

Our mission is to support *County Boards of DD* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS

CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF OHIO'S 80,000 INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OF DD



The *People First* president and vice president give the “thumbs up” signal to taking the letters MR out of the *Scioto County Board of MRDD*.

## Creativity Abounds With Name Change

In early July, Governor Strickland signed Senate Bill 79 into law. Commonly known as the “name change bill,” this law strikes the words “mental retardation” from the name of the *Department of MRDD*, as well as *County Boards of MRDD* names.

In anticipation of the signing, the *OACB* met with several superintendents of *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* – counties that already changed the name of their agencies. We talked about any issues they faced and what advice they would give the other 80 counties.

Surprisingly, the superintendents and a public relations specialist who attended said there were little, if any, problems associated with the change.

The key points people made at the meeting were:

- ♦ Taxpayers want to support people who need it – not agencies. *County Boards of DD* should not be overly concerned about passing levies. Instead, they should spend their resources on educating the public about what they do.
- ♦ As *County Boards of DD* and Administration, we need to show more passion about our people and our services, not our agencies, which can seem like a bureaucracy.
- ♦ The word “retarded” is not just a word – it inflicts pain and embarrassment to many individuals. As such, to continue to use a word that a majority find hurtful is simply not acceptable in any societal standard.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OPAC/MR GOLF OCT. 8

The *Golf Course of Dublin* will once again be the site of the annual *OPAC/MR* Golf Outing. This year, the event will be Thursday, October 8.

This is the largest fundraiser for this political action committee, which allows contributions to legislators helping to make a difference for people with developmental disabilities statewide. Please plan on attending, or making a donation to this important event.

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mark your calendars today, and plan on attending the 26th Annual CONVENTION to be held December 2-4. Once again, this event will be at the beautiful *Hilton Hotel* in Easton.

You spoke and we listened. You said you enjoyed the convention more in December than October, so we are back in December. We know many of you take advantage of the wonderful shopping opportunities the Easton affords. Details will be coming out later this summer, but please know the *OACB* staff is hard at work, finding the best presenters and programs.

# Time To Break Out Of Our Cocoons

By Robert Milliken

President, OACB

[MillikenR@starkmrdd.org](mailto:MillikenR@starkmrdd.org)

I have had the privilege the past year or so of traveling throughout the state and talking with many people much like myself. Through a variety of circumstances, they have been brought into the world of helping people with developmental disabilities.

As I talked with many of them, I see people who are a reflection of myself; family members who want desperately to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. They aren't sure how to help, but giving their time and knowledge on local *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* seems like a good idea.

If you walked into someone's house and it was in complete disarray, you would know how to help them. You would do dishes, wash clothes, do the things you need to do so that by the end of the day, you could leave them with a clean house. You have helped.

Sometimes, when serving on a Board, it is difficult to know if you are helping. The Board Room typically looks the same when you leave. All of our *County Board of DD* seem well organized, clean and are operating – at the very least – in an acceptable manner. I think when this happens, as Board members, we are lulled into this nice, warm cocoon where we all make 7-0 votes, go along with whatever staff recommends, and leave at the end of the night feeling good about ourselves. In



Robert Milliken

30 days, we repeat the cycle.

Is that really what people with developmental disabilities in our counties need though? Is that really being fair to our superintendents and their staff?

We all need “aha!” moments, and one of mine came while attending a multi-county meeting in Union County a few months ago. Kudos to Superintendent Kim Miller and his staff for its organization. There were Board members from many counties there, and the discussions they had were simply fascinating.

This was a multi-county regional Board training, but more than anything, it was a chance for Board members to talk to other Board members to find out what similar issues they were having, what worked for them, etc. While all of us want and need to trust our superintendents, we shouldn't expect them to spoon feed us everything we as Board members need to know.

As a Board, we need to understand what our authority is, take the lead and set the tone for policy, and the superintendent should carry it out. It is no longer appropriate to stay within your county borders. Board members must participate in the meetings that take place statewide. You then need to get outside of the state borders and find out what is going on at Washington, D.C. and quite frankly, the world.

While Board members cannot always set aside the time to do this on a regular basis because of other responsibilities, certainly one time a year – even if it is for a day – they should plan on attending the OACB ANNUAL CONVENTION. This year, it is December 2-4, and if

Board members can only come for Dec. 2, that would be fine. That is when all the Board trainings are held, with the Delegate Assembly that evening.

Remember, all Board members are required to earn four hours of continuing education, and you can easily do this in one day by attending these important meetings.

It's a nice warm fuzzy place to be in a

“ *As a Board, we need to understand what our authority is, take the lead and set the tone for policy, and the superintendent should carry it out.* ”

cocoon, but you are not terribly informed there. A few years ago, I began coming to Columbus and other places to hear what was going on outside of Stark County. I quickly realized how out of step and behind we were. That began a process where all seven Board members began to educate ourselves as to where we needed to take the *Stark County Board of DD*.

If your Board is still in that cocoon and you don't know how to get out of it, I would consider it a privilege and an honor to help. Please contact me at [MillikenR@starkmrdd.org](mailto:MillikenR@starkmrdd.org) or 330-316-4816.

## OUR MISSION:

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

[www.oacbmrdd.org](http://www.oacbmrdd.org)

# Cleveland Welcomes Call2Action Training

While the 2009-11 budget issues are behind us, the *OACB's* Call2Action trainings are continuing as people from throughout the *State* ask for advocacy training.

On August 1, a training was held at the *Cuyahoga County Board of DD* with more than 50 people in attendance. State Representative Josh Mandel, who has a relative in the *Cuyahoga County Board of DD* program, spoke to the group about how important letters, emails and phone calls are in the legislative process.

“We depend on people like you to educate us on the issues that are important to you,” Representative Mandel said.

Linda Oda and Dustin McKee from the *OACB* and Natalie Wise from *Tom Pappas & Associates* conducted the training, which included information on the legislative processes and how to write effective letters and give testimony.

In other Call2Action news, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler has announced that the Call2Action name and materials now are officially copyrighted.

“The purpose for the copyright is to protect the *OACB* and its membership,” Ohler said. “The success of the recent Call2Action trainings has caught the eyes and ears of numerous individuals and groups. It is in our best interest to protect the integrity of this valuable training manual and its name.”



State Representative Josh Mandel and *Cuyahoga County Board of DD* Superintendent Dr. Terry Ryan are pictured with some of the people who attended Saturday's training.



State Representative Josh Mandel is pictured with Mary Brewster of *People First* and Celia Hudson Lescook with *CCBMRDD*.



Steve Kyman, who receives services from the *Cuyahoga County Board of DD*, is pictured with Representative Mandel, who visited with consumers and family members and handed out contact information following the training.

# When Will It Be Sunrise, Again?

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, *OACB*  
[dohler@oacbmrdd.org](mailto:dohler@oacbmrdd.org)

It's official! Ohio has a state budget for FY 2010-11 (see *OACB NewsAlert* 2009-022). While the legislative process is over, the biennium budget has really just begun. The OHIO CONSTITUTION requires the state to have a balanced budget, which at times means over the course of a two-year budget cycle, the Governor must use his executive powers to adjust the budget based on tax revenues.



Dan Ohler

Ohio's revenues come from two primary sources: sales and income taxes. Those numbers have continued to slide in Ohio over the past several months as unemployment continues to rise. If people are not working (i.e. reducing income tax revenue), it stands to reason they do not have money to buy things (thus reducing sales tax revenue). English Historian Thomas Fuller stated, "It is always darkest just before the day dawneth." That begs the question, "Is it almost time for sunrise?"

Over the past several months, the *OACB* has met with other local government stakeholders to discuss the state budget situation and develop strategies in working with legislators and the administration. In comparison to the other system stakeholders in Ohio, the Developmental Disabilities (DD) system fared quite well. Were their losses in state funding? Yes. The state is experiencing its worst financial situation in the past 60 years; reductions in state funding were a given. In late July, I joined colleagues from more than 20 other states for the

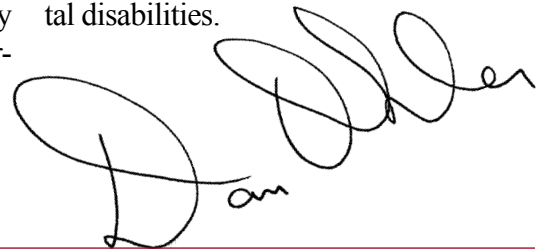
summer board meeting of the *National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)*. Some common themes from that meeting were:

- 1) Thank goodness for the enhanced federal Medicaid assistance percentage (E-FMAP). It is literally saving DD programs for the next two years.
- 2) It sure would be nice to get some clear direction on how we are allowed to use the E-FMAP and what the record keeping requirements are.
- 3) The State Legislatures and the Governors cannot agree on a budget; no one wants to take any responsibility. All they care about is getting re-elected.
- 4) Housing is a big issue. We have to be more creative, more flexible.
- 5) Our mental health and alcohol & drug addiction programs are being decimated by state funding cuts. This is going to force us to cut services and cause severe threats to the health and safety of those we serve.
- 6) It seems like the trend is if an individual is not eligible for Medicaid, they will not be able to get services. That is a scary place for our system to be.

My point in sharing those examples is, "things are bad all over". Quite frankly, we have it better in Ohio than many of our colleagues in other states. Our task is to keep it all in perspective and keep moving forward. Most of the people that will read this article do not have a loved one with a developmental disability; most are not in need of a job, or unsure of how they will come up with the money to make their next house/rent payment or buy groceries. Most of the people reading this article are likely losing sleep on how they are going to maintain their county's service systems in the face of falling revenues or how to convince their local taxpayers to support their next levy request, which might be coming sooner

than originally planned. Simultaneously, DD professionals in other states wish they had taxing authority – they would welcome the opportunity to try and convince their fellow citizens to support a levy request to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. But the laws in their States do not provide them with that authority. As I write this article, Pennsylvania has no state budget. Their employees are not being paid. California is issuing IOUs to their creditors and are about to fall into a "junk bond" rating category. Even oil-rich Texas is seeing reductions in services to the DD population. Right here in Ohio, other service systems wish they had the support that *County Boards of DD* receive and that their state funding losses were limited to the level experienced by the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*.

Crisis brings with it an opportunity to examine how an organization does business - to look at the Vision and Mission Statements and evaluate closely if resources are being used in the most efficient and effective manner to achieve positive outcomes. The *State of Ohio* is clearly facing some extreme financial challenges. While the *OACB* cannot tell you with certainty when the sunrise is coming, we can say with certainty that our DD service system remains the envy of many. County leaders across this great State, through careful strategic planning, have an incredible opportunity to continue to enhance this county-driven service system to face the challenges that lie before us to ensure quality services for individuals with developmental disabilities.



# Bowling With Buckeyes Brings Funds To Spare

Contributed by John Bosser of Fairfield County

It's one thing to have an idea for a fundraiser, go through the process of recruiting a committee, hold countless meetings, contact sponsors then hope that it all comes together and ends up a success.

Bowling with Buckeyes was a whole 'nother story.

Former *Lancaster High School* (Fairfield County) football standout and current *Ohio State* senior Jimmy Cordle wanted to give something back to the community. Crediting coach Jim Tressel with instilling in him a passion for community service, Cordle had the idea for a bowling event with community sponsors and Buckeye football players that would benefit *Fairfield DD Special Olympics*.

Cordle's parents, Jim and Denise, both teach special education at *Lancaster High School*, so it wasn't a difficult decision for him to choose the county *DD* program as the recipient of his efforts. And his sister, Elizabeth, just graduated from *Lancaster* this spring and will study education at *OSU* beginning this fall.

The only catch? The only date that would work was June 26. And it was already mid-May. So Cordle, along with his family and friends, started calling on business partners to sponsor lanes and donate both money and door prizes. Lane sponsorships sold out a week before the deadline.

In all, more than 40 Buckeye football



Jimmy Cordle presents a check for \$17,673.29 to Special Olympian Adam Henderly in the lobby of the *Les Wexner Football Complex* on the *OSU* campus. In the photo are, left to right, Jimmy Cordle, Denise Cordle, Cindy Lavere, Elizabeth Cordle, John Bosser, Jim Cordle, Adam Henderly and Jim Tressel, head coach of the Buckeyes.

players, many of whom traveled to Lancaster on a bus arranged for by Coach Tressel when he heard that many of the players didn't have rides to the event, made the short trip to *Tiki Lanes* and bowled with 168 community partners and 45 Special Olympians.

A silent auction of prize packages and items signed by the Buckeyes, including a pair of tickets to the October 31 home game with New Mexico State, raised more than \$3,700, a handmade block "O" quilt created by Jimmy's aunt, Janet Goodwin, raised nearly \$1,500, and other donations and raffled

items brought the total money raised that night to more than \$19,000!

After expenses, *Fairfield County Board of DD Special Olympics* received more than \$17,500, which will help create more opportunities for athletes to compete at both the local and statewide levels in *Special Olympics*.

Special thanks to the more than 40 volunteers from the Cordle family, their friends, *Fairfield County Board of DD* staff and *Special Olympics* friends and families who helped make the evening a success.



## State Looking For Potential Voters

The *Ohio Secretary of State's* office is in the process of distributing *Voter Access Guide*, a complete handbook to help those with disabilities gain a better understanding of their voting rights.

The 44-page booklet is being distributed to all *County Boards of DD*. We already have emailed all 88 *County Boards of DD*. If you have not requested the handbooks, it is not too late. Contact Linda Oda at [loda@oacbmrrd.org](mailto:loda@oacbmrrd.org).

# Miami County's Wreaths



Kelly Shade stands next to one of the many beautiful wreaths created by people who are served by the *Miami County Board of DD*. The wreaths are created in less than hour, and come in various sizes. The can be purchased for \$5 for small ones and \$10 for the larger ones. If you would like to donate gentle used holiday cards, wrapping paper or other items that could be used in the creation of wreaths, contact Cindy Neves at 937-335-5784 or [cindyn@riversidemrdd.org](mailto:cindyn@riversidemrdd.org). To learn or purchase items created by individuals with developmental disabilities, [click here](#) to see the complete listing by county.

# OACB Wants To Help You Sell Consumer-Created Items

With so many people taking advantage of the arts and crafts listing on the *OACB* website, we are taking it to the next level.

Beginning immediately, the *OACB* is asking *County Boards of DD* to send in a complete list of items they offer to the public for sale. Please include the cost. We will then publish a complete listing of items on our website, as well as feature it in our bi-monthly newsletter. It is our hope that people from throughout the state take advantage of these items, and begin purchasing from the people who are served by the 88 *County Boards of DD*.

In addition, we will send this list to all of Ohio's newspapers and other government agencies to encourage those purchases.

Submit information to Linda Oda at [loda@oacbmrrd.org](mailto:loda@oacbmrrd.org). Happy shopping!

# Huron Job Club Plants Flowers

The *Job Club* at the *Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities* recently spruced up the *Services for Aging* building by planting flowers. At right, Shea Collins plants flowers while Nichelle Borders looks on. The two women were assisted in their efforts by Penny Martin.

All three women work as Huron County interoffice mail couriers and visit the *Services of Aging* building on their route. They noticed empty planters near the building and made arrangements to fill them with red and white impatiens.

The trio enjoyed a sunny afternoon to

do the weeding and planting. Individuals with disabilities ranging from infants to senior citizens receive services from the *Huron County Board of DD*.

The agency provides for the services through *Christie Lane School*, *Huron County Help Me Grow*, Early Intervention, Family Resource Services, *Christie Lane Industries*, Sheltered Employment, Community Employment, Recreation/Athletic Programs, Adult Habilitation Services, Service and Support Administration and Residential Opportunities.



Two members of the *Huron County Board of DD Job Club* planting flowers at the senior building, which was a recent project.

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# Across Ohio - DD News In A Nutshell

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*In an effort to provide news about all 88 County Board of DD, the OACB has started a new feature this month. We asked superintendents from all 88 County Boards of DD to send a sentence or two about something happening in their county.*

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**Adams:** The *Master Gardeners* from the *OSU Extension Office* taught a series of four classes to our adult consumers, helped to prepare and plant a garden behind the adult workshop, and check the progress weekly. Some of the crops they have planted include pumpkins and Indian Corn, which they plan to sell this fall.

**Allen:** We recently have expanded our ability to educate the community about the many abilities of the people we serve. We have received a donation of *Kids on the Block* puppets, which will give us one more avenue for outreach through our disability awareness program called APPLE.

**Ashland:** We have entered into agreements with the *NEON COG* and *Primary Solutions* to utilize new technology, software, and practices to enhance SSA services and reimbursements.

**Ashtabula:** We recently relocated and expanded our greenhouse to include a *Garden Shoppe*. Our spring season was very successful, and we are looking forward to our greenhouse and garden shoppe fall event.

**Athens:** The Service and Support Administration Department held its *First Annual Provider Awards Day Picnic*. The event was a huge success with about 100 people in attendance. Most of the food, awards, and prizes were donated by local businesses and the SSAs.

**Auglaize:** We received a 4-year accreditation with a 99.33% score.

**Belmont:** Financial planning has been at the forefront of activities at the

*Belmont County Board of DD*. The Board has worked to reduce costs through efficiencies that have included staff incentives like early retirement and the combining of positions.

**Brown:** We are placing a replacement levy on the November ballot this year. This is necessary due to budget cuts imposed by the state. This levy will replace two .5 mills that were passed in 1978 and 1980, respectively. This will cost the owner of a home valued at \$100k 49-cents per week (\$25.51 per year).

**Butler:** We were one of 10 sites in the nation to participate in a training workshop which involves the use of trained “trackers” and laser technology to assist artists with severe physical challenges to reach their full potential as artists. The workshop was provided by *Artistic Realization Technologies* and was funded by the *Gund* and the *Christopher Reeves Foundations*.

**Carroll:** We are in the process of completing our first 5-year strategic plan. The Board is taking a proactive stance with buying a Quality Service System model from *MEORC* and reducing costs by contracting for adult transportation through *Carroll County Transit*.

**Champaign:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Champaign County Board of DD* was 324.

**Clark:** New Superintendent Jennifer Rousculp started July 1. Deborah Clayton has retired and moved to Virginia.

**Clermont:** The 2008 average daily membership for *Clermont County Board of DD* was 866.

**Clinton:** The 2008 average daily membership for *Clinton County Board of DD* was 220.

**Columbiana:** The 2008 average daily membership for *Columbiana County Board of DD* was 506.

**Coshocton:** One of the private day hubs, *LaFayette Meadows*, in Coshocton County completely burned down July 14. No one was injured, but it left about 65 - 70 individuals living in ICF/MR's and on waivers with no day program to attend. The *Coshocton County Board of DD (Hopewell Industries)* will be able to accommodate them in the adult services building. A horrible situation turned out to be a wonderful collaboration.

**Crawford:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Crawford County Board of DD* was 236

**Cuyahoga:** The *Cuyahoga County Board of DD's* latest entrepreneurial venture, a *Just-A-Buck* franchise store, has ranked tops in weekly sales for all the chain's franchises for many weeks since its opening in May. The Parma store employs 15 workers with developmental disabilities, who handle stocking and receiving, cleaning, check-out and bagging.

**Darke:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Darke County Board of DD* was 482.

**Defiance:** We received a four-year accreditation.

**Delaware:** We purchased a building at the corner of Orange Road and Columbus Pike (US 23) four miles north of

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## News In A Nutshell *(From Page 7)*

the Delaware-Franklin county line. The 72,000-square foot building will be renovated to house all of the Board's Early Intervention, Support Administration and Board Administrative functions. Renovations are expected to be completed by next summer.

**Erie:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Erie County Board of DD* was 477.

**Fairfield:** Jan Sennett, Director of Services and Supports, announced her retirement after serving in the field for 33 years. We wish her well.

**Fayette:** Our *Behavior Support Advisory Council* has blossomed since the release of Board funds for more childcare. Now more than ever, parents are attending our support groups.

**Franklin:** The *Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities* is using the following abbreviated mission statement to guide its services: "Helping people to live, learn and work in our community."

**Fulton:** We currently are holding our Summer Youth Program. Sixteen young people are participating, working at two community sites and our sheltered workshop.

**Gallia:** We recently completed the Accreditation Review process and was awarded a four year accreditation by the *State of Ohio* for the quality services and supports it provides to people with disabilities.

**Geauga:** Our non-profit housing group, *Maple League Community Residences Inc.*, raised \$8,500 at a golf outing to help with our levy effort.

**Greene:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Greene County Board of DD* was 752.

**Guernsey:** The Cambridge Bobcat Varsity Football team held its annual fun day on the *Guernsey County Board of DD* campus. This gives the team a chance to realize that although we are diverse, we are very much the same, not to mention we eat a lot of ice cream, play kick-ball, corn-hole, basketball, and bingo. In addition, some of the athletes have actually made career changes to work in this field based on their involvement in the annual fun day events.

**Hamilton:** For exemplary support of employees on active military duty, the *Hamilton County Board of DD* received the *ABOVE AND BEYOND* award at a recent ceremony in Columbus from the *Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)*. The agency was nominated by former Behavior Support Specialist Adam Hardin after his 14-month Navy Reserve deployment in Kuwait.

**Hancock:** Artists from the *Hancock County Board of DD's Kan Du Studio* are featured at the *MMK Gallery* in Toledo at an exhibit. *Kan Du's* mission is to unite people with varying degrees of abilities and give them the opportunity to communicate and connect with the community through the arts.

**Hardin:** Fifty *Hardin County DD* staff and enrollees are participating in the local Relay for Life for the second year. In 2008, our team raised \$4,900 for cancer services and research. We found this to be a great community integration activity. Our enrollees had a great time getting to know other teams' members in a very positive, upbeat environment.

**Harrison:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Harrison County Board of DD* was 120.

**Henry:** *HOPE Services* successfully completed three camps for various ages

from 5 to adult. These are an annual event that people look forward to.

**Highland:** The 2008 average daily membership of the *Highland County Board of DD* was 317.

**Hocking:** We are in the final preparations for our initial survey for CARF. We are also preparing to place a levy on the November ballot.

**Holmes:** The *Holmes County Training Center Dental Clinic* has implemented an agreement with the *Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron* to provide dental services to individuals with hemophilia under a grant from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. The Dental Clinic provides basic dental care to individuals with disabilities and has expanded its eligibility guidelines to service this specialized need in the Holmes County area.

**Huron:** We have received a rare five-year accreditation from the *Ohio Department of DD*. It is the longest accreditation period given by the state agency and a sign of significant compliance of state standards.

**Jackson:** We have a new *Chartered Aktion Club* (sponsored by the *Jackson Area Kiwanis*). This is a Community Service Club and on Aug. 7-8, the J-Vac Aktioneers will have a Relay for Life team in memory of a former client. The team's name is Amy's Aktioneers and our theme is "Just Like You - Looking for a Cure".

**Jefferson:** We were awarded a three-year accreditation from CARF after a site survey in May. We have been CARF accredited since 1985.

**Knox:** Since we passed our levy last year and have increased outreach, education and collaboration with community resources, enrollment has increased by 24%. Many of those individuals

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## News In A Nutshell *(From Page 8)*

lived in the community and did not receive any services, but needed services. Some of them were children that were able to get services in Early Intervention and now are mainstreamed into other services.

**Lake:** The 2008 average daily membership for *Lake County Board of DD* was 1,511.

**Lawrence:** Congratulations to Jason Kinder, our Community Employment Specialist and the newest addition the LCBDD team.

**Licking:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Licking County Board of DD* was 1,087.

**Logan:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Logan County Board of DD* was 441.

**Lorain:** Creativity and “out of the box” thinking has been the theme at *Murray Ridge Center*, as we strive simultaneously to reduce expenses while enhancing services for our consumers. In our Adult Program, for example, we have continued to refine our system for saving money by adjusting staffing downward to account for consumer absences, while also adding life-enhancing programs such as “armchair travel,” whereby groups of consumers experience the sights, sounds, and cultures of foreign lands by taking ‘virtual trips’ to places like Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

**Lucas:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Lucas County Board of DD* was 4,188.

**Madison:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Madison County Board of DD* was 290.

**Mahoning:** We received our first year report from *Johnson Controls Inc* on the results of an energy conservation project completed in 2008. The first

year energy savings were \$91,695, exceeding expected savings. Other savings included Capital Expense Avoidance of \$53,586 and Operational Expense Avoidance of \$31,475 for a grand total savings of \$176,756 for the first year. The *Mahoning County Board of DD* spent \$1,362,058 in facility upgrades and renovations during the project.

**Marion:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Marion County Board of DD* was 280.

**Medina:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Medina County Board of DD* was 978.

**Meigs:** Our early childhood program is under construction. We are adding an additional early childhood classroom, speech therapy office, and sensory room, in addition to some renovations to our existing early childhood space. This project is being funded through state capital construction dollars and is expected to be completed in August.

**Mercer:** We passed our levy renewal request in May by 83.7% to 16.3%. It was the best election result in the Board’s history.

**Miami:** Our Adult Developmental Services programs recently moved into a new building, enabling them to work together to provide quality services to adults who attend our day program.

**Monroe:** *MACO Workshop* consumers are very busy building 4-H trophies and plaques for Monroe and Noble County Fairs. The workshop also makes signs and banners, etc. and will take orders.

**Montgomery:** We did a survey of the approximately 500 families in our Early Intervention program and based on the initial responses, we are starting several parent support groups for those parents to share among

themselves about their feelings after having been told their child had a disability and all that comes with that, and to offer them some additional means of information exchange. These groups will be facilitated by professionals from our mental health counselor staff. (We are an approved mental health agency as well).

**Morgan:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Morgan County Board of DD* was 93.

**Morrow:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Morrow County Board of DD* was 279.

**Muskingum:** In an effort to improve and enhance services to individuals we serve, all direct services for children and adults will be consolidated on the Newark Road campus in August. As a result of this consolidation plan, the offices of the SSA department and central office staff have been relocated to 655 Zane Street.

**Noble:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Noble County Board of DD* was 81.

**Ottawa:** The *Ottawa County Board of DD* is pleased to announce the recent hire of Jim Crist as our new Director of Service and Supports. Jim brings with him 10 years of experience with the *Clearwater COG* and *Seneca County Board of DD* in a variety of areas.

**Paulding:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Paulding County Board of DD* was 166.

**Perry:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Perry County Board of DD* was 339.

**Pickaway:** We are transitioning the transportation of school and preschool students to the *Educational Services Center* with complete financial respon-

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## News In A Nutshell *(From Page 9)*

sibility by the local school districts. With an earlier decision to eliminate the direct provision of adult transportation and contract with agencies based on the free choice of provider option, *PCBDD* no longer will directly provide transportation services.

**Pike:** We are happy to report an outstanding annual MUI assessment.

**Portage:** Phil Miller, the *Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Director of Adult Services is retiring, effective August 3, after 32 years of continuing service with the Board. Mr. Miller has provided outstanding leadership and service to the Board as well as with the *Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS)*. Such commitment and leadership will be missed.

**Preble:** Despite economic reports, Preble County individuals are busy earning paychecks, thanks to *Parker Hannifin*, *Henny Penny* and other area businesses. Our enclaves are busy, and the workshop is buzzing as orders come in from *Parker* and other area companies.

**Putnam:** The board approved a revised table of organization by adding two new positions. One of the positions will be a Behavior Specialist/Vocational Trainer. This position will provide the necessary guidance and assistance to staff in the area of behavior supports as well as increasing our emphasis in the individual service planning process.

**Richland:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Richland County Board of DD* was 1,042.

**Ross:** Parents and supporters of the *Pioneer Center* raised more than \$23,000 in donations in order to improve the track and field at the board's school age facility during the summer. The existing 1/8 mile track was paved, a new t-

ball field has been constructed and additional fencing installed.

**Sandusky:** Don Nalley retired June 30 after serving 30 continuous years in his position as Adult Services Director for the *Sandusky County Board of DD*. Don received accolades for his contributions on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities from dignitaries including the *Fremont Mayor*; *Sandusky County Commissioners*, a representative from the *Northwest Ohio Directors Association*, the *People First* Treasurer, State Representative Jeff Wagner and State Director John Martin.

**Scioto:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Scioto County Board of DD* was 418.

**Seneca:** We hosted more than 240 individuals and families members at our first family picnic at our new park

**Shelby:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Shelby County Board of DD* was 373.

**Stark:** We will co-sponsor Camp Jukebox, a performing arts camp, August 17-21 at *Southgate School*. This is the 12th year for the camp. Camp Jukebox will include approximately 25 individuals with disabilities ranging in age from 8-25 years and will also include 22 high school and college peers and two assistant peers, as well as staff, mentors and volunteers.

**Summit:** Program participant Todd Eisinger recently was recognized by the *Akron Chamber of Commerce* as one of 30 young professionals that is having a significant impact on the Greater Akron area. Eisinger, a *Special Olympic* World Games Gold Medalist, was included in this prestigious group of young professionals because of his public relations work on behalf of people with disabilities

**Trumbull:** Bob Foley, *Fairhaven School* Principal, announced his retirement effective in December. We have offered the position to Rosanne Morell, who will begin in September to learn the position while Bob is still around.

**Tuscarawas:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Tuscarawas County Board of DD* was 448.

**Union:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Union County Board of DD* was 432.

**Van Wert:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Van Wert County Board of DD* was 240.

**Vinton:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Vinton County Board of DD* was 86.

**Warren:** The newly formed *Voices of Warren County* choir has been performing at several functions. They opened the Warren County Fair in July.

**Washington:** Washington County has surpassed all expectations with the RSC grant. Kudo's to Jan Powell and staff!

**Wayne:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Wayne County Board of DD* was 486.

**Westcon:** We are compiling a mountain of information for member *County Boards of DD* to determine what services we can provide efficiently and effectively. Over the next few months, *WestCON* will evaluate a list of new services we can provide.

**Williams:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Williams County Board of DD* was 134.

**Wood:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Wood County Board of DD* was 54.

**Wyandot:** The 2008 average daily membership for the *Wyandot Board of DD* was 21.

*NOTE: The average daily membership counts were provided by the Ohio Dept. of MRDD.*