

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2011

## OPRA Announces Best Practice Provider and County Board Selections

(Columbus, Ohio) - The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and its system partners (see photo), announced the selection of six groups to participate in a study to determine the best practices of providers and county boards serving Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The study is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

The goals of the project include; greater consistency of care statewide, role clarification among staff and enhanced involvement of individuals and families.

"The response to participate in this important study was great," said Mark Davis, Ohio Provider Resource Association. "We had a difficult time selecting from the quality providers and county boards."

The selection panel considered many factors when choosing these counties, including: relationships between all stakeholders, tenure of leadership, history of working through challenges, size of counties and providers, geographic diversity and service array offered. Those selected and listed below include only those who made a strong initial commitment at the time of application to work together on this project. Additional providers, along with individuals with disabilities, family members and others will be invited to participate in this study.

- Clearwater COG (including: Broken Arrow, Christie Lane Industries, Crawford County, Huron County, Marion County, Renaissance House, RHAM, Wynn-Reeth)
- Cuyahoga County, Grand Manner, Koinonia
- Guernsey County, Guernsey Residential
- Hamilton County, Ohio Valley Goodwill, Ohio Valley Residential Services
- Knox County, Creative Foundation, New Hope Industries
- Miami County, Champaign Residential Services (CRSI), Vision Mentors

The selection panel was planning on choosing only five groups, but then decided to choose an additional group. "We were overwhelmed by the responses and want to thank everyone who took the time to submit an application," said Lori Stanfa, Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities. "This speaks highly of the commitment to best practice in our field."



**Selection Panel** (pictured clockwise from right front): Anita Allen, OPRA; Dana Charlton, Ohio Self Determination Association; Lori Stanfa, OACB; Jeanne Stuntz, Dynamic Pathways; Sharon Travis, Erie County Board DD; Jeannie Stahl, Allen County Board DD; Cheryl Phipps, Hamilton County DD Services; Mark Davis, OPRA

- 30 -

**CONTACT:**

Mark Davis  
614-224-6772  
[mdavis@opra.org](mailto:mdavis@opra.org)