



# LEADER

Ohio Association of Adult Services

January 2005

## From Your President...

**By Elizabeth Prather, OAA's President**

Here are some of my favorites: "Someday we'll laugh about this week" was celebrated from January 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. I'm thinking about that becoming my mantra. It can be used for all kinds of things. For instance when reading about the Vision for Medicaid Services for the MRDD System or trying to reason with your teenager. The applicabilities (my spell check says this is not a word, but I'm leaving it in anyway) are endless.

And then there was "Cuckoo Dancing Week" January 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. I'm not sure whether one is supposed to dance with a Cuckoo or like a Cuckoo, but I think I've done both before.

*(Continued on p.2)*

As we all know, March is MR/DD Awareness Month.

Maybe you've come up with some great ideas on how to celebrate that in your community. Or maybe you're hoping I'm going to give you some ideas here.

Sorry to disappoint you. Try visiting [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org)

The ideas you will get from this article are completely worthless, but hopefully entertaining. There are many more monthly, daily and weekly observances out there.

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## Ashtabula County Appoints Adult Services Director

Lynda Perry was recently appointed as Director of Adult Services for the Ashtabula County Board of MR/DD. During her 17 year tenure with the board, she has been a Teacher, Supported Employment Coordinator, and until recently a Habilitation Manager.

Her background also goes beyond the MR/DD field. Lynda worked as a teacher in the Ashtabula Area School System and was the Coordinator of the Family Resource Service Program through Home Health Services of Ashtabula County.

Lynda is a graduate of Ursuline College and possesses a Masters in Education from Marygrove College. With her background, particularly in supported employment, she knows what it means to people with disabilities to have a job and earn a meaningful wage. The consumers and staff of the Ashtabula County Board of MRDD will certainly benefit from Lynda now being in the position she holds. Congratulations and good luck.

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Hunt for Happiness Week was the 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and it seems rather sad that it is only one week. What are we supposed to do the rest of the year?

And “I’m not going to take it anymore day” definitely needs to be extended.

“Show and tell day at work” luckily was scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup>, which was a Sunday. One less thing to worry about at work. I’m not sure what some of the folks here would come up with to show and tell!!!

“National hugging day” did fall on a workday, Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Let me know how that turned out.

Some of the daily observances seem to conflict with the weekly observances. Like the Celebration of Life Week, January 1-7 seems marred by the “Remember You Die” day on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Other observances seem a little unfair. For example, we have “Penguin Awareness Day” on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Bald Eagle gets both the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> as Appreciation Days. I hope the penguins don’t get their feelings hurt.

“Ladies Bliss Days” are on the 30<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>, which overlaps with “Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day” on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A good friend of mine has a birthday on the 31<sup>st</sup>; maybe I’ll send her some bubble wrap. No explanation of course. I wonder what she will think?

The 30<sup>th</sup> is “Inane Answering Message Day.” I wish that one was enforced and inane messages were limited to just that one day! I have a couple of friends that observe it 365 days a year, and they should stop!

You can get prepared for the rest of the year by visiting [www.brownielocks.com](http://www.brownielocks.com) and find out what other observances you can look forward to.

Hope you have a great 2005!

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**Visit the OAAS website at**

**[www.oaas.org](http://www.oaas.org)**

## **Adult Services Rule Status**

The Ohio Department of MRDD (ODMRDD) recently re-filed the existing adult services rule (5123:2-1-06). The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) was in full support of this decision. A work group has been meeting for several months to give input to ODMRDD regarding the adult services rule. OAAS has had consistent representation on the work group.

The rule is in need of major revisions in order to be in line with current and best practices. However, the statute (O.R.C. 5126.01(A)) that provides for the development of the adult service rule is also significantly flawed. ODMRDD has decided to re-file the existing rule in order to have time to make recommendations for statute changes first. This process will produce an adult services rule that reflects the needs of MRDD adult services providers across the state (both private and public). If approved by JCARR, the re-filed adult services rule will be in effect until May 24, 2006.

If you have input about the statute or the adult services rule, please contact your regional OAAS representative, Susan Dlouhy (OAAS Administrator) or Mike Mehalik (OAAS Work Group Representative).

### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST**

**OACBMRDD / OSCBMRDD  
Spring Conference  
March 1-3, 2005  
Adult Services Track Included**

**OAAS Spring Conference  
April 13, 2005  
Location & time to be announced**

## **The Annual Record Ritual**

The end of a calendar year typically sets off a short but furious period of well-intended record organizing activity. It's a Capricorn thing. All across the state illegibly labeled and over-flowing folders are pried out of file cabinets and crammed into every kind of cardboard container imaginable. Once each box is filled sufficiently beyond its designed capacity a highly trained professional attempts closure, executing a rapid sequence of sumo wrestling maneuvers and coercing compliance with those magic words – Close you #@#@# box, you low bid piece of #%!#, close! To support an admittedly primitive but time-honored retrieval system, each box is then dated and clearly labeled to identify its possible contents. Finally, with a delusory sense of achievement and just as the bottoms start to give way, the mangled bundles containing last year's work are carefully thrown into a secure area and later disappear to the same place the airlines send your luggage. Those boxes will never be seen again.

There is help however! And it's not from Japanese wrestlers in g-strings. The Ohio Historical Society State Archives assists local government agencies with establishing records management and archival programs through the Local Government Records Program (LGRP). Working through eight Network Centers the LGRP provides advisory services for counties, municipalities, townships, schools and other Ohio local governments.

The Ohio Historical Society website, [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org), contains a wealth of information to help you plan and manage a records program. Click on resources, State Archives, and then Local Government Records Programs. In addition to paper records, best practice includes a filing scheme and retention schedule for electronic mail as well. A review of the guidelines that apply to State of Ohio local governments may be helpful.

Get organized and stay organized! It will save time and money in the long run.