



OPRA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2021

9:30a.m.-12:30p.m.

Board Meeting held during Board Retreat
Chairperson: Jamie Steele

Call to Order and "Safe Place" Statement:

Jamie Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Secretary's Report:

Review minutes from OPRA Board meeting 7/28/2021

- ✚ Roy Cherry made a motion to approve the July 28th, 2021 OPRA Board meeting minutes as submitted. Michelle Madden, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Finance Report:

Presented by Treasurer, Adam Guinther. The August, 2021 Finance Report was discussed. Discussion was held.

- ✚ A motion to accept the August, 2021 Finance Report was made by Liz Owens. The motion was seconded by Roy Cherry. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Governance Report:

Presented by Committee Chair, Bob Gaston. Bob welcomed new members to the Board.

Bob reviewed the proposed slate of officers and explained that the slate should now be voted on electronically, via a survey link that was emailed by OPRA staff.

Bob explained that a long-term member of the Board is retiring at the end of 2021 and that a Special Election would be held to fill the seat. The elected member would serve to complete Trish Otter's term.


Bob then gave an overview of progress made toward revising the Code of Regulations including the following:

- Rotate District Elections.
- Revise existing Districts into regions that are more equal in proportion to membership.
- Potential elimination of District 8 with existing members being absorbed in which their home office exists.
 - District 8 was originally formed to accommodate providers who operated in more than one county. In the current environment, most providers now operate in more than one county so this is no longer necessary.

A Temporary Amendment was proposed to the Board, detailing these changes and how it would be implemented. Board Secretary, Lisa Reed recited the Amendment for consideration and discussion was held. If approved, the Temporary Amendment would be presented to OPRA Membership at the Fall Conference being held in November, 2021.

This amendment would allow for a "pause" of District elections until the work currently being performed by the Governance Committee could be completed due to 2021 being an election year for District 8.

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 Dennis Grant made a motion to accept the Temporary Amendment. Michelle Madden seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy Committee Update:

Provided by Pete Moore. The workforce crisis continues to be the #1 topic of discussion in all committees. Discussed progress being made within the Workforce Taskforce. There are four main topics being pursued:

- Rates and wages
- Protecting the people we support
- Dealing with hotspots
- Future of our system-system reform

Much discussion was held regarding the impact that the staff shortage has had on services being provided to Individuals who have a disability. This includes not being able to accommodate new contracts, as well as the need to give notice to long term relationships that can no longer be staffed.

Pete provided a follow up on visits to “Hot Spots” around State where the staff shortage is most critical. He intends to revisit each site in October to track progress being made.

MRC was discussed including the fact the MRC seems to be implemented differently from county to county. On September 29th Pete and other system stakeholders will meet with DODD to discuss various concerns with MRC and propose to place it on hold for a period of time.

ARPA funds were discussed and explained that it will take legal action to move a Bill forward. The process is currently with ODM and Governor DeWine where it seems to have paused. Director Davis is hopeful to have two payments from ARPA funds out to the system by March, 2022.

Pete discussed the need to activate the Advocacy Army and get to work on the next Ohio Budget Cycle.

Pete reported that voting for Executive Committee was complete and the Slate of officers for 2022 is as follows:

- Board Chair, Adam Guinther
- Vice Chair, Roger Fortney
- Treasurer, Liz Owens
- Secretary, Laura LaGodney

CEO Report:

Presented by Pete Moore. Pete deferred to Scott to review Strategic Plan accomplishment from 2021 including progress made toward the Guiding Principles.

Discussion was held regarding if there is a place for independent providers within OPRA. OPRA staff were asked to further explore interest in this topic and report back to the Board.

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Fall Conference:

Presented by Melissa Fannon. Melissa reviewed strict safety precautions that were developed in order to safely conduct our 2021 Fall Conference in a hybrid manner at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center. There was discussion about whether to move forward with the hybrid conference or convert entirely to virtual platform.

- ✚ A motion was made by Adam Guinther to move forward with a hybrid fall conference, including all precautions developed by Melissa Fannon. Michelle Madden seconded the motion.
 - A roll call vote was conducted.
 - All voted in favor
 - Motion passed.

The next Board meeting will take place in November. Pete will notify the Board when a date is selected.

Submitted for your review,

Lisa Reed, OPRA Board Secretary

Board Members Present by District:

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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

At Large:

- ✕ Bob Gaston

District 5:

- ✕ Jeff Johnson
- ✕ Michelle Madden
- ✕ Phillip Miller

District 6:

- ✕ Adam Guinther
- ✕ Robert Heinzerling
- ✕ Liz Owens

District 7:

- ✕ Diane Beastron
- ✕ Trish Otter
- ✕ Laura LaGodney

District 8:

- ✕ Scott DeLong
- ✕ Felicia Hall
- ✕ John Swanson

OPRA Staff Present:

- ✕ Pete Moore
- ✕ Scott Marks
- ✕ Christine Touvelle
- ✕ Rachel Hayes
- ✕ Sonya Summers
- ✕ Melissa Fannon
- ✕ Than Johnson