

# Have you heard about our name change?



In October, 2009, the Clermont County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) changed its name. We are now known as the

## Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities!

This change comes as a result of a few dedicated citizens in Ohio (most of whom have disabilities) who are tired of name calling. Unfortunately, we've adopted the word "retarded" into our vocabulary and those with mental retardation have realized that the two words have lost their meaning. As a medical diagnosis (and part of our title), it's completely acceptable; when it is used in a derogatory fashion, it's inexcusable.

On July 7, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79—the Name Change Bill—which changed the future of MRDD programs across the state. As of October 5, the Ohio Department of MRDD in Columbus became the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (shortened to DODD when necessary), and all County Board programs like ours in Clermont County changed their names accordingly.

Congratulations to those individuals who brought this to our attention, gathered the support of legislators across Ohio and made this a reality. For more information, contact the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities...at (513) 732-4921 or [ldavis@ccmrdd.org](mailto:ldavis@ccmrdd.org).