



65 W. Church St. * Newark, OH 43055

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2008

For more information, Please Contact
Heather Odendahl, Public Information Manager
(740) 349-6588

h_odendahl@LCBMRDD.org

Visit us online at: www.LCBMRDD.org



**Fred O'Dell and
Commissioner Tim
Bubb**



**Judge Robert Hoover and
Beth Beattie**

Beattie, O'Dell honored for LCBMRDD service

NEWARK – Beth Beattie and Fred O'Dell recently were recognized for their service to the Licking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD).

They were honored for each serving 12 years on the board. Beattie most recently served as president in 2008; O'Dell served as board treasurer for several years. Each were appointees for three 4-year terms, the maximum allowed by Ohio law, and will officially retire effective Dec. 31.

Beattie, of Newark, was appointed to her post in 1997 by Probate Judge Robert Hoover. She is the parent of an adult child who receives LCBMRDD services.

O'Dell, also of Newark, initially was appointed to the board in 1984 and served for several years. He was then reappointed in 1997 by the Licking County Board of Commissioner. He, too, is the parent of an adult child who has receives services from the LCBMRDD.

“Over the past 12 years the board has experienced many challenges,” said LCBMRDD Superintendent Nancy Neely. “We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of individuals needing service as a result of population growth in the county. In particular, the number of older adults living at home with aging parents and other family members has resulted in increased demands for residential services. Beth Beattie and Fred O'Dell have led us through these challenges. I am grateful for their support of this organization for 12 long years.”

The LCBMRDD soon will welcome two new board members to take the seats vacated by Beattie and O'Dell. Dan Hoover of Perry Township was appointed by the county commissioners to fill O'Dell's seat. Jean Blaczyk of Newark was appointed by Judge Hoover to fill Beattie's seat.

The LCBMRDD provides comprehensive services to about 1,300 Licking County children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The agency currently offers preschool and early intervention services at the E.S. Weiant Center in Newark; early intervention services at the Ann Davino Center in Pataskala; adult services at LICCO Inc. in Heath; residential supports; family respite; transportation services; and service coordination.

The LCBMRDD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for providing high-quality support services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

###