



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

1.26.21



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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 Agenda**

**January 26, 2022**

**10am-12pm**

- Call to Order and “Safe Place” statement (Adam Guinther)
- Introduction of new Board Member (Adam Guinther, Pete Moore)
- Financial Report (Liz Owens)
- Governance Committee update (Bob Gaston)
  - Code of regulations
    - Board elections
    - Term limits
    - Redistricting
- Committee Assignments (Adam Guinther, Pete Moore)
- Board Report (Pete Moore)
  - ARPA Update
  - Mandate Update
  - Strategic Plan (feedback/approval)
- Board Goals for 2021 (Adam Guinther)
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
  - Advocacy Army
  - Membership renewal update
  - Member recruitment effort
- Open discussion
- Next Regular Meeting, March 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2022 *(There may be a need to call a meeting if needed outside our regular schedule)*

## 2022 Board of Directors Roster & Contact Info

### Executive Committee

Chairperson	Adam Guinther	<a href="mailto:aguinther@rhaminc.com">aguinther@rhaminc.com</a>
Vice Chairperson	Roger Fortener	<a href="mailto:rfortener@annegrady.org">rfortener@annegrady.org</a>
Treasurer	Liz Owens	<a href="mailto:lizowens@alphagroup.net">lizowens@alphagroup.net</a>
Secretary	Laura LaGodney	<a href="mailto:llagodney@ability-works.com">llagodney@ability-works.com</a>
Immediate Past Chairperson	Jamie Steele	<a href="mailto:jamie.steele@ovrs.org">jamie.steele@ovrs.org</a>

### OPRA District 1

<p><b>Melissa Morelli, Regional Director</b> Active Day, Inc. 2600 Civic Center Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231 Office: (513) 919-0311 Mobile: <a href="mailto:mmorelli@activeday.com">mmorelli@activeday.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, OOD Vendor and NMT</p>	<p><b>Jamie Steele, Executive Director</b> Ohio Valley Residential Services 2261 Victory Parkway Cincinnati, OH 45206 Office: (513) 281-6800 Mobile: (513) 200-3695 <a href="mailto:jamie.steele@ovrs.org">jamie.steele@ovrs.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> HCBS Community Respite, HPC, Remote Support and Shared Living</p>
<p><b>Jim Steffey, President/CEO</b> Envision 3030 West Fork Road Cincinnati, OH 45211 Office: (513) 619-2928 Mobile: (513) 550-9687 <a href="mailto:jsteffey@envisionohio.org">jsteffey@envisionohio.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, Behavioral Health Care, HPC, Medicaid Funded Therapies, NMT &amp; Shared Living</p>	

### OPRA District 2

<p><b>Dennis Grant, Executive Director</b> United Rehabilitation Services/Dayton 4710 Old Troy Pike Dayton, OH 45424 Office: (937) 233-1230 Mobile: (937) 469-5291 <a href="mailto:dgrant@ursdayton.org">dgrant@ursdayton.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, Early Intervention, HPC, Medicaid Funded Therapies, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Ashley Brocious, CEO</b> RT Industries 110 Foss Way Troy, OH 45373 Office: (937) 552-3900 Mobile: <a href="mailto:ashley.brocious@rtindustries.org">ashley.brocious@rtindustries.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>
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## **OPRA District 2 continued**

<p><b>Michelle Herndon, Executive Director/CEO</b> S &amp; H Products 435 Stolle Avenue Sidney, OH 45365 Office: (937) 492-3596 Mobile: <a href="mailto:mherndon@sandcoind.com">mherndon@sandcoind.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	
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## **OPRA District 3**

<p><b>Lisa Reed, Executive Director</b> RHDD P. O. Box 997 / 1517 Chestnut Street Coshocton, OH 43812 Office: (740) 622-9778 Mobile: (740) 502-1838 <a href="mailto:lreed@rhdd.org">lreed@rhdd.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HCBS Waiver Nursing, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor, Shared Living &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Edgar J. Barnett, Jr., CEO</b> Carroll Hills Industries, Inc. P. O. Box 567 Carroll, OH 44615 Office: (330) 627-5524 Mobile: <a href="mailto:ebarnett@carrollhillsindustries.com">ebarnett@carrollhillsindustries.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers &amp; NMT</p>
<p><b>Mary Thompson Hufford, CEO</b> The Fuse Network P. O. Box 4008 / 141 W. Main Street Newark, OH 43055 Office: (740) 641-8347 Mobile: <a href="mailto:mthompson@fuseoh.net">mthompson@fuseoh.net</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	

## **OPRA District 4**

<p><b>Roy Cherry, Executive Director</b> Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio 1545 Holland Road, Suite B Maumee, OH 43537 Office: (419) 867-5950 Mobile: <a href="mailto:rcherry@epilepsycenter.org">rcherry@epilepsycenter.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Roger Fortener, Executive Director</b> Anne Grady Services P. O. Box 1297 / 1525 Eber Road Holland, OH 43528 Office: (419) 866-6500 Mobile: <a href="mailto:rfortener@annegrady.org">rfortener@annegrady.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HPC, ICF, NMT, Remote Support &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>
<p><b>Sarah Millimen, CEO</b> Riverview Industries, Inc. 8380 W. Street, Rt. 163 Oak Harbor, OH 43449 Office: (419) 898-5250 Mobile: <a href="mailto:smillimen@rviinc.org">smillimen@rviinc.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Community Respite, HCBS Employment Waivers, HCBS Waiver Nursing, HPC, NMT, Remote Supports, Shared Living &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	

## **OPRA District 5**

<p><b>Jeff Johnson, Executive Director</b> Weaver Industries, Inc. 520 S. Main Street, Suite 2441 Akron, OH 44311 Office: (330) 379-3660 x262 Mobile: <a href="mailto:jjohnson@weaverindustries.org">jjohnson@weaverindustries.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Michelle L. Madden, Executive Director</b> Independence of Portage County, Inc. 161 E. Main Street Ravenna, OH 44266 Office: (330) 296-2851 Mobile: <a href="mailto:mmadden@iopci.org">mmadden@iopci.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, ICF, NMT &amp; OOD Vendor</p>
<p><b>Phillip E. Miller, CEO</b> Portage Industries, Inc. 7007 State Route 88 Ravenna, OH 44266 Office: (330) 296-3996 Mobile: <a href="mailto:pmiller@portageind.org">pmiller@portageind.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	

## **OPRA District 6**

<p><b>Adam Guinther, Executive Director</b> Residential Home Association of Marion (RHAM) 205 W. Center Street Marion, OH 43302 Office: (740) 387-9999 Mobile: (419) 565-3677 <a href="mailto:aguinther@rhaminc.com">aguinther@rhaminc.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> HCBS Waiver Nursing, HPC &amp; NMT</p>	<p><b>Robert Heinzerling, Executive Director</b> Heinzerling Community 1800 Heinzerling Drive Columbus, OH 43223 Office: (614) 272-8888 Mobile: (614) 638-5774 <a href="mailto:rheinzer@heinzerling.org">rheinzer@heinzerling.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> ICF</p>
<p><b>Liz Owens, CEO</b> The Alpha Group of Delaware, Inc. 1000 Alpha Drive Delaware, OH 43015 Office: (740) 368-5810 Mobile: <a href="mailto:lizowens@alphagroup.net">lizowens@alphagroup.net</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	

## **OPRA District 7**

<p><b>Diane Beastrom, President/CEO</b> Koinonia Homes, Inc. 6161 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 400 Independence, OH 44131 Office: (216) 588-8777 Mobile: <a href="mailto:diane.beastrom@koinoniahomes.org">diane.beastrom@koinoniahomes.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day Support, Behavioral Health, HCBS Employment Waivers, HCBS Waiver Nursing, HPC, ICF/IDD, Medicaid Funded Therapies, Multi-System Youth Services, NMT, OOD Vendor, Remote Support, Shared Living, Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Beth Lucas, President/CEO</b> UCP of Greater Cleveland 10011 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44106 Office: (216) 453-4951 Mobile: (216) 534-9960 <a href="mailto:blucas@ucpcleveland.org">blucas@ucpcleveland.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, HPC, NMT &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>
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## **OPRA District 7 continued**

<p><b>Laura LaGodney, CEO</b>  Ability Works  3920 Columbus Avenue  Sandusky, OH 44870  Office: (419) 626-1048 x3193  Mobile:  <a href="mailto:llagodney@ability-works.com">llagodney@ability-works.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment  Waivers, HPC, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational  Habilitation</p>	
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## **OPRA District 8**

<p><b>Scott DeLong, President/CEO</b>  Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI)  1150 Scioto Street, Suite 100  Urbana, OH 43078  Office: (937) 653-1353  Mobile: (937) 776-9380  <a href="mailto:sdelong@crsi-oh.com">sdelong@crsi-oh.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Waiver  Nursing, HCBS Community Respite, HPC, ICF,  NMT, OOD Vendor, Remote Support &amp;  Vocational Habilitation</p>	<p><b>Felicia Hall, Regional Director - Ohio</b>  ResCare, Inc.  5099 Camelot Drive  Fairfield, OH 45014  Office: (513) 858-4550 x111  Mobile: (513) 460-1708  <a href="mailto:fhall@rescare.com">fhall@rescare.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment  Waivers, HCBS Waiver Nursing, HPC, ICF, Multi-  System Youth Services, NMT, Remote Support,  Shared Living &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>
<p><b>John Swanson, Executive Vice President</b>  Echoing Hills Village, Inc.  36272 County Road 79  Warsaw, OH 43844  Office: (740) 327-2311 x1141  Mobile: (740) 502-3116  <a href="mailto:jswanson@ehvi.org">jswanson@ehvi.org</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Community  Respite, HPC, ICF, NMT, Remote Support &amp;  Vocational Habilitation</p>	



## OPRA At-Large Director

<p><b>Bob Gaston, CEO</b> ARC Industries, Inc. 2780 Airport Drive, Suite 450 Columbus, OH 43219 Office: (614) 479-2450 Mobile: <a href="mailto:bob.gaston@arcind.com">bob.gaston@arcind.com</a></p> <p><b>Services Offered:</b> Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, NMT, OOD Vendor &amp; Vocational Habilitation</p>	
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## *OPRA Board Meeting Minutes*

*November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

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### **Call to Order and “Safe Place” Statement:**

Jamie Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03p.m. and read the “Safe Place” statement.

### **Secretary’s Report:**

Review minutes from OPRA Board meeting 9/23/2021

- ✚ Melissa Morelli made a motion to approve the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 OPRA Board meeting minutes as submitted. Trish Otter, seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

### **Finance Report:**

Presented by Scott Marks. The September, 2021 Finance Report was discussed. Discussion was held.

- ✚ A motion to accept the September, 2021 Finance Report was made by Michelle Madden. The motion was seconded by Jim Steffey. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Pete proposed the 2021 dues rebate; 10% rebate to members, not including Tier I and Tier II members as their discount is accounted for in the dues structure.

- ✚ A motion to accept the dues rebate as submitted was made by Laura LaGodney. Seconded by John Swanson. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

### **Governance Report:**

Presented by Committee Chair, Bob Gaston. Bob explained that the Governance committee will begin the process of implementing the revised election process as passed by Membership. This work will include drafting procedures to be included in the Board By-laws. District 7 is currently undergoing a runoff election due to a tie. The winner will complete the term Trish Otter will vacate at the conclusion of 2021 when she retires. The Committee will also continue drafting a proposal for District 8 restructure.

### **OPRA Board report:**

Presented by Pete Moore and Jamie Steele. Discussion points included:

- Vaccine mandate
- ARPA funds update
- Workforce Crisis Task Force
- 2022 Policy Priorities – Policy Core committee will meet in December to discuss 2022 focus areas


### **CEO Report:**

Presented by Pete Moore. Discussion was held regarding Fall Conference feedback. The 2022 meeting schedule will be drafted similar to the 2021 schedule; The Board will meet every other month beginning in January. Committee meetings will take place in the off months.

Pete explained that the 2022 budget was not complete enough to present to the Board for review. The Finance Committee members are meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize the budget. On December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10a.m. there will be a brief Board Meeting to review and approve the 2022 Budget. Pete will send out confirmation of this meeting time/date soon.

It was discussed that this will be Trish Otter's last meeting with the OPRA Board of Directors. Trish expressed that it has been an honor and a privilege serving with OPRA but the Members all agreed that the honor was all ours. Trish will be dearly missed. Thank you, Trish, for your unwavering dedication and professionalism to the field of IDD.

### **Adjournment:**

 A motion was made by Melissa Morelli to adjourn the meeting at 1:35p.m. Trish Otter seconded the motion. 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

### **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
- ✕ Scott Marks
- ✕ Christine Touvelle
- ✕ Rachel Hayes
- ✕ Sonya Summers
- Melissa Fannon
- Than Johnson

# OPRA Board Committees

OPRA has numerous committees to ensure the proper operation and oversight of the organization, to engage its members, to support members to perform optimally, and to maximize member value proposition.

## **Board level committees:**

Four committees have been established by the board to perform board related work and oversight. These committees are typically comprised exclusively or predominantly by board members. All members are assigned by the board of directors and report directly to the board:

1. **Executive Committee:** Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are the members of the executive committee. The executive committee performs work on behalf of the board, as designated and reports back to the full board. The executive committee has no decision-making authority outside of that specifically delegated by the board. The exception would be decisions that must be made between board meetings and those decisions will be ratified by the board at its next meeting.
2. **Finance Committee:** The board Treasurer chairs the finance committee. Other members are assigned by the board chair. The finance committee is staffed by the CEO and the bookkeeper attends as requested. The finance committee reviews monthly financial statements, reviews and recommends an annual budget to the board for approval, and oversees the organization audit or financial review.
3. **Membership & Services Committee:** The membership & services committee oversees membership engagement, membership renewal process, ensuring member satisfaction with OPRA's value proposition, oversees orientation of new members, and conducts research and creates unique partnerships to give OPRA members a variety of pre-screened products and services that ensure quality and competitive/preferred pricing. This committee is chaired by a member of the board of directors, as assigned by the board chair.
4. **Governance Committee:** The Governance Committee shall be appointed and conduct its affairs in accordance with Section 4.3 and Section 5.3 of the Code of Regulations. The Governance Committee is responsible for recruiting and developing Board leadership, Board composition, Board effectiveness and conducting Board membership and Officer

elections. The Governance Committee shall have such other duties and powers assigned to it by the Board of Directors.

5. **Policy Committee:** 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. Ad hoc workgroups are 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.

Finance	Governance	Member Services	PAC
Liz Owens Adam Guinther Roy Cherry John Swanson Scott DeLong (Lost 1 member)	Bob Gaston Liz Owens Mary Thompson- Hufford Ashley Brocious Felicia Hall Lisa Reed Melissa Morelli	Dennis Grant Jeff Johnson Phil Miller Michelle Madden Lisa Reed Melissa Morelli	Roy Cherry John Swanson Bob Heinzerling

# Policy Committee

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  
Core Committee Members Only  
Wednesday, 1-12-22  
10 AM – 12 PM**

Core Committee: Roger Fortener, Chair, Diane Beastrom, Jeff Johnson, Ryan Knodel, Jennifer Marshall, Kurt Miller, Tim Neville, Dave Rastoka, Shelly Wharton,

- Welcome
- Policy Committee Leadership
  - The OPRA Board of Directors has transitioned Executive Committee members. The Vice Chair serves as the Chair of the Policy Committee. Roger Fortener was elected as the new vice chair and is now Chair of the Committee. Thank you, Diane and Scott for your previous leadership!
- State Updates
  - WCTF- The WCTF only met once in December so updates are minimal. It is OPRA's desire to regroup and bring new energy to the WCTF.
    - With the change in leadership at DODD, any proposals submitted to the WCTF will have to be significantly fleshed out before DODD will consider the proposals.
  - ARPA and other funds
- Federal updates
  - Vaccine Mandate

- We anticipate decisions from the Supreme Court on 1/13.
    - Update post-meeting- OSHA mandate was struck down while the CMS mandate was upheld.
- Build Back Better
  - Work on BBB has really stalled at the federal level. There are not many updates to present since the last meeting. OPRA will continue to monitor the situation and seek advocacy from the Membership as it is needed.
- Review 2021 Strategic Plan grid
  - OPRA's work is driven by OPRA's strategic plan and the guiding principles.
    - OPRA strives to provide CAIR- Community, Advocacy, Information, Resources- to the membership
  - Pete reviewed the creation of policy at OPRA and the role of the Policy Committee
    - Policy Committee hears proposals from the other OPRA committees and reviews the proposals before they are advanced to the OPRA Board of Directors for a final vote.
  - Impact of pandemic on the policy creation and moving forward with OPRA's advocacy work
    - Changing needs of the people the system supports brought on by COVID demand flexibilities and rates providers need to survive
      - Continuing to work on trust for providers from system partners
      - What are the real support needs people have and how can we best serve them?
    - Using the rate redesigning process to meet the needs of people receiving services by ensuring business stability
      - Not just DSPs, but also supervisors and business administration
      - Giving flexibilities to providers to run their business
      - Looking at what services have contracted and what people have lost supports
    - As OPRA pursues additional money, we will need to understanding that the impact of increased rates could lead to have more oversight on how the money is used to increase quality
      - How the provider lack of staff is impacting other health care areas- hospitals have to keep people because there are no staff to take back sick people previously served by the provider, providers closing and people going to SNFs because there are no other options, child being forced to have respite in children's hospitals instead of community-based providers
        - Not appropriate settings and MUCH more expensive (how do we capture this?)



- Pete reviewed the guiding principles and then introduce new and updated action steps. Additional action steps will be developed by the OPRA team.

2022 Meeting Schedule:

3/9/22

5/11/22

7/13/22

9/14/22

11/9/22

# Strategic Plan 2022

## Introduction

Our system has encountered a perfect storm when it comes to the challenges Ohio's providers are facing. We are at the point in our system's history where it is essential that we develop bold plans on how we need to address the issues our system has encountered. This year we must lay the foundation for the future sustainability and success of our system and the services that the people you support receive.

We are breaking down 2022's strategic plan action steps into 3 areas:

- COVID/Short-term Relief
- Internal Operations and Member Development
- Guiding Principles and Strategic Direction

We will all be challenged to play an active role in the success in our system. In 2022 we plan on clearly defining the issues we are facing and develop concrete action steps to address the issues. The OPRA Team will be actively working with all of the OPRA service specific committees, the OPRA Policy Committee and the OPRA Board to get support and ideas. Our "asks" and action items will have to be very specific and it is crucial that all of the providers we represent work together to advance all of our efforts.

# Mission and Guiding Principles

**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.

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

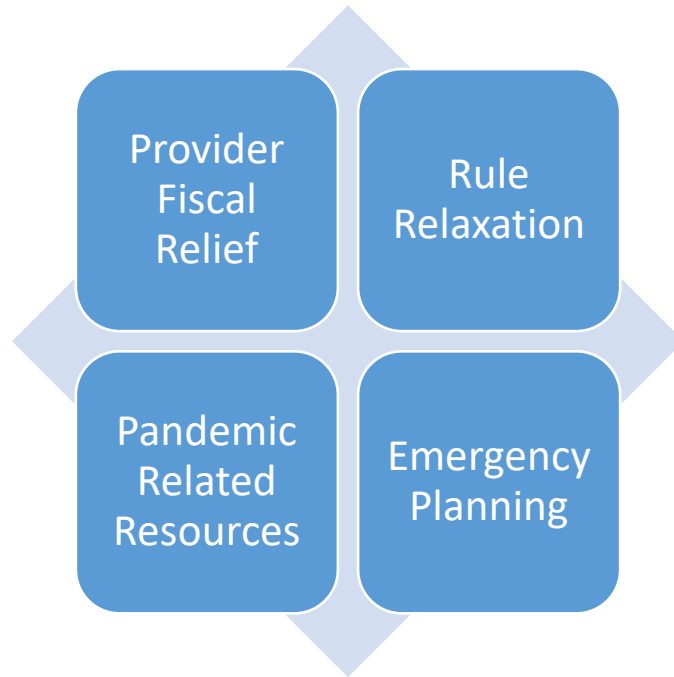
**Principle #1:** We believe the primary focus of our work is the positive and supportive relationship between front-line professionals and the people they support.

**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.

# Covid/Short-Term Relief Plan



## Strategy Summary

As the pandemic cycles it crucial that we continue to pursue relief and support for providers. The 4 areas cited above are the areas we have been focused on for the past 2 years. The major challenge our system and society as a whole has been struggling with is the desire to “get back to normal” while there are still major surges in the infection rate. It is crucial that we continue to tell our members’ stories our system does not lose the reality of the impact of the virus on the delivery of quality services.

# Internal Operations and Member Development

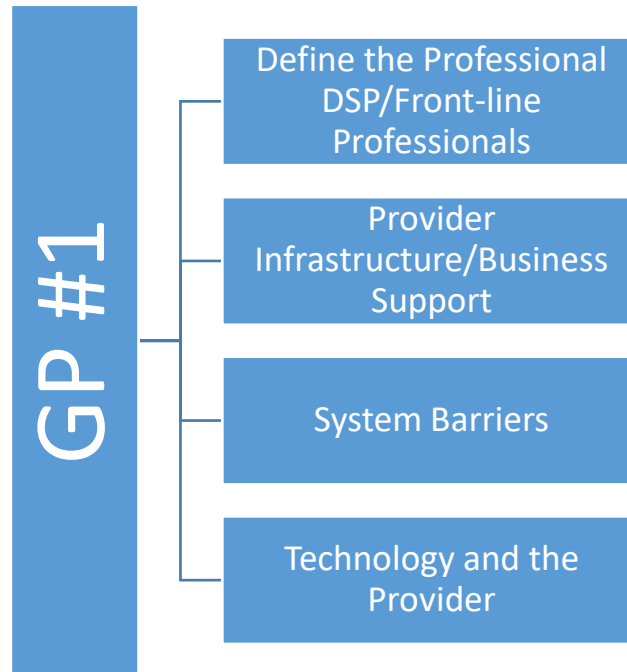


## Strategy Summary

In 2022 the OPRA Team is developing some concrete strategies/activities related to the 4 goal areas listed above. We are focusing primarily on the best possible experience for the members of our OPRA Community and how we can introduce the value of our services to new members. We plan on working with all of our current members to identify potential new members. We also want to expand training opportunities related to advocacy, leadership skills, and community outreach.

## Guiding Principles and Strategic Direction: GP#1

**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.

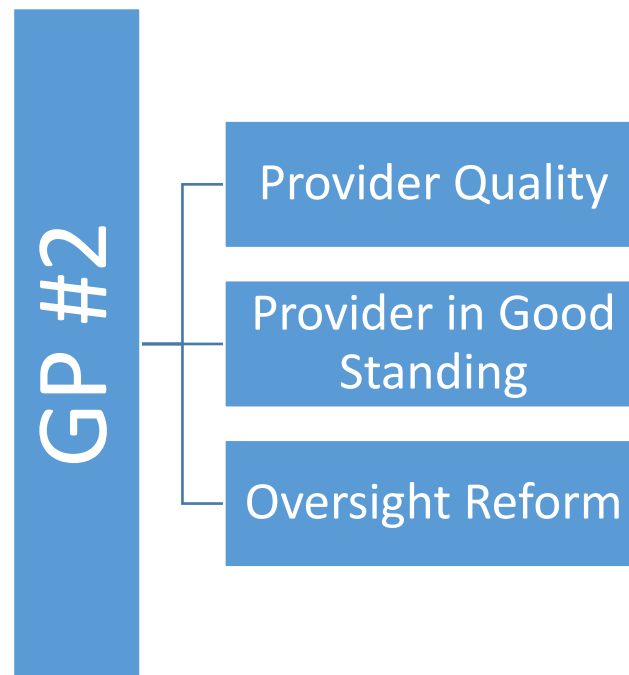


### Strategic Summary

Are we setting front-line professionals up for failure or success? We must reexamine the expectations we place on front-line professionals and do the responsibilities match the compensation the providers get to deliver the service. We will study what CMS requires of all of the services our members provide and the reality of the expectations placed on front-line professionals. If we are asking more of these professionals than was originally intended we must address the discrepancies. Our first system reform effort must focus on freeing up front-line professionals to build positive relationships and provide quality services.

## Guiding Principles and Strategic Direction: GP#2

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

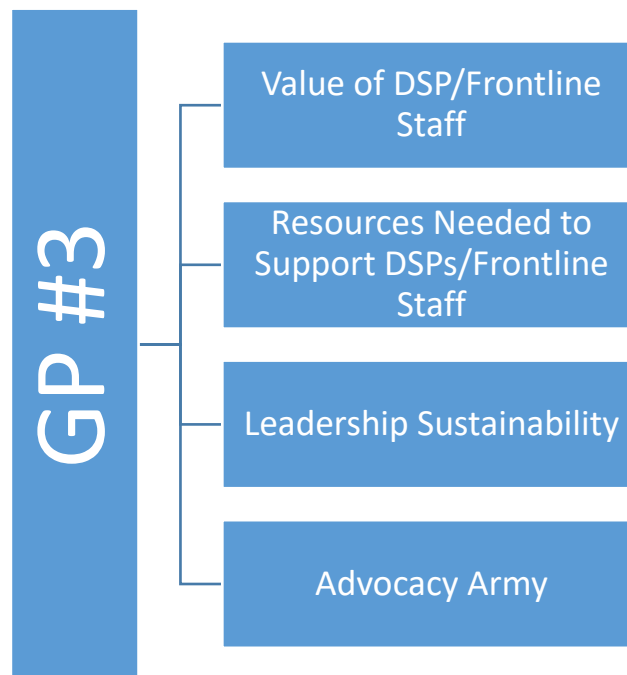


### Strategic Summary

We have a trust problem in our system. The lack of trust has led to layers of rules, increased expectations, compliance, and oversight which has had a direct impact on the current state of our system. We believe the majority of providers are striving to do the right things and strive for quality services. We want to define what quality looks like, sounds like and feels like based on the work you are already doing. We will then make the case to celebrate quality, reward quality and modify how the regulators interact with providers of quality services.

## Guiding Principles and Strategic Direction: GP#3

**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.



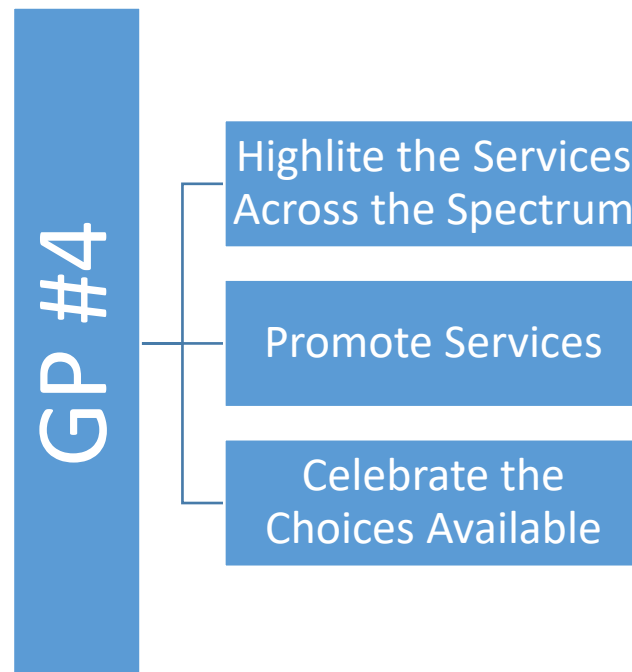
### Strategic Summary

It has become clear over the past couple of years that we obviously have to focus on wages of front-line professionals but we cannot do that without full consideration of the support system for front-line professionals. We must consider the compensation of front-line leadership, training needs, and organizational leadership to ensure successful outcomes. We also must couple the compensation discussion with the system reform discussion. In order to achieve our goals, we have to expand and focus our advocacy efforts. In 2022 we will be implementing our Advocacy Army project in preparation for the challenges we will have to take on during the 2023 budget process. We will unite providers with the people who benefit from your services in this effort.



## Guiding Principles and Strategic Direction: GP#4

**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.



### Strategic Summary

Our members provide few services that live in the shadow of stigma. These are services needed and sought out by people but have been seen as institutional and isolating even though the rules that regulate these services require a person-centered approach and access to a full life. OPRA is taking the lead to promote the essential need of these services and the value they bring to Ohio's service delivery menu.

## Strategic Plan Next Steps

- Take your feedback and modify the action items
- Begin the process of completing the Project Templates
- Identify the members of our community who can help develop the details of the action items (using our committees and Board)
- Identify the partners we need to engage to move the action items forward
- We will provide updates on all action items at future Policy and Board meetings

# OPRA Committee Reports



# 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) and Laura LaGodney (Ability Works)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** Anne Haning

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Scott Marks

## January 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda and Recording

9:30 Welcome and Introduction of Committee Guests

Rick Black (OACB)

Kelly Schuck (DODD-Medicaid)

Stacy Collins (DODD)

10:30-11:30 **OPRA Updates** (Scott): Mandate updates, CDC guidance, Blueprint, 14C, Strategic Plan

### Hot Topics/Open Discussion

Recording Available at: <https://opra-org.zoom.us/rec/share/zLi0jCsf3eYn2vyKtBxSgg23BFwBd2R3opc13f7nuQucR5bLr6eviNJaCqNoRa1O.Bqt4VXODfUDhx9HY> Passcode: 1&VRHOE3

## Employment

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) and Justin Blumhorst (Capabilities)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** Justin Blumhorst (Capabilities)

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Scott Marks

# Health

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:** Shelly Wharton (The Society)

**Policy Core Committee Member:** Shelly Wharton (The Society)

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Christine Touvelle

# Human Resources

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 Chairs:** Michelle Madden (Independence of Portage County) and Rachel Murphy (RHDD)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** TBD

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Christine Touvelle

# ICF

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 Chairs:** Bob Heinzerling (Heinzerling Community) and Kurt Miller (Empowering People)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** Kurt Miller (Empowering People)

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Rachel Hayes

## December 15, 2021 Meeting Agenda/Summary

1. Mandate, Mandate, Mandate – where are we at?  
OSHA ETS and CMS IFR discussion. What are members doing to prepare? Review of the mandates and Q and A.
2. Rate Discussion with Gary Brown  
Discussion regarding where the system is currently at regarding rates.
3. Development Rule
  - \* Overall Capacity
  - \* 4 person bedrooms
  - \* Side by side homes

The committee made a recommendation to form a small Action Group to look at the Development Rule. The group is in the process of gathering data via survey monkey from our ICF members. Once we collect the data, the group will take a look at what the specific recommendations will be and then take those recommendations to the Policy Committee and Board.
4. Update on ARPA
5. Legislative Update – what are folks currently doing?  
Discussion centered around discussions with legislators regarding what ICF's need right now.
6. Workforce Emergency

# Residential Waiver

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 Chairs:** Jamie Steele (OVRs) and Susan Berneike (Help Foundation)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** TBD

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Rachel Hayes

## December 15, 2021 Meeting Agenda/Summary

1. MRC Updates and Discussion with Gary Brown  
Workgroup consisting of DODD, OPRA, OHCA, OACB and other members continue meet to look at revamping the training for MRC and look at issues that providers had had with the system. We hope to have training ready to go soon. DODD will continue to reach out to providers if they notice trends that need to be rectified. Providers should continue to discuss any discrepancies with their county boards.
2. Waiver Nursing / Med Admin / Billing Discussion  
The committee made a recommendation to form a small Action Group to look at Waiver Nursing and begin making recommendations to the department. The group sent out a survey to our waiver provider members to gather information and data and has been analyzing the data to look at what our specific “asks” will be. Once we have developed the recommendations, we will forward to the Health Care and Policy Committees as well as the Board.
3. ARPA Update OSHA ETS and CMS IFR discussion. What are members doing to prepare?  
Review of the mandates and Q and A.
4. OISP Workgroup  
The group discussed the OISP workgroup and timeframes. Members should continue to prepare for and have staff participate in any training regarding the implementation of the OISP.



5. Mandates, mandates, mandates  
OSHA ETS and CMS IFR discussion. What are members doing to prepare? Review of the mandates and Q and A.
6. Surveys and Hot Topics