



THE ADVOCATE

FALL 2006

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"MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON?"

OLMR ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On June 24, the OLMR Annual meeting was held at the Raddison Hotel in Worthington. Attendees heard some good news from Drs. Henry Hood and Matt Holder who have had experience in many state developing medical and dental programs within developmental centers. These programs, called Regional Resource Centers are designed to fill the gaps in the community for dental and medical care of people with severe disabilities.

Both Drs. advised that Ohio's Regional Resource centers MUST continue to offer long-term residential care. The two men are working with behavioral specialists to add behavioral management and psychological services to existing regional resource center programs in other states.

Doug Rogers talked briefly about the Martin litigation. It appeared, at the time of the meeting, that the parties would continue to trial. (See story on Martin v. Taft) The attendees were also informed about the passage of legislation, in the eleventh hour, that in effect, puts the Blackwell proposal to limit state funding into law beginning with the next fiscal year. This proposal, called TL (Tax Expenditure Limits) had become a public embarrassment to the Blackwell campaign and many Republicans.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize several OLMR volunteers who have worked tirelessly for the consumers who are served through our efforts.

Jan Bratton received the President's Award for her many years of service as Treasurer of OLMR and her consistent advocacy on behalf of our people with disabilities.

Monty Blanton and Sally Meckling received Leadership Awards for their work as volunteers who have assisted hundreds of families in understanding the impact of the two developmental center closures. Monty Blanton said in his acceptance speech, " They try to make it about jobs, but in our hearts-it is always about the people. And we won't let them down."

Past President and Honorary Board member Tawny Gregg received a Leadership Award for her work with Community Shares of Mid-Ohio. The pay-roll deduction program that helps support OLMR requires many long hours, numerous meetings, and a lot of work. Tawny

