



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Staff appointed to ODMRDD Abuser Registry Committee

Two Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI) staff members have recently been appointed to serve on the ODMR/DD (Ohio Department of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities) *Abuser Registry External Review Committee*. Bill Adelsberger, chief ancillary officer and Kathy Rader, consumer advocate director, were both tapped by Director John Martin in October.



The *Abuser Registry* is established by law (5123:2-17-03 of the ORC) to prohibit people from working in the MR/DD field if they have committed **acts of abuse which include: physical, verbal, sexual, neglect, misappropriation (theft), or failure to report such actions**. If an individual is placed on the Abuser Registry, that person is barred from employment as an MR/DD employee in the state of Ohio for a minimum of five years. Currently there are 192 people on the list and no one has been removed. (See www.mrdd.ohio.gov).

The committee is charged with reviewing each potential case, exploring the facts surrounding each case, and making recommendations of placement (or no placement) on the *Abuser Registry*. “It’s not a task to be taken lightly,” says Adelsberger. “All information surrounding each case must be thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by the team members in order to make a determination to recommend placement on the registry, request more information or clarification, or recommend dismissal based on the inability to meet registry standards (for inclusion).”

The committee is made up of representatives from County Boards of MR/DD, private providers, parents, ODMR/DD personnel and other people vested in the protection of individuals in the MR/DD system. Committee responsibilities include:

Protect those most at risk from offenders who either have admitted the offense or who have a preponderance of evidence mounted against them.

Provide a thorough review of the facts to protect those charged from being unfairly placed on the registry.

Prevent a single entity from using personal slant or preference while making this determination.

Review the facts surrounding individuals who have been on the registry for more than five years and have petitioned the state for removal.

For more information about the *Ohio Abuser Registry* or to see a list of registered abusers, go to www.mrdd.ohio.gov.