***OPRA Board Consent Agenda***

***July 24, 2019***

***NOTE: Some of the information is carried over from the update given at the June 2019 Board meeting. Updates are in red font and underlined.***

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

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

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.

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

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. A total of thirty students received credentials and four students received Basic Certificates from OADSP; these four students are continuing to submit revisions to their portfolios in order to earn the credentials.

Janice completed the email marketing campaign - in addition to the email that went to all OPRA members via the listserve, she sent personalized emails to all 88 County Board of DD Superintendents and to all of the schools who have expressed an interest in C3P(O) over the past three years (40+).  She received a tremendous response - over 30 requests for more information.  She followed up on all requests and have numerous telephone conferences and in-person visits scheduled over the next several weeks.

Janice is also working on coordinating the sessions at the Spring Conference for the C3P(O) students on April 4.  The students have been invited and the schools are in the process of making arrangements.  Scott Osterfeld will be the presenter.

On 2/13/19 we received the great news that the Ohio Department of Higher Education has approved the Certificate of Initial Proficiency and the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency to be added to their "Industry-Recognized Credentials List".  While this doesn't necessarily concern C3P(O), it is good news for OADSP and for the field in general and will offer a continuum of educational opportunities. There are currently a couple of House Bills making their way through the legislature that deal with credentials that Janice is tracking – HB 2 and Sub. HB 4. Sub. HB 4 recently passed in the House 89-0.

Bethany Toledo reached out to the Ohio Department of Education regarding the status of their re-evaluating the point value of the Certificate of Initial Proficiency.  Meanwhile, I emailed Director Davis (DODD) to see if he has had any follow-up conversations with Superintendent DeMaria regarding the same.

As a result of the email marketing campaign, we are continuing to receive a lot of interest, especially from County Boards of DD:

On 2/19, I met with Guernsey County Board of DD and Mid-East Career and Technical Center

On 2/24, I met with Logan County Board of DD and Hi-Point Career Center

On 2/28, I met with Geauga County Board of DD and local providers

I have the following meetings scheduled:

3/14 - Lake County Board of DD, local Educational Service Center and a local Career Tech Center

3/15 - Richland County Board of DD. On June 5, 2019, representatives from the Richland County Board of DD and Janice met with Madison Comprehensive High School in Mansfield.

3/20 - Erie County Board of DD

We have also met with Oakmont Education twice.  Oakmont has 14 Career Centers in the state and would like to implement C3P(O) in all 14 schools for the 2019-20 school year.  The necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Education.

The proposal has been sent to Oakmont Education and we have not yet heard back from them.

Janice will be meeting with Oakmont Education and Montgomery County Board of DD on June 25. Oakmont would like to start in Montgomery County and then replicate the program at all of their other schools.

We are working with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to plan an event for In-Demand Jobs Week (May 6-10).  The event will feature the C3P(O) program at South-Western City School District and will be held at ViaQuest in Grove City.  Governor DeWine and Director Davis have been invited to attend and current, former and future C3P(O) students will be present.  Other local and state dignitaries will also be invited.

We will have 25-30 of the C3P(O) students at the OPRA Spring Conference.

We have been working with the Ohio Department of Education in an attempt to get the point value of the credentials increased.  ODE asked us to submit 2-4 names of industry professionals to sit on the review board.  The names have been submitted.

Janice has had recent conversations with providers in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island about C3P(O).

On May 9, 2019, DODD hosted an event for In-Demand Jobs Week at ViaQuest in Grove City that showcased the C3P(O) program.  Speakers were Amy Schakat, Coordinator of Technical Education for the South-Western City School District; Kelsey Goodman, a 2017 graduate Franklin Heights High School and one of the first C3P(O) students to graduate with both credentials; Dr. Jerry Farley, VP of Career Technical Education, Oakmont Education; Rich Johnson, Founder and CEO of ViaQuest; Jeff Davis, Director, DODD; and Jesse, an individual who receives services from ViaQuest.  Director Davis presented OPRA with a proclamation from Governor DeWine for the C3P(O) program.

Schools have been recruiting students for the C3P(O) program for the 2019-20 school year. Medina County Board of DD will be providing the training room for the C3P(O) program at Medina High School for the 2019-20 School Year. They will also conduct and pay for the BCII background checks for the students.

We have been invited to set up a booth at the Ohio School Board Conference in November, 2019 free of charge.  We would need funding to purchase brochures and conference "giveaways".  Dr. Kristine Quallich, Assistant Superintendent, Medina High School, has submitted a proposal for the program partners to do a presentation on C3P(O) at this conference.  We have not yet received confirmation that the proposal has been accepted. It has been confirmed that we will be presenting on Monday, November 11, 2019 at the Ohio School Board Conference.

Janice will be meeting with representatives of the Erie County Board of DD and Sandusky Career Center on May 15, 2019. They are interested in beginning an Adult Education program in possibly January, 2020 and then starting a C3P(O) program during the 2020-21 School Year.

At the invitation of Dan Ottke, Superintendent of Clermont County Board of DD, Janice will be speaking with all of the school superintendents in Clermont County on June 20, 2019. There are nine school districts in Clermont County.

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

Pete met with Janice during his 1:1 staff meetings and he also met with Bethany Toledo, Executive Director, OADSP to discuss the past, present and future of the C3P(O) project. Pete is gathering information about the program in an effort to determine the effectiveness, the current partners and the costs associated with the program. He will also be reaching out to the members who have been involved as he gathers information.

**2. 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.

The WestCon ERN is not going well. They are experiencing a couple of problems. The counties are rural and spread out, which is making this difficult to manage. In addition, providers are not willing to spend the money to buy shares of the Success Coach’s time, resulting in a small pool of participating providers.

Cuyahoga providers have expressed an interest in developing an ERN. Anita provided contact information for Stephen Mac Donald and James Vander Hulst.

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

**1. Provider Certification Process**

(OPRA staff recommend the following information be removed and archived as indicated below)

~~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 21~~~~st~~~~.~~

~~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.~~

DODD has opened up the Provider Certification rule. We are using the recommendations of the work group as a starting point for discussion. Anita, Jo Spargo and Dave Rastoka are the OPRA reps on DODD’s work group. First meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th. All meetings have been scheduled for Board meeting days. We could not get DODD to change the day of the month.

DODD has assembled a very large group to review the rule. There were roughly 40 people in attendance for the first meeting. All provider associations are represented as were the county boards, other advocacy groups, parents and numerous DODD staff. This was an organizational meeting, no decisions were made. We were given homework to complete. Next meeting is April 24th.

Second meeting held in April. Due to the number of participants and confusion around what is an agency vs. an independent requirement, the work was broken into 2 subgroups. Dave Lewis is leading the independent group. Anita is leading the agency group. Next meeting is May 29th.

The two groups continue to meet. Progress has been slow. We hope to have the basic qualifications and training requirements wrapped up in August, then have 2 separate rules drafted – one for Independent Providers and one for Agencies. The remaining work will be completed by smaller, targeted workgroups.

Progress was made at the June meeting. We were able to agree on DSP qualifications and training requirements. The group has dropped the GED/HS Diploma requirement and given the green light for people under 18 to provide direct supports with limitations. Other notable changes – on-going training requirements will be agency specific, MUI training greatly reduced to just what is important for DSP’s to know and the Individual Rights training will be replaced with training on the DSP Code of Ethics. The group will be discussing agency and CEO requirements at the next meeting.

***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.

DODD met separately with ICF stakeholder groups, then convened a meeting to discuss the quality initiative. Given the concerns over IT capacity, loss of revenue that needs to be earned back and the amount of administrative time involved in proving the indicators are being met, DODD decided to halt the implementation of this initiative. They will not file the rule. However, the language authorizing this remains in statute. This will need to be addressed during the upcoming budget process.

OPRA and OHCA attempted to remove the Quality language with no substitute amendment. Some members of the legislature pushed back, wanting to see something addressing quality in the ICF program. We did submit language that was included in the House, reducing the amount of indicators to 5 and giving us until the end of the year to decide what they shall entail. This will impact 1% of the direct rate. The goal is to make them easy to report and truly indicative of quality. This language has been left out of the budget bill several times. It was again re-introduced.

In addition, an amendment was adopted that will change the structure of the FPF. Payment will be calculated based on occupied beds, reducing the financial stress of paying for vacant days.

None of the amendments related to ICF’s made it into the House version of the bill. We have been told this was an oversight, but we are not 100% convinced that this is the case. Director Davis asked us to focus on keeping the H/PC funds intact through the Senate process. DODD and Mike Toman will work on the ICF and NMT issues. The amendments have been re-introduced.

Anita is working with Ginnie Whisman on a date for an ICF meeting, so that DODD can provide updates and answer questions.

Ginnie Whisman and Sara Lawson attended a joint ICF/Program Directors meeting on June 13th. We are awaiting the passage of the budget bill to begin work on ICF issues.

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

ProviderGuide Plus continues to receive new reviews.

**3. Employment First/Day Services**

(OPRA staff recommend the following information be removed and archived as indicated below)

~~On August 31~~~~st~~~~, 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 January~~ *~~Payment in Adults Day and Employment Services Workgroup~~* ~~did not meet in January 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2019.~~

~~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 13~~~~th~~~~, 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 25~~~~th~~~~. If this workgroup is successful, it may be replicable across other counties in Ohio.~~

~~On January 28~~~~th~~~~, 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. This event was well attended and had a waiting list of members interested in participating.~~

On February 7, 2019, the OPRA Day Services Leadership Committee and the OPRA Employment Committee met. Notes from the committee meetings are included in the board packet.

On March 7, 2019, the OPRA Day Services Leadership Committee and the OPRA Employment Committee met. Notes from the committee meetings are included in the board packet. Brenda Smith presented a draft position paper for consideration that she and Jeff Johnson created concerning the use of subminimum wage certificates. Committee members were asked to send input on the draft to Brenda. The draft was then presented to the OPRA policy committee on 3/18/19.

On April 5th, during the OPRA conference, an alternative NMT/Transportation proposal was shared with OPRA members in attendance. This alternative proposal includes the same per mile rates as the current proposal (increases for HPC per mile and the allowance of using per mile during community integration during the day array), leaves the rates for per trip rates as currently in rule, and allows for flexibility in vehicle type. This alternative proposal is less controversial than the current proposal and more likely to be supported by legislators. The members in attendance voted unanimously in support OPRA supporting the alternative proposal. The board later voted in support of the proposal.

An impromptu session was also offered at the conference for day providers to discuss the components included in the current day array rates and how to best message increases for day array services to legislators. The session was well attended.

On Friday, April 12, 2019, the first meeting of the OPRA Facility-Free Services workgroup was held. Notes form the meeting are attached.

A Day Array committee meeting is scheduled for May 2nd, 2019, from 9:30 till 12:00. The notes from the May 2nd meeting are attached. An Employment Services committee meeting is scheduled for May 2nd from 1:00 till 2:30. (This meeting was canceled).

DODD’s Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services workgroup is scheduled to meet on Friday 4/19/2019. At the meeting on 4/19/2019, DODD introduced a new proposed framework for prevocational services in Ohio (see attached). Stacy Collins is scheduled to present the framework to the OPRA membership and get feedback from members on 5/24/19 from 9 -10:30 at ARC Industries. There will be a remote participation option for participants who can’t make the drive to Columbus. Members may find it important to communicate to Stacy the increased cost to providers when supporting individuals in the community instead of in a facility, as the proposal, if implemented, will facilitate further movement from facility based services to community based services.

On 5/15/19, the final results of the OPRA 14c committee were sent to the Day Array Committee Chairs (Anne Haning, Rich Patterson) and 14c workgroup (Brenda Smith, Jeff Johnson) and were sent out to Day Array Committee members on 5/16/19. For your convenience, the results of the survey are attached in two files; one zip file includes responses from all OPRA members who participated in the survey, and the other zip file contains responses only from participating members who provide vocational habilitation services. To quickly summarize the somewhat passionate and polarized survey results, OPRA has many members still utilizing a sub minimum wage certificate. These members report the use of a subminimum wage certificate as an important component of their business model and as important to the people they support.

An OPRA Facility-Free Services Workgroup was held on May 10,2019. Notes from the meeting are attached.

Director Davis has arranged to meet with myself, Scott Marks (OACB), and Stacy Collins (DODD) on May 22, 2019 to discuss NMT.

Upcoming Meetings concerning Day and Employment: OPRA Transition Workgroup for Franklin County – June 3, 2019, OPRA Day Array Committee – June 6, 2019, OPRA Employment Services Committee - June 6, 2019, OPRA Facility Free Workgroup- June 21, 2019, DODD Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Workgroup – June 27th.

On May 22, 2019, Lisa Mathis and Scott Marks (OACB) met with Director Davis, Debbie Hoffine, Jeremiah Wagner, and Stacy Collins to discuss the current status of NMT in the budget process and how we might move transportation rules forward quickly if the requirement of a transportation workgroup remains in the budget language.

On June 3. 2019, the OPRA Transition Workgroup for Franklin County met. Notes from the meeting are attached. The workgroup is hoping to develop a list of FAQs and best practices around transition services in Franklin County.

On June 3, 2019, on the recommendation of members of the OPRA Day Services Committee, Jamie Steele appointed Greg Ferrall, CEO of Auglaize Industries, as co-chair of the Day Services Committee. He will share duties with current co-chair, Julie Abiencunas from Koinonia. Julie and Greg plan to meet next week to begin planning for future Day Service Committee meetings.

On June 6, 2019, the OPRA Day Array committee met and notes from the meeting are attached. During the meeting a vote was taken in favor of bringing the results of the 14c survey to the OPRA Policy Committee.

On June 6, 2019, the OPRA Employment Services Committee met and notes from the meeting are attached. The committee is currently working to identify a candidate to recommend to Jamie Steele to appoint as Co-Chair. The co-chair will share responsibilities with the current chair Justin Blumhorst from Capabilities.

Upcoming Meetings concerning Day and Employment:

* OPRA Facility Free Workgroup- June 21, 2019
* DODD Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Workgroup – June 27, 2019
	+ \*\* the new proposed rule language prevocational services will be shared by DODD at this meeting \*\*\*
* OPRA Day Array Subcommittee on Training – July 2, 2019
* OPRA Day Array Committee – August 1, 2019
* OPRA Employment Services Committee – August 1, 2019
* OPRA Transition Workgroup for Franklin County – August 29, 2019

On June 26, 2019, Jamie Steele designated Paul Soprano from UCP in Cleveland as co-chair of the OPRA Employment Services committee.

On June 21, 2019, the OPRA Facility-Free Workgroups met. Meeting Notes are attached.

On June 27th, the DODD Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Workgroup met and discussed proposed changes to Ohio’s Prevocational Services. DODD is proposing the new prevocational program in Ohio be called the Basic Employment Skills Training (B.E.S.T.) service and that the Vocational Habilitation service be phased out. Stacy Collins announced that an implementation workgroup of about 12 stakeholders will be formed to draft BEST service rule, to create a process for BEST service extensions, design a training strategy for all stakeholders around the changes to prevoc services in Ohio, and to create a plan for sheltered workshop transition. Based on input from the OPRA Day Array committee chairs, OPRA has asked DODD to allow Melissa Morelli (Active Day) and Phil Miller (MASCO Inc. & Portage Industries) to be OPRA representatives on the implementation workgroup.

On July 2nd, the OPRA Day Array Subcommittee met. This subcommittee is creating recommended changes to the training requirements included in DODD day array rules. Once approved by the OPRA Day Array Committee, these recommendations will be shared with DODD as day array rules are opened.

On July 22, 2019, Nelson Cary, partner at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, will provide guidance to OPRA members concerning the CMS regulation prohibiting Medicaid providers from billing for vocational habilitation services when individuals are earning 50% or more of minimum wage and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  This is an in-person, OPRA Member only event. As of 7/16/19, 47 OPRA members have signed up to attend the event.

Upcoming meetings concerning Day and Employment:

* OPRA Day Array Committee – August 1, 2019
* OOD Core Stakeholder Group - August 1, 2019
* OOD public hearing on the Fee Schedule - August 5, 2019.
* OPRA Day Array Subcommittee on Training – August 22, 2019
* OPRA Transition Workgroup for Franklin County – August 29, 2019
* OPRA Day Array Committee – September 5, 2019
* OPRA Employment Services Committee – September 5, 2019
* OPRA Facility Free Workgroup- September 13, 2019

**4. MUI Process**

We have reached out to DODD to see if they will be willing to conduct a webinar for Board members, as training is part of the rule.

The rule is now in its third month. Information regarding board member training was sent out via the list serve a few weeks ago.

We have been informed by DODD that CMS will be in Ohio in June to conduct a review of the state’s MUI system. They will be conducting stakeholder interviews. We have been asked to hold June second for this.

Anita attended the CMS stakeholder group. It appeared that CMS had more questions about Aging’s process than they did about DODD’s. They were here for a week and exited on June 7. DODD reported that the visit went well. It will be several weeks before CMS shares its report with Ohio.

**5. OPRA Training and Evaluations**

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.

Gary Brown will be offering another round of his popular ISP trainings in the early summer. New this session he will be discussing the importance of the accurate CPT projections as they now are critical with the adoption of the new monthly rate calculator.

We have added a few new sessions this year including meal preparation and compliance.

Anita and Pete met with Dr. Greg LaForme about developing a supervisory/middle management training series.

**6. 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.

The OOD Council met on 4/10/19 and was given updates on Director Miller’s budget initiatives. The council spent time discussing what their focus should be and the need to fill board seats. Director Miller has assured me that he still plans to have OPRA representation on the Council, but that it has been held up by the change in governor.

Pete was contacted by Director Miller and his staff and will be completing the background information in order to become a part of the OOD Council.

**7. 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.

On January 23, 2019, Director Miller announced the following proposed changes to the fee schedule:

* Increase all fees by 6% - 6% was used based on 16-17 and 17-18 Employment Cost Indexing and based on 2018 usage, this will bring providers an additional 3.34 million dollars. Fees will rounded to even amounts for administrative ease and the increases are hoped to assist providers to recruit and maintain qualified staff.
* Create a Placement Fee for Community Based Assessments (CBA), Work Adjustment (WA), and other services of $1,228.00
* Allow up to 2 hours of Site Development for CBA or WA with existing business partnerships and established work sites. The current fee schedule prohibits this.
* Allow 2:1 ratios for CBAs. (It was not clarified if providers will be able to bill for both CBA participants.)
* Add enhanced rate for quick completion of CBA – this is still in development.
* Rebalancing Tier Payments for Job Development and Supported Employment so a larger percentage of total is received at Tier I
* Reorganizing Tier III for Job Development and Supported Employment payments to be paid at 30,60 and 90 days
* Second Placement fee to match Tier II payment (more than a 300% increase)
* Change Provider Manual to allow providers to pursue job leads during Tier I, with Tier II authorizations issued upon offer of employment ( this does not need to go through rule process and is planned to be implemented in March 2019)
* OOD will develop resume standards to clarify expectations
* Shift differential for evening, third and weekend shifts of $2 per hour
* Further changes to Summer Youth services are being discussed

Based on member feedback, although in general, OPRA members are pleased about the proposed 6% increase, the rebalancing of risk, and other changes, the proposed changes to the fee schedule do not fully recognize the true cost to providers to support individuals in integrated, competitive employment, especially individuals with complex needs. Comments reflecting this were sent to OOD on behalf of the OPRA memberships and are included in the board packet.

On March 19, 2019, in reaction to stakeholder input, made the following announcement concerning proposed changes to the OOD fee schedule:

* Increasing all fees by 6.5% instead of just 6%, with the exception of Performance Based Job Development and Performance Based Supported Employment. These two programs will be increased by 8%, including the second placement fee.
* Development o f a provider portal to decrease administrative burden
* Increasing the group ratio calculations for Summer Youth group rates
* Extending the methodology for calculating group rates to Job Readiness Training (non-school based) and other group services
* Pre-Employment Transition Services will be added to the fee schedule ( they are currently a RFP/contract service)
* These proposed increases are expected to bring providers an additional 7.2 million dollars instead of the originally proposed 5 million.

On April 9, 2019 OOD sent out proposed changes to the OOD Provider Manual and Fee Schedule based on the proposed rates listed above. Suggestions are on the proposed changes are due 4/23. Member feedback is being collected by email and through a GoToMeeting to be held on 4/17.

OPRA member input on the proposed changes were sent to OOD on 4/23/19. OOD has responded to stakeholder feedback. Both OPRA input and OOD feedback are attached. We are now awaiting OOD’s release of the corresponding proposed rules/provider manual.

The proposed OOD Fee Schedule is currently being reviewed by the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) and the new rates are still on track to be implemented in October 2019. OPRA submitted a letter in support of the proposed fee schedule to CSI on 6/19/19. A copy of the letter sent to CSI is attached.

The Proposed OOD Fee Schedule is currently at JCARR and a public hearing is scheduled on August 5, 2019. Written testimony from OPRA in support of the proposed changes to the Fee Schedule will be submitted.