



The Advocate

A Resource for Families Printed Quarterly

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Our mission is to help families in any way that we can. If you are in need of assistance and you don't know where to turn please contact...

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projects that last throughout the warm months. As my own energy levels begins to grow along with my to-do list, I'm also reminded of the need to do some "spring cleaning" mentally and personally. For me, spring is the perfect time to re-evaluate the internal aspects of how I am living my life. Am I living well? Am I exercising regularly, eating right and preparing healthy meals for my family? Do I use hurtful words either personally or professionally? Is my attitude positive and do I stand up for what I believe in? I'm sure I could probably go on and on, but Spring is only so long.....and I do need to prepare the garden! Join me and take stock in your life and how you are living. Shake off winter and let the cleaning begin!! Best of luck!

OLMR Board Member Honored

Nancy Shafer, long time board trustee received the Community Hero award by the American Red Cross of Knox County. We couldn't think of a better person to receive this award!

Congratulations Nancy Shafer!!

OLMR Name Change

We've received many comments from our membership in reference to OLMR's current title and the use of Mental Retardation in that title. We understand that some of you consider these words as an appropriate diagnosis for your loved one, many of you also find the use of the words mental retardation offensive. Rich Klein, OLMR President explains, "we respect the views of our membership and will begin the process of finding a mutually respectful name. A complete name change would have a sizable financial impact on our organization, and we feel it is our duty to be fiscally responsible to our members. To maintain our financial integrity and make needed changes, we will begin by removing the words 'mental retardation' from our letterhead, website and will begin to use the letters OLMR as our title, which won't cost the organization any additional dollars. We will continue to discuss the future of our name and request any suggestions be sent to dplaza@columbus.rr.com. Thank you for everyone's input!!"

A Note from the Executive Director

Is everyone sick of snow yet?? I know in our household, we are all a bit stir crazy. Soon, the snow will be gone and we will be refreshed by the beaming sunshine and budding flowers and trees. Spring gives everyone energy – people clean their homes, start gardens and take on new

HELP TOPICS:

What is a MUI?

The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Major Unusual Incident (MUI) and Registry Unit provides oversight to County Boards and Providers to help assure the health and safety of individuals receiving services in Ohio.

A major unusual incident (MUI Rule [OAC 5123:2-17-02](#)) is defined as any alleged, suspected, or actual occurrence of an incident that adversely affects the health and safety of an individual. There are nineteen different types of MUI's defined in the rule including but not limited to: abuse, neglect, exploitation, misappropriation medical emergency, hospitalization etc. All of the incidents require immediate action be taken to protect individuals from further harm, that an investigation be conducted to determine the cause of the incident and any contributing factors, and that a prevention plan be developed to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

MUIs are reported to the local County Board of DD by providers, families and/or individuals. County boards then report the information to DODD. (The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities/"the state") County Boards of DD are responsible for immediate action, investigation, and prevention planning for each and every incident.

MUI's and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) / Registry Unit at the department of Developmental Disabilities is comprised of three entities including

1) Intake, 2) Regional Managers and 3) Registry Investigators.

The Intake function assures that all Major Unusual Incidents (MUI's) are entered correctly into the ITS system. (Incident Tracking System) Intake assures that incidents include effective immediate actions, meet MUI criteria and are classified accurately according to rule. Intake reviews each and every incident entered into the online Incident Tracking System (ITS).

The Regional Managers oversee the health and safety systems dedicated to Major Unusual Incident (MUI) management in all 88 counties. The Regional Managers are responsible for the

following critical roles:

Incident management through the on line Incident Tracking System (ITS). Regional Managers are responsible to assure that investigation information entered into the (ITS) is complete and consistent. The Regional Manager tracks cases within their region of the state to assure that investigations follow the necessary protocols and include all the appropriate information. Prior to closing cases, the manager will assure that causes and contributing factors have been identified and that a prevention plan has been developed to help prevent future occurrences.

The Regional Manager conducts site visits to Ohio's 88 counties and providers of service. The purpose of the site visits are twofold: to assure the health and safety systems are operating according to rule OAC 5123:2-17-02 and to offer technical assistance leading to overall systemic improvement.

Finally, the managers provide training and technical assistance throughout the year. The managers are readily accessible to answer questions from provider and county board personnel related to incident management.

The Registry Investigators have four critical functions within the Unit: Conducting department directed investigations; managing the DODD Abuser Registry for the State of Ohio, conducting site visits as required to maintain and improve the quality of investigations; and providing training, technical assistance to the Investigative Agent (IA).

Finally, the Unit performs additional statewide functions that offer support and assistance to Ohio's County Boards and Providers:

Maintain a centralized Complaint hotline, Issue Health and Safety Alerts, Issue Information Notices, Statewide Mortality Review Meetings, Statewide Pattern Trend Meetings, Statewide MUI Training.

For further questions contact:

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From Our Board President: **League Advocacy in Washington D.C.**

On November 23, 2009, the League, represented by our President, Rich Klein, participated, along with advocates from thirteen other states in a meeting with Mr. Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy. The purposes of the meeting were to draw to the attention of Mr. Dale and the Executive Office the urgency in addressing program needs for family members and wards with severe and profound mental retardation and to express our experiences with publicly-funded groups working to undermine and eliminate public and private ICF/MR facilities.

Our D.C. group (the National Parent-Guardian Task Force on Public Policies for Individuals with Severe and Profound Mental Retardation) stressed to Mr. Dale that we support public policies which include Home- and Community-based Waiver programs and also ICF/MR programs. We stressed that our support for both programs is based on reality and acknowledged the varying degrees of disability, available providers, and the finite ability of families to be caregivers. HCBS waiver programs have not proven that they can meet the health and safety needs of the most vulnerable segment of the disability community.

We reported that of the thirteen states represented at the meeting, nine states have ongoing or have had Department of Justice investigations and/or lawsuits focused on individual care choice. It has been our experience that Special Litigation Section/Department of Justice investigations and lawsuits mean the downsizing and, in many cases, the closures of publicly-operated facilities for persons with mental retardation. We reported that negative outcomes of misguided deinstitutionalization programs have included the following:

- Closed admissions to ICF/MR care for eligible persons whose families are

desperate for services;

- Closed admissions to ICF/MR care for all persons under the age of 18;
- Higher mortality rates for those who transition from ICF/MR's;
- A rise in preventable deaths with persons with severe and profound mental retardation;
- The erosion of guardianship rights;
- Long waiting lists for care;
- The use of settlement agreements to undermine and eliminate targeted ICF/MR's; and
- The elimination of the states as a provider of services to its most vulnerable citizens, which, in turn, means the destruction of available, qualified professional staff in the field.

The Task Force concluded our discussions with Mr. Dale explaining that ICF/MR programs are supported by the general public. It is in the nation's best interest to offer the options of ICF/MR care to its vulnerable citizens with severe and profound mental retardation/developmental disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Klein
President, OLMR



**March is
DD
MONTH**

What's New in Employment Building Bridges to New Opportunities

In the past, when a person with developmental disabilities started his/her transition from school to work, the community employment options were limited. Today, times are changing thanks to the 'Bridges to Transition Project' a grant funded through the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC). The Bridges Project addresses the specific need to give young people ages 14 to 22 the opportunity to expand the scope of choices for their eventual employment. The overall goal of the project is to enhance career exploration options and increase employment outcomes by developing a collaborative network of services that will assist students in achieving their employment goals. It is an opportunity for students and families to take a fresh look at what is available in the world of work. "The Project provides a great opportunity for County Boards of DD to be an integral part of the school to work transition puzzle by providing additional resources and a local focus on making sure kids that finish school move into jobs within their community", states Kim Linkinhoker, Assistant Director of the Ohio Association of County boards and leader behind the grant.

With Kim and his team at The Ohio Association of County Boards providing project management for the grant, they are able to travel statewide to all of the different partners in Ohio and provide hands on assistance to each partner, ensuring the success of the grant. Kim states "Our project team at OACB sits in a great place to share successful practices with all project partners in Ohio. They also have a unique opportunity to be part of systemic change and sort the real barriers to employment vs. those barriers that are perceived to exist." The Bridges Project involves 15 counties across Ohio.

Linkinhoker is a 30 plus year veteran of working for people with disabilities. For years he has recognized the need for vocational services and options for young people between the ages of 14 to 22. He stresses the importance of ORSC, local Boards of DD, schools, and families working together as one team to identify and pursue employment options. Linkinhoker states, "It is crucial that we address the needs of transitional youth. Typically planning starts at age 16 but we believe that by starting the process at age 14 it will result in young adults who are even better prepared for life after school." He also adds, "the Bridges Project is the only statewide project where the partner County Board's of DD will contribute their expertise to the project by offering case manager and vocational rehabilitation services. In the long run, vocational services will be developed that will not only benefit transitional youth but people of all ages who live in the area."

To find out what might be available for a person you care about go to www.rsc.ohio.gov to find out more information.

In Our Next Issue...

- Who do you contact when you have questions – an outline of who to contact at your local level and who to contact at the state level.
- Your Rights Regarding Public Records Requests

Find us on the web:

www.ohioleague.org

Did you Know???

This newsletter is folded, labeled and sealed by the consumers who work at the Youngstown Developmental Center. The job involves about 15 consumers for each mailing completed. They receive a paycheck from the Mahoning County Board of DD.



OLMR Board of Directors 2010

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