



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 Retreat

9.22.21 - 9.23.21



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.

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.

Table of Contents

Board Meeting Agenda	3
March Meeting Minutes	5
Policy Committee Minutes	8

OPRA BOARD Retreat

Wednesday, September 22nd

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Welcome and Housekeeping Pete Moore, OPRA Jamie Steele, Board Chairperson
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	County Board Finances Rick Black, OACB
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Morning Break
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Partner Discussions Part I Suzanne Scrutton, Vorys Director Davis, DODD Brian Green, Miami County Superintendent & Superintendent Associations President
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH: boxed lunches will be provided
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Partner Discussions Part II Bridget Gargan, OACB Mike Toman & Anthony Aquillo, The Success Group
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Afternoon Break
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM	Board Member Education Cathy Allen, The Board Doctor
3:45 PM – 4:30 PM	The Power of Positive Relationships with County Boards Pete Moore Jamie Steele Scott Marks
4:30 PM	Adjourn
5:00PM – 6:00PM	Happy Hour in Hotel Lounge (outdoor patio)
6:30 PM	Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 23rd

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Breakfast at leisure in the Meeting Room
(To go boxes available if you want to dine in your hotel room)

9:30AM – 12:30PM Board Meeting

Agenda

- Call to Order and “Safe Place” statement (Jamie Steele)
- Review of the Minutes from the January meeting (Jamie Steele)
- Financial Statements (Adam Guinther)
- Governance Committee update/ 2021 Activities (Bob Gaston)
 - Board elections update
 - Board Executive Committee Elections
- Board/Policy Committee Report (Pete Moore and Jamie Steele)
 - Workforce crisis efforts
 - Hot Spot follow-up
 - Actionable items
 - MRC
 - ARPA funds update
 - Legislative advocacy
 - How to get our issues to the front of the line
 - Legislative champions
 - Advocacy in partnership with people receiving services and families
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - Fall Conference
- Open discussion
- Next Regular Meeting Discussion

12:30 PM Adjourn

12:30 PM LUNCH: boxed lunches available

OPRA Board Meeting Minutes

July 28th, 2021

Call to Order and “Safe Place” Statement:

Jamie Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Newly elected Board members that attended the meeting in person were introduced to the group.

Secretary’s Report:

May 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. No revisions were suggested.

- ✚ A motion was made by Liz Owens to approve the minutes as presented. Michelle Madden seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Finance Report:

Presented by Adam Guinther. The Finance Committee met Monday July 26th, 2021. Afterward, Adam presented the June 2021 Financial Statement.

- ✚ A motion was made by Michelle Madden to approve the Financial Statement as presented. Melissa Morelli seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Board Committees:

Bob Gaston gave the Governance Committee update.

- ✚ Board Nomination for Board Officers- all four officer positions will be open at the end of the year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please send an email to both Sonya Summers and Bob Gaston by August 6th.
- ✚ Future topics for the Board’s consideration- potential changes to the Board of Directors elections process, changes to OPRA Districts, Board of Directors mentoring program, and necessary changes to the code of elections.

Board Report:

Presented by Pete Moore. Please see the Board Report sent prior to the meeting for full details.

- ✚ Discussion on workforce shortage, state budget wrap up, plan for the American Rescue Plan Act funding for the enhanced HCBS FMAP increase, Workforce Crisis Task Force, DODD Blueprint Workgroup and BEST service feedback.
 - BEST Letter- Scott Marks overviewed a letter drafted by the Day Array Committee and reviewed by the Policy Committee and Policy Core Committee.

- Phil Miller motioned to accept the letter for board support, Liz Owens seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passes.

✚ Board Retreat Planning- Board retreat is scheduled for September- 22nd and 23rd in Westerville, Ohio.

- Currently the retreat is scheduled for in person but OPRA staff will continue to monitor the situation.
- Agenda suggestions- discussion on mergers and acquisition, crisis communication

✚ Michelle Madden made a motion to accept the Board Report. Dennis Grant seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

OPRA Fall Conference:

Presented by Pete Moore. The Fall Conference and Awards Ceremony is currently scheduled to be held in-person. OPRA staff will continue to monitor the situation with the Delta variant. If we are not able to hold the person in-person, there would likely be an associated cost with canceling or attempting to have a smaller hybrid event.

PAC:

✚ The Golf PAC Outing is Monday September 13th at the Urbana County Club.

✚ We are also hosting an OSU tailgate on October 9th in Dublin at the Brick House Blue. There will be food and drinks and the opportunity to watch the game.

Membership

Pete Moore gave a report on Membership prepared by Sonya Summers. We have had two new provider members join since the last board meeting and one new associate member. Three members have left.

New Service Delivery Models

Board Members had an opening discussion on ideas for a new service delivery models.

✚ At 12:21p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Liz Owens. The motion was seconded by Michelle Madden. 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 (Virtual)

District 2:

- × Dennis Grant (Virtual)
- × Ashley Brocious
- × Michelle Herndon (Virtual)

District 3:

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

District 4:

- × Roy Cherry (Virtual)
- Roger Fortener
- × Sarah Millimen

At Large:

- × Bob Gaston

District 5:

- Jeff Johnson
- × Michelle Madden
- × Phillip Miller

District 6:

- × Adam Guinther
- × Robert Heinzerling (Virtual)
- × Liz Owens

District 7:

- × Diane Beastrom (Virtual)
- × Trish Otter (Virtual)
- × Laura LaGodney (Virtual)

District 8:

- × Scott Delong (Virtual)
- × Felicia Hall (Virtual)
- × John Swanson

OPRA Staff Present:

- × Pete Moore
- × Scott Marks
- × Christine Touvelle
- × Rachel Hayes
- Melissa Fannon
- Than Johnson

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 Minutes

Wednesday, 9/8/21

10 AM – 12 PM

- Welcome and Introductions- Core Members- Diane Beastron and Scott DeLong, Anne Hanning, Jeff Johnson, Kurt Miller, Tim Neville, Jo Spargo, Shelly Wharton,
- Specialized DSPs
 - The proposals are not meant to be immediate fixes to the system's struggles to hire. The proposal is meant to be a long-term, system sustainability plan.
 - Pete reviewed the idea of specialized, tiered DSPs approach. If you are interested in serving on a small committee to look at how this could be designed and implemented, please let Pete know.
 - Another possibility is a specialized provider instead of specialized DSP. If a provider meets certain benchmarks, reimbursement for services would increase. Implementation of the tracking materials maybe more difficult depending on the factors but if the program offered significant flexibility and extra funding, it may be worth providers' time.
 - Need to make sure the structure includes day services and figure out a way to implement a structure into the ICF program.

- There was mixed feedback from the committee. A more detailed framework may be helpful for providers to have a clearer picture about how either of the proposals could operate in real life.
- Provider Freeze
 - Reasoning behind the proposal- have too many agencies spreads a finite number of staff over more organizations, duplicates administrative burden, and new, untested providers take on cases without realizing how difficult the services can be, leaving people receiving services vulnerable.
 - Any freeze would have to be limited in geography and length of time.
 - Trying to understand a few things with the freeze: What does the provider landscape look like? Would a provider freeze help us understanding what is happening in the provider community? Is it a good idea? Bad Idea? What are potential pitfalls? How would it help providers?
 - Concerns about the optics and the ability then to allow new good providers to stay.
 - Would allow us to get through this emergency phase and plan for the future
- Olmstead Taskforce Letter
 - Letter addressed to the administration calling on them to adequately fund Ohio's home and community-based services system. The letter explains the problems stemming from the shortage of direct care workers and the threat of people being institutionalized.
 - Highlights the need for us to continue espousing guiding principle 4 to our partners: we respect all services on the spectrum of care.
- MUI
 - Developing recommendations on culture
 - Committee broke into four small virtual breakouts to discuss the following questions.
 - We know that the MUI process is challenging for DSPs and frontline professionals, what are things we need to do and/or steps we should take to improve the frontline MUI experience?
 - We know the MUI administrative processes (paperwork, timelines, putting people on leave, timely resolutions, etc.) is challenging for providers, what are things about the process can be improved and/or changed to make it a better process for all involved?
 - We know that the relationships between some investigative agents and providers is challenging, if we were to take a fresh look at the role of IA's and their involvement with providers, what should be done differently?
 - Feedback will be used to pull draft suggestions on how to improve the MUI process.
- MRC
 - Staffing is so all over the place that the ISP doesn't match the level of services providers are able to provide. Some County Boards won't change the plan to reflect the current situation which makes extra administrative work for providers.
 - This issue is of particular concern when staffing levels are under what is in an ISP and providers are not able to get to the 97 threshold.
 - Suggestion that DODD pause the 3% under threshold so providers and county boards don't have to do the administrative work.
 - Suggestion will be refined before reaching out to our system partners.
- General Updates
 - ARPA Funding- ODM did recently talk with OBM about distributing the funds but there is no additional update on timeline for receiving any of funding.

- Med. Cert. Training- work is still being done, a survey will be sent out by DODD to solicit feedback on how the more advance parts of the training could or should be broken down into different units of training.
- Next Meeting 11/10/21