***OPRA Board Consent Agenda***

***January 23, 2019***

***NOTE: Some of the information is carried over from the update given at the September 2018 Board meeting. Updates are in red font and underlined.***

***A. Workforce Sustainability and Quality Focus Area***

**1. Waiver Pilot**

DODD asked Mark to facilitate a meeting of stakeholders to design recommendations for a new reimbursement system. This workgroup has met twice. Than Johnson (CRSI) and Carol Ansel (Madison County Board of DD) agreed to co-chair the workgroup. The workgroup’s stretch goal is to have recommendations to DODD by April 2018. The workgroup is working on guiding principles for the next generation of waiver reimbursement system reform. DODD applied for CMS technical assistance with implementing value based purchasing in IDD HCBS waivers. If awarded, this technical assistance will run from April 2018 to February 2019. The small group working on the short term waiver reimbursement revisions, based on the current system, continues to work on a potential solution to be presented by the end of March 2018.

(Note: Waiver Pilots will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting.)

DODD is drafting rule revisions necessary to move the residential rate redesign forward. This would not be a pilot if implemented, rather it would be statewide. Providers would bill congregate sites at a monthly allocated daily rate within a 3% risk corridor. The new system would function as a bridge to longer term waiver reimbursement reform. The longer term reform may be implemented once system-wide consensus on a model can be reached. An Ohio (and Arkansas) contingent visited DDA in Vancouver to study their payment and service delivery model. The learnings will be shared with the long term reform work group for possible integration into the work group’s recommendations.

OPRA sent DODD suggestions on a quality incentive(s) for workforce initiatives. A call with OPRA members is scheduled for August 20th, to follow the path suggested by OPRA. It is anticipated that concrete incentive(s) will be designed, vetted by stakeholders and proposed to DODD by the end of September/early October 2018.

The draft quality incentives for workforce initiatives were developed by a 24 member workgroup of OPRA members. Feedback was solicited from all OPRA members and the 26 member DODD long term waiver reimbursement reform subcommittee. The OPRA Board will discuss adoption, revision or rejection of this draft on September 26, 2018.

**2. DSP Pilot - Community Connections, Career Partnerships-Ohio**

C3P(O) has had increased national attention. We presented in New York, New Mexico (national conference), Illinois and New Jersey and authored an article for the University of Minnesota’s IMPACT newsletter.

Graduation ceremonies were held at each of the high schools.  Twenty-four students received their CIP and thirteen students receive the CAP.  One student received a Basic Certificate and one student received a Certificate of Participation.  To date, sixty-four students have received the CIP; twenty-three have receive the CAP; and there has been one Basic Certificate and one Certificate of Participation.

CEVEC will not be participating in C3P(O) for the 2018-19 school year.  Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technical Centers are very excited about being a part of C3P(O).  Foxfire High School in Muskingum County has applied for a grant to pay for the Program.

C3P(O) will be presented with the Moving Mountains Award on July 31 in Baltimore.

The Impact article was published by the University of Minnesota.

On June 4, 2018, C3P(O) project participants met with high-level staff from CMS to talk about C3P(O). CMS was impressed with the program and encouraged the development of a C3P(O) manual for distribution to other states. Janice will work on the development of a promotional manual, without program mechanics that are proprietary.

ViaQuest will be the "host" site for Franklin Heights High School. Residential Concepts may be the "host" site for Clermont Northeastern High School.

Janice has fielded inquiries from providers and schools about C3P(O)

Over the past month, multiple inquiries have been made about the program:  One from New Jersey; two from Maryland; along with in-state inquiries from Springfield High School in New Holland, Belmont County Board of DD, a member of the DD Council, Stark County Board of DD, Echoing Hills in Coshocton County, and Tri-County Career Center in Nelsonville.

On July 25, a meeting was held at the Delaware County Board of DD where representatives from C3P(O), Delaware City Schools, Westerville City Schools and Buckeye Valley High School were present.  At that meeting, the Superintendent from Delaware City said they were onboard and that they may team up with Buckeye Valley.   A follow-up meeting was held with Westerville City Schools and they seem like they are very interested in starting a program - perhaps even this school year (they may start up October 1).

A "meet and greet" is scheduled at Medina High School for August 20.

There is a "meet the team" scheduled at Vanguard-Sentinel CTC for August 22.  The County Board will be the "host" and the provider sites will be Wynn-Reeth, Sandco, and Capabilities.  That is also the first day of school for Franklin Heights High School.

C3P(O) received the Moving Mountains Award on July 31st.

On August 20, held a "meet and greet" for the students at Medina High School.  There are 9 CIP candidates and 8 CAP candidates.

On August 22, had a "meet and greet" for the students at Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers.  There are 9 CIP candidates.  This was also the first day of school for Franklin Heights High School.  There we have 10 CIP candidates and 7 CAP candidates.

Have one returning senior from Harding High School in Marion.

Met with Delaware City Schools and Buckeye Valley Local Schools on August 29.  Providers met with prospective students from these two schools on September 10.

On September 10, met with the Board of Westerville City School District where they approved funding for the C3P(O) program for this school year.  Here is the video of the C3P(O) presentation at the Westerville School Board meeting, beginning at 39:30 with the actual vote at 55:30 (<https://youtu.be/kLt1jLFSOeo>). Had a meeting on September 14 to plan implementation.

Received inquires regarding C3P(O) from the following schools:  Springfield High School in Holland, OH; Live Oaks Career Center in Milford, OH;  and Fairmont High School in Kettering, OH.  Information was also passed along to Wilmington Schools.

Had a call with the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) in New York.  They are interested in how C3P(O) got ODE to include the credentials on its "List of Industry-Related Credentials".

Now have hyperlinks on the Ohio Department of Education "List of Industry-Related Credentials" to OPRA's C3P(O) webpage.

Renee Petrangelo (former CEO of ANCOR) may visit the C3P(O) program at Medina during the Advisory Committee meeting on October 15.

On December 17, 2018,  Jeff Davis, Rosemary Krieger, Director at Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers, Bethany Toledo, Kevin Metz and Janice met with Ohio Department of Education Superintendent Paulo DeMaria and his staff to discuss what process we need to pursue to get the point values of the Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) and Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP) re-evaluated.  They were not sure, but suggested that we reapply to have the credentials placed on the "Industry-Recognized Credentials" list to "keep it in the pipeline" while they examine their process.  Bethany submitted the reapplication on December 31, 2018 for just the CIP.  Our rationale was that we wanted to have the CIP be a stand alone credential (not dependent on the CAP) and therefore hoping that ODE would give it a value of 12 points.  This would help greatly with marketing the program to schools and open up a chance that more schools would create "Senior Only" programs, which also increases funding from ODE to schools.  On a side note, Rosemary Krieger also submitted applications to have the CIP and CAP placed on the Ohio Department of Higher Education's "List of Industry-Recognized Credentials" so that there can be a continuum from high school to higher education.  I did respond to a couple of questions that ODHE had regarding the credentials.

On January 7, 2019, Nancy Banks, Superintendent, and Mitch Snyder with the Montgomery County Board of DD and Janice met with Daybreak, Inc. in Dayton regarding the C3P(O) program.

On January 10, 2019, Rosemary Krieger, Director at Vanguard-Sentinel CTC, Dave Reichart with Sandusky County Board of DD, and Janice did a presentation of the C3P(O) program at the NW Ohio Transformation of Services Community of Practice meeting in Maumee.  There were about 60 people in attendance. JaniceI sent out additional information to those who requested it.

The 2019-2021 C3P(O) Strategic Plan has been adopted and is attached.

Three different marketing emails have been designed and Janice will begin to send them out next week:  One will be personalized and sent to all schools who have expressed an interest in C3P(O) during the past three years; one will be personalized and sent to County Board Superintendents who are not already involved in the program; and one will be sent out on the OPRA Members listserve.  Janice will also see if Christine will put it in the Round Up.

The C3P(O) graduation dates are as follows:  Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers - May 13 at 1 pm; Medina High School - May 16 at 6 pm; and Franklin Heights High School - May 21 at 2 pm.

I am currently working on helping to write a story about C3P(O) that is to be published in a book by the University of Minnesota.

Anyone interested in C3P(O) is encouraged to contact Janice at jhall@opra.org.

**3. Provider Information and Selection Tool Pilot**

This pilot will allow families and individuals to write reviews of providers, and will encourage a new “customer service-oriented” culture among DSP’s. (see C.7. for additional information) ProviderGuide Plus will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting. This was discussed at recent committee meetings. People don’t know much about it and think that some additional information/training from DODD would be very helpful.

**4. Direct Care Workforce Workgroup**

On May 8, there was a joint meeting of the HR and Workforce committees. A joint workgroup is being established to identify and educate the membership on best practices in recruitment/retention and organizational culture change.

We were recently informed by DODD that the BWC grant funding to replicate the ERN’s was in jeopardy. DODD will fund a much smaller project. Anita, Stephen, Lori Stanfa, Nancy Neely and Janice are looking for grants to fund additional projects. We will focus on local (as opposed to state or federal) grant opportunities, as these projects positively impact the communities in which they are implemented. The BWC money appears to be back in play. In the meantime, DODD is releasing an RFP (to be managed by Stephen MacDonald of the Lucas County Children and Family First Council) for about 100,000 in ERN start up projects. DODD is looking to give small grants to county boards who are willing to bear the burden of ERN startups. The bulk of the money is slated for Bridges out of Poverty Training. Anita is on the RFP review committee which is scheduled to me meet on October 4th.

A joint meeting of the HR and Workforce Committees was held on June 19. The committees was to develop a work plan, taking into consideration potential county board involvement, best practices and the best ways to share them, possible legislative initiatives, marketing and internal culture. The goal was to get 5 to 7 committee members to lead this work group. At this point in time, we think it would be best to merge the HR and Workforce Committees. It would be a more efficient use of everyone’s time. This will be discussed in more detail at the August 22, 2018 board meeting.

Anita attended the 8/30 WestCon Board meeting with Stephen and Nancy. It was their ERN kick-off event. The meeting was well attended and there seems to be a lot of interest. Providers will contact Lynn if they are interested in participating in the ERN. Stephen is managing the process. Anita is providing technical support to providers. Nancy is providing technical support to boards.

In January, Anita spoke with the DODD staff working on Back to Basics Training. They want to incorporate information on Bridges out of Poverty Training into the presentations. Anita shared information on BOP and put DODD in contact with Stephen MacDonald.

***B. Efficiencies and Simplification Focus Area***

**1. Provider Certification Process**

OPRA continues to have conversations with DODD on provider and system stakeholder frustrations with the provider certification process. The last meeting was with DODD was at the OACBDD Fall Conference the first week of May. OPRA has an initial draft of legislation to address the lapse of certification issue. DODD is concerned that any substantive attempt to band-aide PCW risks breaking the whole system. A subsequent meeting to discuss the wide difference of opinion in next steps is being scheduled.

The DODD led Provider Compliance Workgroup as established in the last state budget bill has indicated a willingness to open up the provider certification rule and discuss DSP eligibility requirements and provider eligibility standards. This allows system stakeholders to comprehensively review the entire rule for revision. First discussions will take place at our combined OPRA Policy and Program Director’s meeting on May 21st.

We have begun discussions on how best to review the entire provider certification rule for possible revisions. We have broken it out by subject matter and have volunteers for an initial workgroup discussion. Our intent is to come up with workgroup recommendations and present to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

Concurrently , OACBDD has identified individuals that they would assign to a statewide DODD rule workgroup in anticipation of DODD beginning the process. Ideally before the Department begins their process OPRA would have recommendations complete.

***C. Quality, Accountable and Sustainable System Reform Focus Area***

**1. ICF/IID**

In January of 2018, and agreement was reached by the stakeholders on the structure of a new reimbursement system. Legislative language is being drafted and DODD hopes to have the new system effective July 1. DODD will be infusing an additional $25,000,000 into ICF reimbursement, which will provide some level stability for the next few years. We have stated our objection to the distribution of dollars, as public entities are the main benefactors of the new system. This is an issue we will address with the next administration.

System Components:

IAF will be replaced with the ODDP.

Change capital reimbursement to a FRV (Fair Rental Value) system as is currently used in nursing homes.

13 quality measures developed across 4 domains – Quality of Life (community and participation) and Quality of Care (health/wellness/safety and staffing). Meeting quality measures will result in an add-on to funding. DODD initiated a Quality work group, which is establishing criteria for each of the measures and working on implementation issues. Anita and Gina Kerman (Rose-Mary Center) are participating in the Quality work group. The group is currently working on items providers would need to submit to “prove” they have met the criteria in order to receive the add-on. There have been no decisions made. DODD has a list of items they would find acceptable. The providers feel that the list is too cumbersome and are advocating for simplicity.

Progress was made at the 7/20 workgroup meeting. The number of items providers would need to download to prove they met the criteria was drastically reduced. Still working out the finer details. DODD hopes to have this finalized at the August meeting so that they can begin drafting the rule. Kick off January 1 with testing and pilot areas. Payment begins July of 2020.

The process was fine tuned in August and the workgroup continues to refine via email exchanges. A document is being prepared for wider dissemination to provider agencies which will have instructions for all criteria. The IT portal has not yet been developed, but is conceptually being discussed with DODD IT staff. The workgroup is also providing input on this. OPRA offered to find provider agencies to test the system prior to full distribution. We expect to see a draft rule in the next couple of months.

ICF Employment Pilot: Received funding and is underway. No further updates at this time. The OPRA Employment Committee has expressed an interest in developing an ICF employment project.

OPRA is having a training on the new components of the reimbursement system (ODDP and FRV) on September 20th. This is free for members.

We have had two ICF work group meetings on the ICF Quality Incentive Initiative. The group is sharing information and discussing how best to meet the criteria of each of the incentives. Folks came prepared on January 18th! We have numerous policies, procedures, forms and “tips” to share. The plan is to compile all the information into a booklet for publication. We plan on sharing it with members for free or at a low cost (to cover printing/postage). Also plan on selling it to non-members for a high fee TBD. Work group members will present on this work at the spring conference.

**2. CMS Regulations on Definition of Community, Conflict-Free Case Management, Person-Centered Planning and Heightened Scrutiny – State’s proposed transition plan**

OPRA continues to advocate for a sustainable plan to implement the new CMS HCBS regulations. Ohio’s transition plan received Initial Approval from CMS and is likely to receive final approval too.

DODD has established a workgroup to develop standards and guidelines for the heightened scrutiny process. There is not a common understanding as to the expectations of “integration”.

Heightened scrutiny memo was released by DODD prior to stakeholder input/communication. There has been an inconsistent process and outcomes for these reviews by DODD and the Ohio Department of Medicaid. OPRA is working with OACB, DODD and ODM to resolve these concerns. A meeting with DODD to discuss these issues is scheduled for 12/14. The outcome was generally positive and a follow up meeting is scheduled for 2/21. Lisa is providing strategies and tips to meeting the HCBS Setting Rule at the OPRA Day Services Meeting on Monday 1/23, as well as working with Members one on one when requested. Stakeholder meetings are held at DODD on a regular basis. The conversations have been constructive and DODD has modified their process based on these discussions.

Have heard recently that DODD may begin issuing citations, which has not been discussed with the stakeholder group. Will work with OACB to clarify processes and advocate for training and TA as has been discussed in the workgroup.

Lisa, along with Scott Marks from OACB, continue to train providers and County Boards on strategies and tips to meet the HCBS Settings Rule. During June, the following regional trainings on the HCBS Setting Rule were/will be completed: **June 14 -**Northeast Region (Kent), **June 15 -**Northwest Region (Bowling Green), **June 19 -**Southwest Region (Dayton), **June 29 -**Southeast Region (Athens).

CMS is planning on releasing additional sub regulatory guidance on heightened scrutiny soon.

In order to be in compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule, a growing number of OPRA Members are providing vocational habilitation services on the property of the companies they contract with for work. On December 18, 2018, Disability Right Ohio (DRO) filed a discrimination case against Seneca Re-Ad and Roppe Corporation. It appears Seneca Re-Ad and Roppe Corporation were co-locating employees. In support of Members, on February 22, 2019, Nelson Cary, partner at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, will give updates to OPRA members on the current status of the case and give tips to minimize liability when co-locating vocational habilitation participants.

**3. Provider Information and Selection Tool Pilot**

Cuyahoga and Coshocton Counties, along with 5 OPRA members in those counties, designed and implemented a provider information and selection tool pilot. The pilot contains a website that is a “Trip Advisor”-type tool for people to obtain useful information on providers. DODD is aware and supportive of our efforts.

We have continued the pilot in Cuyahoga, Knox and Coshocton counties. We are working out issues to make the site more user-friendly and accessible.

We have started preliminary conversations about OACB and OPRA continuing to fund ProviderGuide Plus after May 31, 2018 (end of current 3-year agreement).

The planning committee met in Medina on September 22nd. The discussion included the statewide rollout, after it is assured that all providers are listed on the website. DODD is checking to see if they will consent to using billing data to sort search results for users. This would address the issue of providers showing up early in the search results that do not provide services in that county (and do not plan on doing so). County boards will not be reviewed as providers, as they are divesting themselves from direct service provision. The group discussed a modification to how potential MUI’s are handled.

The statewide rollout meeting with IDD leadership was held on February 5th. The planning committee is considering feedback from the IDD leadership group and will alter the rollout plan accordingly. DODD and the Provider Search team continue to work on ensuring proper display of ICF data in the tool.

(ProviderGuide Plus will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting.)

ProviderGuide Plus was rolled out statewide on May 14th. Janice Hall is leading an OPRA work group with the charge: to help providers leverage ProviderGuidePlus by developing recommendations and resources for OPRA members to:

* Position their agency in the best light
* Best communicate the value of their agency
* Respond appropriately and legally to negative reviews
* Improve their communication and relationships with individuals/families and the impact of their services on people's lives.

The draft guide, "Shining a Spotlight on Your Agency Through Online Reviews" has been distributed to the members of the Work Group.  The workgroup will be meeting via conference call on September 25 to discuss it and any recommendations members have to improve the website.

Utilization is lower than the planning committee intended. There has been some pushback/concern from families about needing to register to post a comment as well as the information not truly reflecting services available in a given county. The planning committee has been working with the developer Tyler to find a solution. OACB, OPRA and other stakeholders are hoping to create a widespread marketing campaign to educate the community on the tool.

**4. Employment First/Day Services**

On February 7th, Lisa attended a meeting at OOD that was facilitated by the Common Sense Initiative. Based on the tone of the meeting, there is a chance that the new OOD fee structure will not go into effect on the newest proposed date of May 1st.

The new DODD rules and rates for the day array went into effect on April 1, 2017. Based on feedback from OPRA members, OPRA teamed up with OACB and conducted five regional trainings on the new rules. These trainings brought providers and county boards together in the same room to problem solve implementation of the new rules. Further training will be conducted OPRA and OACB during June focusing on the day array. Further training will be conducted OPRA and OACB during June focusing on the day array.

The new OOD fee schedule will go into effect on October 1st, 2017. OPRA is seeing increased membership interest from OOD providers who are not DODD providers. Several new non-DODD providers have signed up as OPRA members in the last 30 days.

Lisa, along with Scott Marks from OACB, continue to train providers and County Boards on strategies and tips to meet the HCBS Settings Rule during day programming. During June, the following regional trainings on the HCBS Setting Rule were/will be completed: **June 14 -**Northeast Region (Kent), **June 15 -**Northwest Region (Bowling Green), **June 19 -**Southwest Region (Dayton), **June 29 -**Southeast Region (Athens).

OOD recently rolled out some of the provider forms that will be put into effect on October 1st, 2017. These forms can be found under the provider tab on the OOD website. Additionally, OOD is offering training on the new fee schedule and forms beginning August 23rd.

Stacy Collins will be speaking to the OPRA Employment First and OPRA Day Services workgroups on August 28th about what the last 5 years of data indicates concerning employment and day services in Ohio.

On 9/25/17, OPRA will hold an Employment First Meeting from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. OPRA members Kristina Lambert from Benchmark Human Services and Justin Blumhorst from Capabilities will present on the templates they have created for their organizations to meet the documentation requirements of the components of Career Planning.

Later that day, OPRA will hold a Day Services Meeting from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. OPRA member Kristina Lambert from Benchmark Human Services will present on the strategies Benchmark Human Services uses to make community integration enjoyable to those with significant sensory/behavioral disorders.

On October 1, 2017, OOD implemented a new performance-based Supported Employment program and increased the usage of performance-based Job Development. Payments are based on a three tier system:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job Development  | Supported Employment  |
| * Tier I - $1,167.50
* Tier II - $1,110.25
* Tier III - $ 1,580.50
* Tier III Rapid - $1,980.50
* Tier III SGA- $1,980.50
* Tier III Rapid & SGA $2,380.50
* Subsequent Placement $339.50
 | * Tier I - $1,459.25
* Tier II - $1387.75
* Tier III - $1,975.50
* Tier III Rapid - $2,375.50
* Tier III SGA- $2,375.50
* Tier III Rapid & SGA $2,775.50
* Subsequent Placement $424.25
 |

The OPRA team continues to develop relationships with OOD to enhance the relationship/communication between OOD and providers, encourage OOD to be transparent with employment data, and increase the influence of OPRA members.

On 1/29/18, OPRA will hold an Employment First Meeting from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Lisa Mathis will present on the similarities and differences among performance-based supported employment and job development. Tips on successfully implementing the services will also be presented. CESP continuing education hours will be offered to participants.

Later that day, OPRA will hold a Day Services Meeting from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. OPRA member Laryssa Ingebo and her team from Toward Independence will present on their experiences/successes in working with One Bistro as a community partner.

A subcommittee of the OPRA Employment First work group is being formed to create a free curriculum for OPRA members to use to “fast track” staff for the CESP examine. Once a draft curriculum is developed, it will be sent to APSE for approval.

A subcommittee of the OPRA NMT group has been working on a transportation proposal. The members of the subcommittee include Gary Brown, Gary Loach, Scott DeLong, Brenda Smith, and Matt White. Once drafted, this proposal will be taken to the OPRA NMT group for input, and then to the state NMT group for consideration.

On February 9th, OPRA, with input from OPRA members, submitted public comments to OOD concerning OOD’s modification to the Combined State Plan. The submitted comments focused OOD’s relationship with providers as partners, increasing training for VR staff concerning the identification of individuals with the most significant disabilities, and transparency of employment data.

On Monday, February 26th, an OPRA Employment Frist meeting will be held with guest speaker Julie Hance from OOD, discussion a curriculum for individuals planning to sit for the CESP exam, and introduction to Basecamp.

On April 24th, Stacy Collins from DODD stated that DODD will be sending out guidance on when it is not appropriate for providers to pay the individuals they support. This guidance will be based on federal law and will target Guarantee Pay ( for example, a provider who guarantees at least 2 hours of pay a day to individuals, even if they don’t have any work that day), Conditional Pay (for example, a provider who pays individuals a stipend if the individuals choose that provider for both ADS and NMT services), and Gift/ Incentives (gifts given by providers to individuals served on Medicaid cannot have a retail value more than $15 per item or $75 aggregate per person on an annual basis). An exact date for when this guidance will be disseminated was not given. DODD is also looking to develop guidance around payments that may be perceived as passed-through to users of supported employment services. Lisa Mathis and Scott Marks (OACB) have been asked to assist DODD in developing this guidance. We do not the Medicaid pass-through guidance to impact OPRA members much, if at all.

On May 15, a meeting was held for all OPRA members to discuss the transportation proposal that DODD is reviewing. This proposal has been shared in several OPRA committee meetings and will be shared again at the next OPRA policy meeting (5/21). This proposal changes the NMT per trip rates by financially incentivizing the transport of individuals in groups of 4 or less, allows for flexibility in vehicle type, and includes an add on for individuals who need a modified vehicle. The proposal also includes a per mile rate for day and HPC providers. The proposed per mile rate is higher than the current HPC per mile rate, can be used by day providers to take individual into the community during day programming (currently an unfunded mandate), and has a higher rate for individuals who need a modified van, as well as for others riding in the van with that e individual (See proposed rates below). This proposal, if accepted by DODD, will bring approximately 17 million new dollars to providers. OACB reports that the majority of county boards are committed to the proposal. **It is important that all OPRA members that provide Day Services and/or HPC use the proposed number to calculate how their organizations would be impacted.** So far, we have identified one member that will be significantly and negatively impacted by the proposal. This proposal, if accepted by DODD, would go into effect no sooner than March 1, 2019. The OPRA membership may need to vote on this issue in the future.

**Proposed Per Trip Rates:**

* Modified Vehicle Add On for those that require a modified/lift van (as determined by ISP team, or if disagreement among team, by an Occupational Therapist
* Used to “to and from” a day service, community employment, and/or volunteer opportunity
* Flexibility in vehicle type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COBD** | **1-4 Passengers** | **5 + Passengers** |
| 1 | $21.07 | $16.03 |
| 2 | $21.13 | $16.06 |
| 3 | $21.18 | $16.08 |
| 4 | $21.24 | $16.11 |
| 5 | $21.30 | $16.14 |
| 6 | $21.36 | $16.17 |
| 7 | $21.42 | $16.22 |
| 8 | $21.48 | $16.22 |
|  |  |  |
| **Modified Vehicle Add-on** | **$10.19 / Person** | **$10.19/Person** |

**Proposed Per Mile Rates:**

* The Modified vehicle rate of $.94/mile can be used on any trip when at least 1 passenger on the trip requires a modified/lift vehicle (as determined by ISP team, or if team disagrees, by an occupational therapist)
* This rate applies to both NMT Per-Mile AND HPC transportation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1 Passenger** | **2-3 Passengers** | **4+ Passengers** |
| **Standard Mileage** | $.54 | $.27 | $.20 |
| **Modified Vehicle Mileage** | $.94 | $.47 | $.35 |

On June 11th, DODD released guidance for providers concerning payments to individuals served in adult day and employment services. This guidance is primarily based on a 2011 CMS technical guide and a 2016 policy statement from the Office of Inspector General. On 6/23/18, OPRA is hosting a GoToMeeting for members to answer questions and present strategies to meet the guidance.

DODD’s financial analysis of the most recent NMT/transportation proposal is expected to be completed by the end of July. More information on this proposal will be given to the board at the 6/26/18 meeting.

An influx of new OPRA members with a focus on day and employment services is expected in the second half of 2018. This creates an opportunity to review the current OPRA day array committee and workgroup structure to ensure OPRA is efficiently and effectively meeting the needs of members. Further discussion of this opportunity will take place during OPRA Employment and Day Services meetings this summer.

Based on member input, the OPRA Day and Employment Services Committee meetings have been rescheduled to the first Thursday of every month. The meetings will begin with a day services leadership meeting, then move into a general day services meeting, and end with an employment services meeting.

DODD is moving forward with the NMT proposal. The rules for the proposal are expected to be drafted during the next month. If the proposal makes it through the rule making process, the expected implementation date is October 1, 2019. This delayed implementation will allow providers time to strategically change their fleets and routes in preparation for the new rules. DODD is also considering providing technical assistance for some providers.

Last month, in response to member requests, OPRA contacted DODD about the need for communication to families about the numerous changes to day services. DODD has responded by creating a formal communication plan for families that includes a one page, easy to understand overview of the changes and regional in-person training for families.

On Monday, 8/6/18, DODD included its response to CFR 440.18 in its Memo Monday communication. This item has been added to the August OPRA Board meeting agenda.

DODD is continuing to write rules for the NMT proposal. They expect to have the draft rules ready for review by the end of this month. OPRA staff will work closely with members to ensure the rules are suitable.

On August 31st, DODD held the first of 12 monthly meetings for a group of stakeholders to discuss ways in which the state might “ensure systemic compliance with both service and compensation standards.” This group is currently looking at options for the state to come into compliance with CFR 440.180, which prohibits providers from billing for vocational habilitation when individuals make 50% or more of minimum wage. This is expected to impact approximately 50% of individuals currently receiving vocational habilitation in Ohio. OPRA members/staff who sit on this workgroup include Melissa Morelli (Active Day, Inc.), Mary Thompson Hufford ( Fuse Network), Karen Blumhorst (Capabilities), Tiffany Martin (Goodwill Columbus), and Lisa Mathis. Materials and minutes from the workgroup meeting can be found on the OPRA Voc Hab/Min Wage Basecamp.

The proposed NMT rules and rates continue to be on hold pending $5 million in the next budget. (Director Martin seemed to send mixed messages as to whether the $5M would be paid for by DODD or CBs). If the $5 million is approved, it is expected the proposal would go into effect in January 2020.

On December 13th, based on feedback from the Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services workgroup, DODD released a proposed framework for the state to come into compliance with the WIOA and CMS (including the 50% regulation and the HCBS Settings rule). FAQs concerning the proposed framework and possible actions for OPRA members are attached.

In response to Member feedback, a new OPRA workgroup has been formed focusing on providing facility-free services. More than 50 members have signed up. This workgroup was created as a platform for members to share experiences and problem-solve. A survey will go out to workgroup members soon to identify how and when they would like to meet as well as what topics they would like on the agenda.

OPRA has formed a stakeholder workgroup in Franklin County that includes providers, CB employees, families, DODD, and special ed teachers. The workgroup will focus on meeting the needs of transition age youth with complex needs. The first workgroup meeting is on January 25th. If this workgroup is successful, it may be replicable across other counties in Ohio.

On January 28th, OPRA is hosting a “Train the Trainer – Tools for Implementing Evidence Based Practices” for Members. This training will teach trainers how to best utilize curriculum created by OCALI that is based on research. If the session is successful, additional sessions may be added.

 **5.** **Outcome-Based Payment Systems**

On April 1st, DODD plans to implement the following outcome-based services;

1. Assistive Technology
2. Benefits Educations and Analysis
3. Career Discovery
4. Employment/Self-Employment Planning
5. Situation Observations and Assessment

On May 1st, OOD plans to implement the following new outcome-based services: Supported Employment. (See A.4 for additional information.)

OPRA Members have recommended to OOD that they rebalance the risk inherent to performance-based payments. Director Miller will be announcing changes to the fee schedule on 1/22/19 and we are hopeful that his proposal will include such a rebalancing of risk.

**6. MUI Process**

In concert with OPRA’s initiatives on simplification and efficiencies, membership has expressed a strong desire to address the MUI/UI rule and process. The timing for this review is consistent with the 5-year rule review mandate. After an initial meeting with DODD’s Scott Phillips and County Board representative Eric Metzger to begin discussing parameters, OPRA had its first member meeting on February 13th with the OPRA Rules Focus Group to discuss the rule and process in depth. Results of those discussions were presented to DODD on Tuesday, February 14th. A structure for continued statewide discussions as well as internal OPRA discussions (with a developed strategy for moving forward) are being developed.

DODD released the revised version of the MUI rule based on discussions from the stakeholder workgroup convened in early 2017. The rule is now out for public comment. A number of significant changes have been made in the rule in response to OPRA member comment.

**7. OPRA Training and Evaluations**

In January of 2017, OPRA began aggressively developing and scheduling training sessions to bring added value to the membership. OPRA committees have been surveyed for topics of interest/need to them and other sessions have been selected based on OPRA staff input. Some topics will be repeated, based on session evaluations and overall demand. The 2018 training schedule is well underway. We will be repeating popular sessions from last year and adding a CEO track. Watch your email for our 2018 offerings. The sessions offered to date have received excellent reviews. We are open to ideas for future sessions.

We have started scheduling the 2019 series. Supervisor Boot Camp is back with an advanced version. Sara Sherman will provide a series of topics throughout the year, including meal planning and compliance. The Impact Group has additional topics that we will evaluate and schedule.

**8. OOD Council**

Mark Davis attended the first OOD Council meeting on August 15th. It was a light agenda, with election of chair and vice-chair, meeting scheduling for the year, and briefings by OOD leadership on their services.

Mark Davis and Lisa Mathis attended an OOD Council meeting on November 14, 2018 and Jeff Davis and Lisa Mathis attended the January 19, 2019 meeting. Members of the OOD Council are appointed by the governor – now that both Mark and Jeff have left OPRA, OPRA will not have a seat at the table until/unless the governor appoints a new OPRA representative. The focus of the past few OOD Council meetings have been on building an organizational foundation for this new committee. Of some interest may be the OOD Council’s request of a listing of all subminimum wage certificate holders in Ohio.

**9. OOD Rates**

OPRA has been invited to a conversation in October, about the OOD fee schedule.

Director Miller of OOD is making an announcement concerning proposed changes to the fee schedule on 1/22/19. We are hopeful he will announce Increases in provider reimbursement as well as changes decreasing provider risk when utilizing performance-based payments. Proposed changes would go through the rule making process and would likely go into effect later in 2019.