



Mission: To support and provide advocacy for providers to ensure the availability of high-quality programs, services, and funding adequate to support the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities they serve to achieve a life of increasing independence, productivity and integration.

Board Report

3.24.21



OPRA's Anchor Statement: Ohio's providers are focused on supporting the success of the people we serve

Principle #1: We believe the primary focus of our work is the positive and supportive relationship between front-line professionals and the people they support.

Principle #2: We believe providers should be supported and trusted to support people with developmental disabilities and operate effective and successful organizations.

Principle #3: We believe providers must be sufficiently compensated to deliver essential services to meet the needs of the people they support in an ever evolving society and system.

Principle #4: We believe all services currently provided across the spectrum of services should be recognized as crucial to each and every person we serve.

OPRA BOARD Agenda

March 24, 2021

9-12

- Call to Order and “Safe Place” statement (Jamie Steele)
- Review of the Minutes from the January meeting (Jamie Steele)
- Financial Statements (Adam Guinther)
- Board Report (Pete Moore and Jamie Steele)
 - Workforce crisis priorities and feedback
 - What do we want OPRA to focus on?
- Governance Committee/ 2021 Activities (Bob Gaston)
 - Board elections
 - Term limits
 - Redistricting
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
 - Membership Status
 - Recruitment Plan
 - 2021 State Budget Update
 - 2021 Spring Conference update
- Open discussion
- Next Regular Meeting, May 26th, 2021 *(Due to budget season and the coronavirus, there may be a need to call a meeting if needed outside our regular schedule)*

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Safe Place Statement

We would like to thank you for attending this meeting. This meeting, like all of the OPRA Committee meetings, are designed to offer a safe place for OPRA Members to share thoughts, opinions and ideas. The OPRA Team and the OPRA Board relies on these discussions to inform our efforts to provide Advocacy, Information and Resources. We are respectfully asking you, as a participant, to assist us to make this a safe place for professionals to openly share without fear. It is important that when personal experiences are shared, there is an assurance that what is shared stays within this group. We are looking forward to an open and honest conversation and we would like to thank you for being a part of this important meeting.

OPRA Board Meeting Minutes

January 27th, 2021

Call to Order and “Safe Place” Statement:

Jamie Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02a.m.

Call to Order and “Safe Place” Statement:

Jamie Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01a.m. by introducing welcoming new Board members to the group.

Secretary’s Report:

November 18th, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed.

- ✚ A motion was made by Trish Otter to approve the minutes as presented. Roy Cherry seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Finance Report:

Presented by Adam Guinther. Adam reported that the Finance Committee met Monday January 25th, 2021. Phil Alexander with Wells Fargo attended the Board meeting to present OPRA’s investment performance. Afterward, Adam presented the December 2020 Financial Statement.

- ✚ A motion was made by Liz Owens to approve the Financial Statement as presented. Roy Cherry seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Spring Conference Update:

Presented by Pete Moore and Scott Marks. Discussion was held regarding use of a different virtual platform for the Spring conference as opposed to what was used for the Fall conference. Many shared their experiences from the Fall conference and expressed frustration with the performance of the Fall conference’s virtual platform. Pete Moore presented a proposal for expenditures to enhance the Spring conference experience.

- ✚ A motion was made by Diane Beaström to approve the proposal as submitted. Roger Fortener seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Board Committees:

Presented by Jamie Steele. Discussed the scope and purpose of each committee. Jamie requested Board members to consider participation in committee work due to turnover during the recent election cycle that left multiple seats vacant.

Board Report:

Presented by Pete Moore. Pete reviewed action items and guiding principles that are included as part of our 2021 Strategic Plan. Scott Delong made a motion to authorize and empower OPRA staff to move forward with all items as discussed in the 2021 Strategic Plan. Felicia Hall seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

OPRA AIR:

Presented by Pete Moore. Pete gave an overview of work done to support our **Advocacy, Information and Resource** project. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the content of the revised Provider Certification Rule. This Rule is being delayed until September 2021. OPRA and various other associations are disappointed that the GED topic was not addressed favorably, further hindering our ability to recruit quality staff.

2021 State Budget:

Presented by Christine Touvelle. There remains a great deal of uncertainty around what to expect for IDD services budget. We will not likely see the generous attention we have received in past budget cycles. Discussed how Membership can help with messaging. Testimonials may not be as impactful as in the past as they will likely be presented via virtual means. Better impact may be achieved through intensive personal interactions including calls, emails, and personal meetings where Members are comfortable doing so.

CEO Goals:

Presented by Pete Moore. Pete began by welcoming Rachel Hayes to OPRA. Pete reviewed his 2021 goals as developed by the Executive Committee.

Board Goals:

Presented by Jamie Steele. Jamie reviewed elections, term limits and redistricting work that needs to be done in 2021. Jamie also discussed the need to develop a Diversity Statement to express the views and opinions of OPRA on this subject. Jamie gladly expressed that Pete Moore's contract was negotiated and executed successfully just before Christmas.

At 12:21p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Melissa Morelli. The motion was seconded by Jim Steffey. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Submitted for your review,

Lisa Reed, OPRA Board Secretary

Board Members Present by District:

District 1:

- × Melissa Morelli
- × Jamie Steele
- × Jim Steffey

District 2:

- × Dennis Grant
- × Ashley Brocious
- × Michelle Herndon

District 3:

- × Lisa Reed
- × Edgar Barnett, Jr.
- × Mary Thompson-Hufford

District 4:

- × Roy Cherry
- × Roger Fortener
- × Megan Craun

At Large:

- × Bob Gaston

District 5:

- × Jeff Johnson
- × Michelle Madden
- × Phillip Miller

District 6:

- × Adam Guinther
- × Robert Heinzerling
- × Liz Owens

District 7:

- × Diane Beastrom
- × Trish Otter
- × Laura LaGodney

District 8:

- × Scott Delong
- × Felicia Hall
- × John Swanson

OPRA Staff Present:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| × Pete Moore | xThan Johnson |
| × Scott Marks | x Sonya Summers |
| × Christine Touvelle | |
| × Rachel Hayes | |
| Melissa Fannon | |

Policy Committee

Summary

The policy committee serves as the clearinghouse for most issues affecting any aspect of DD services, and makes recommendations for action to OPRA's board of directors. Every effort is made to allow sufficient time to discuss issues in detail in order to understand the impact on individuals and providers, and to consider what position OPRA should take on a given issue. OPRA Committees examine issues and may pass them on to the Policy Committee for review. Ad hoc workgroups may also be established from time to time to examine issues more fully. The policy committee is chaired by the vice chair of the board of directors with a representative provider group selected to serve as the core committee. This core committee is tasked with convening and commenting on policy issues as they arise, whether during a meeting or between meetings. Other committee work flows through policy committee to the board of directors, and vice versa.

Policy Committee Agenda

Wednesday, 3/10/21

10 AM – 1 PM

- Welcome and Introductions
- Federal and State legislative updates
 - The state budget is well underway.
 - 25 OPRA Members submitted testimony at the House Finance HHS Subcommittee last week and 20 OPRA Members submitted testimony to the full House Finance Committee.
 - We do not currently know if the amendment OPRA joined that included increased funding for some waiver services, increased funding for ICFs and a temporary change to reimbursement, and the creation of a workforce taskforce have been included in the budget bill
 - Will need to wait till the budget sub-bill is put together and released. The sub-bill will largely determine our next advocacy directions.

- The General Assembly will be on spring break toward the end of March. Hope to see the sub-bill around this timeframe. The House will likely vote on the bill by the end of April and then will be moved into the Senate.
- Workforce crisis priorities
 - The majority of the meeting was spent soliciting feedback on a workforce document OPRA staff and various OPRA Members have been collaborating on
 - Conducted live polling to get feedback on each priority area (what do you like about the focus area and what concerns do you have about the focus area) and how would you prioritize the area?
 - Polling results will help tailor a proposal to DD Counsel on a grant to improve DSP recruitment and retention
 - **See PowerPoint (Policy-Cmte livepolling 3-10-21)**
 - Top two priority issues of providers- Rates related to DSP requirements and direction of service system
- DSP movement between providers (Items tabled for future meeting)
 - The “passport” concept
 - Tracking problematic DSPs
- DRO
 - DRO is currently conducting a form of virtual exit waiver interviews with residents of some ICFs
 - These interviews were a part of the settlement over DRO’s lawsuit Ball v. Kasich (DeWine)
 - OPRA was not a party to this lawsuit and did not have a direct say in the settlement or these new exit interviews
 - DRO largely has the legal authority to people with people in ICFs with or without guardian consent or presence
- Next Meeting will be on My 12, 2021

Day Array

Summary

This committee provides a platform for information sharing, networking, deliberating, and problem-solving topics and issues unique to leaders in the day array. Topics covered in meetings may include, but are not limited to, updates from the field, national and state trends, policy and rule review, best practices in organizational leadership, operating fiscally sound organizations, and identifying and mitigating organizational risk as relates to the broad array of services and supports, including day programs, active treatment, vocational training, career development, and employment. Policy recommendations from this committee are taken to the policy committee for review and action. The day array committee has two standing subcommittees:

- **Day Services Committee:** This committee is designed for program directors, frontline supervisors, and direct support professionals who are providers of adult day support. Meetings include information sharing, networking, problem-solving and discussion of best practices and trends in day support for adults with DD. Training and updates from the state concerning adult day supports, vocational habilitation, career planning, and non-medical transportation is provided. Policy recommendations from this committee are taken to the Day Array Committee for review and then forwarded to the policy committee.
- **Facility Free Services Committee:** This committee is formed and designed for organizations providing, or thinking about providing, day array services 100% in the community and without a facility or hub. This committee provides a platform for information sharing, networking, deliberating, and problem-solving topics and issues unique to providing facility free services. Policy recommendation from this workgroup are taken to the Day Array committee for review.

Committee Chairs: Anne Haning, (Belco Works), Rich Patterson, (Nick Amster Inc.)

Policy Core Committee Representative: Rich Patterson, (Nick Amster Inc.)

OPRA Staff Lead: Scott Marks

Employment

Summary

The employment services committee is designed for program directors, frontline supervisors, certified employment support professionals, job developers, and job coaches. This committee is a platform for information sharing, networking, deliberating, and problem-solving topics and issues unique to providing integrated, competitive employment services. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, policy and rule review, state trends, understanding and implementing DODD, OOD, and ODM rules, braiding funding, best practices service delivery, establishing relationships with employers, supervising remote employees, operating fiscally sound programs, and dual customer model, and identifying and mitigating individual and programmatic risk. Policy recommendations from this committee are taken to the Day Array committee for review.

Committee Chairs: Paul Soprano (UCP of Greater Cleveland), Justin Blumhorst (Capabilities)

Policy Core Committee Representative: Justin Blumhorst (Capabilities)

OPRA Staff Lead: Scott Marks

Health

Summary

The healthcare committee is comprised primarily of nursing staff but does include other members who are interested in health and healthcare related issues. The committee focuses on nursing and medical services in the waiver and ICF settings. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to: rules and regulations that affect the DD nursing community, training, education and best practices.

Committee Chair(s): Shelly Wharton (The Society)

Policy Core Committee Member: Shelly Wharton (The Society)

OPRA Staff Lead: Anita Allen

Human Resources

Summary

The HR committee is comprised of HR professionals, or anyone responsible for the life cycle of employment for his/her agency. This group of professionals meets to discuss best practices in HR, from recruiting and hiring process, to keeping abreast of upcoming new regulations that affect employment law and/or training requirements.

Committee Chair: Patty Schlosser (Manahan)

Policy Core Committee Representative: TBD

OPRA Staff Lead: Christine Touvelle

ICF

Summary

The ICF Committee provides a platform for information sharing, networking, deliberating, and problem-solving topics and issues unique to leaders in ICF services. The committee examines issues which have a direct impact on the programs, services and funding necessary for the operation of Intermediate Care Facilities. The committee is used to disseminate information, provide updates, and elicit feedback on important issues related to ICF's.

Committee Chair(s): Bob Heinzerling (Heinzerling Community), Kurt Miller (Empowering People)

Policy Core Committee Representative: Kurt Miller (Empowering People)

OPRA Staff Lead: Rachel Hayes

Residential Waiver

Summary

The residential waiver committee provides a platform for information sharing, networking, deliberating, and problem-solving topics and issues unique to leaders in residential waiver services. The committee examines issues which have direct impact on the programs, services and funding necessary for the operation of and provision of services to individuals in waiver funded settings. This includes licensed and non-licensed settings and shared living. The committee is used to disseminate information, provide updates, and elicit feedback on important issues related to residential waivers.

Committee Chair(s): Jamie Steele (OVRs) and Susan Berneike (Help Foundation)

Policy Core Committee Representative: TBD

OPRA Staff Lead: Rachel Hayes