for the many hours of writing, research and editing they gave to make this manual something that will not only benefit our 2008 Board Members, but those for years to come.

The Board Reference Manuals have been written and organized in such a way that we can add information on an "as needed" basis. With the use of email, we can quickly update Board Reference Manuals throughout the state with a click of a button.

Easily, the simplest and most effective way to help our 80,000 consumers is by using the rules and regulations in place to help each individual reach their highest possible level of achievement. The onus is on each Board Member and their many employees to know the rules and regulations, and then use the tools in place to help the individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

At the *OACB*, we are hoping these Board Reference Manuals will accomplish this goal. A knowledgeable Board is an effective Board. Board Members who take their role seriously have been given the information they need to make a difference in their counties.

Self Advocates Needed For Speakers Bureau

A speakers bureau is being formed for individuals with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities.

Christine Brown, of the *Brown-Cooley Associations in Self-Determination of Fairfield County*, and Ruben Garcia, an associate from Lucas County, are working to create a statewide bureau.

They are looking to interview self-advocates from all six regional areas. Contact Ms. Brown 740-653-2391 or Christi628@sbcglobal.net.

Dr. Horn *(From Page 1)*

February 2007, Dr. Horn was serving on six different boards and commissions, including the *Franklin County Board of MRDD* and the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD*.

"For months after Dr. Horn's death, no one would sit in the chair he typically sat in during meetings, out of respect for the man and the decisions he helped make that helps those who cannot help themselves," Ohler said. Next to that chair, a plaque now hangs to remind all current and future trustees of the bar of excellence Dr. Horn established.

Years Of Consistent Support

Dr. Raymond Horn dedicated his life to the education of children with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, spending more than half a century working to improve access and funding for special education in the State of Ohio.

He was a certified psychologist who spent the first three years of his professional career as a high school teacher and a group leader at a local community home for individuals with mental retardation. Following four years of service in the *United States Air Force*, Dr. Horn worked for the *Ohio Department of Education* for more than 50 years, serving as Chief Psychologist, Director of Special Education and Assistant Superintendent.

Throughout his career, Dr. Horn served as president of the *Central Ohio Schoolmasters*, the *Council for Exceptional Children* and the *Franklin County Board of MRDD*. He also served on the *Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities*; the *VSA Arts of Ohio*; the *Professional Advisory Committee for United Cerebral Palsy* at both the state and national level, as well as the *Society for Crippled Children* at the state and national level.

Dr. Horn served in numerous roles for the *United States Office of Education*, specifically, the *Major Advisory Committee for Research in Special Education*, the *Commissioner's Task Force for Title I*, as well as a consultant for *Teacher Education Programs in Special Education*.

Awards & Recognition

Dr. Raymond Horn was presented numerous awards and recognitions during his illustrious career. These include, but are not limited to, "Distinguished Service Awards" presented by the *United Cerebral Palsy* and the *Ohio School Psychologist Association*; "Outstanding Achievement Awards" by the *National Commission on Standards & Accreditation of Services for the Blind* and the *Division of Special Education at the Ohio Department of Education*; "Educator of the Year" by the *Ohio Federation Council for Exceptional Children*; and, the "President's Award" by the *Buckeye Association of School Administrators*.

Dr. Horn was also given special recognition for 45 years of esteemed service to the advocacy of children with disabilities by the *National Association of State Directors of Special Education* and was the first ever recipient of the "Margaret Burley Award" for endless dedication on behalf of children with special education needs.

Both the *University of Dayton* and the *Ohio Department of Education* have established annual awards in the name of Dr. Raymond Horn to recognize individuals for achievements in special education.

"Someone with Dr. Horn's passion, endless energy and knowledge is difficult – if not impossible – to replace. We at the *OACB* feel blessed to have been able to work with him as long as we did," Ohler concluded.
