



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

3.22.23



OPRA's Guiding Principles

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

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.

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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

March 22nd, 2023

- Welcome/Safe Place Statement (Adam Guinther)
- Approval of minutes from February Meeting (Adam Guinther)
- Treasurer's Report (Liz Owens)
 - Phil (Wells Fargo update and forecasts)
- Governance Committee Update (Bob Gaston)
- Board Report (Pete Moore)
 - Budget Testimony
 - Draft Amendment
 - Development Rule
 - 14C
 - Blueprint
 - 6.5% retention bonus
 - County Board 6.5% rate increase concerns
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
 - PAC Update
 - Spring Conference
 - Ideas for retreat???
 - Membership update
- Board member leadership survey?? (Concerns of CEOs, Hopes for the future, Support needed, etc.)
- District meetings (plan for the rest of year, topics, guest speakers (Director? Legislator visit?))
- Open Discussion
- Next Meeting (Virtual Update Meeting April 26th)
- Adjourn

OPRA Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

**OPRA Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2023
10am – 11:00am**

Call to Order and “Safe Place” statement

Chair Adam Guinther called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and read the “Safe Place” statement.

Board Minutes

- Roy Cherry motioned to accept the minutes, Scott DeLong seconded. Motion carries.

Budget Update

- Ensuring All Services Benefit
 - Pete Moore talked about the discrepancies between residential and day services. During Dr. Hauck’s webinar, she announced that residential services would get a 16.5% increase and day services would get a 10% increase. OPRA will continue its advocacy efforts for day services with the House and Senate.
- Discussions with Legislators
 - Pete Moore shared that OPRA members continue to have good and healthy discussions with legislators.
 - Pete had several meetings and shared data with Senator Romanchuk to help with advocacy efforts. An amendment is in the works.
 - OPRA met with the Representative Carruthers, Finance Chair for HHS sub-committee.
 - OPRA is scheduled to meet with Representative Schmidt and Liston.
 - Pete encouraged the Board to continue their discussions with legislators.
- How to Talk About the Governor’s Proposal
 - Pete discussed the many nuances when addressing the Governor’s proposal. The message is to not only acknowledge what the Governor has done but to also build on the proposal and share that it’s only a piece of the puzzle regarding our advocacy efforts.
- Phases of Testimony and Timing
 - Director Hauck is scheduled to testify on 3/14.
 - The budget coalition plans to have a panel of association members as well as people served by the system, families, and providers to testify on 3/14 and 3/15.
 - In efforts to strategize budget testimony, the budget coalition is coordinating by district to plug in names to have representation of providers across the full spectrum of services.
 - An additional strategy surrounding testimony is to encourage providers to submit written testimony telling their story and expressing support of increase funding for the DD system.
- Budget Materials

- State budget materials and resources will be distributed to the membership later in the week.

14C

- Interested Parties Meeting
 - Rep. Jarrells requested that interested parties meet to hear both sides of the issue surrounding 14c. A tentative date for this meeting is 3/3.
- Next Steps
 - Rep. Jarrells is scheduled to meet with a group of OPRA members who currently have 14c certificates on 2/24.

6.5% Retention Bonus Project

- The 6.5% retention bonus was put in the draft of the Governor's budget proposal.
- Pete shared that county boards are committed to the 6.5% retention rates but fear that if we try to advocate for an increase they will push back. However, discussions around the retention rates and funding with the county boards are ongoing.
- The goal is to eventually roll the retention bonus into rates.

Pete announced that Ryan Shazier, former Linebacker from Ohio State and Pittsburgh Steelers will be the keynote speaker at the Spring Conference.

Melissa gave a brief update about hotel accommodations and sponsorships for the upcoming Spring Conference.

Sonya gave a brief update about membership renewals and the upcoming Member/Guest Initiative in March.

The next Board meeting will be in-person at ARC Industries on March 22nd.

Felicia Hall motioned to adjourn at 11:00am. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Madden, Secretary

Present Board Members

District 1 – Jamie Steele, Melissa Morelli and Jim Steffey

District 2 – Dennis Grant (absent), Ashley Brocious and Michelle Herndon

District 3 – Edgar Barnett, Lisa Reed and Mary Thompson-Hufford

District 4 – Roy Cherry, Tim Menke and Dustin Watkins

District 5 – Jeff Johnson and Michelle Madden- Secretary - Phil Miller (absent)

District 6 – Adam Guinther- Chair, Liz Owens- Treasurer (absent) and Bob Heinzerling

District 7 – Diane Beastrom, Tammy Honkala and Beth Lucas

At-Large – John Swanson, Scott DeLong- Vice Chair, Felicia Hall, Bob Gaston and Kurt Miller

OPRA Staff – Pete Moore, Rachel Hayes, Sonya Summers and Melissa Fannon

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 Wednesday, March 8th 10AM-12PM

Core Committee Member Attendance: Anne Hanning, Ryan Knodel, Jennifer Marshall, Kurt Miller, Tim Neville, Jo Spargo, Shelly Wharton,

- Welcome and Safe Place Statement
 - Scott DeLong read the safe place statement
- State Biennium Budget
 - Legislative meetings
 - Pete and Christine gave an overview of the various legislative meetings OPRA has attended (both set up by OPRA staff and set up by OPRA members).
 - OPRA members gave updates on the meetings they have hosted where the OPRA team was not able to attend
 - Pete and Christine gave updates on the political landscape of the House and the budget process.
 - Testimony schedule/strategy
 - Director Hauck testifies on 3/14. The budget coalition is hoping to have a panel of the association members as well as people served by the system, families, and providers.
 - The intent is to have representation on providers across the full spectrum of services.
 - Christine sent out information on how to submit written testimony to the House Finance sub-committee on Health and Human Services.
- Development Rule Changes

- Pete and Rachel gave an update on discussion on the development rule as applied to roommate and bathroom requirements
 - Full implementation of compliance with the statute is slated for 2025.
 - We are working on budget amendments to make changes that will loosen the requirements for room requirements.
- 14C Interested Party Meeting Recap
 - Christine and Scott gave an update on the interested party meeting. Nothing was decided at the meeting. Representative Jarrells indicates he wants to have another interested party meeting in April.
 - Federal legislation was also introduced late last week that would modify the current 14c program. It was introduced with sponsors from both Republicans and Democrats and with matching bills in the US House and the Senate. We will continue to keep the membership updated on the movement of the bill.
- Blueprint
 - Scott provided an update on discussion on the rates being proposed in the Blueprint for adult day support.
 - We will be reaching out to providers for additional data on how the rates will be impacted.
 - A small group will be convened to discuss implementation and potential changes to the day services 'quality program', including a pilor project to go into place by the end of 2023.
 - The employment proposal will be released in April.
 - Because of the unwinding related to the end of the PHE, any rule changes related to the Blueprint workgroup will not be able to be implemented until at least March of 2024, according to DODD.

Meeting wrap-up

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.

Committee Chair: Anne Haning, (Belco Works)

Policy Core Committee Representative: Anne Haning

OPRA Staff Lead: Scott Marks

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.

Committee Chair: Nicole Smith (RHDD)

OPRA Staff Lead: Scott Marks

- **Employment Services Committee:** 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)

OPRA Staff Lead: Scott Marks

OPRA Day & Employment Services Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2023
10am – 12pm

OPRA's Day and Employment Committees met for a joint meeting on March 2, 2023. Our scheduled guests from OOD, Stephanie Andrian and Jay Burns, were unable to join us at the last minute, so we improvised with the agenda in their absence. Co-Chair Paul Soprano led a robust discussion on Summer Youth Work Experiences and his agency's experience with recruiting for the program so far this year. Many members agreed it has been struggle, with open houses with no attendees and a lack of promotion from Voc Rehab Counselors. We will work with OOD to better prepare for this summer's programming. Then, Scott Marks led the committee through OPRA's feedback to DODD regarding the Blueprint proposal, as well as the status of OPRA and our budget coalition's work towards securing increased rates and equity for day and vocational service providers. The committee was supportive of OPRA's approach and feedback letter to DODD and we will continue to utilize our Day and Employment committees to support our advocacy in the budget and the Blueprint workgroup.

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: Shelly Wharton (The Society)

Policy Core Committee Representative: Shelly Wharton (The Society)

OPRA Staff Lead: Christine Touvelle

OPRA Health Care Committee
Thursday, February 9th, 2023
10am-12pm

- 1 Welcome and Introductions
- 2 Guest Speaker: Lisa Combs, OACB; Karin Crabbe, Franklin County Board of DD; Tamara Lentini, Cuyahoga County Board of DD
 - a Lisa, Karin, and Tamara shared an initiative some county board QA RNs have undertaken to revise the self-medication assessment. The goal is to revise the self-med assessment

tool and process to streamline the process and ensure the assessment is only being performed when necessary. Additional goal is to allow for a better use of technology supports with medication administration. The tool is in the initial development stage and we will share additional updates as they are available.

- 3 Nursing and the Budget Regulatory Reform Conversations
 - a Rachel Hayes gave a review of the various budget regulatory reform conversations happening with the budget coalition.
- 4 Accessing Dental Care
 - a Christine asked for resources for access to dental care for people providers are supporting. Some areas appear to have adequate access to dental care while others area do not have good dental services. Resources shared:
 - b <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/developmental-disabilities>
 - c <https://www.emergencydentistsusa.com/special-needs-dentistry-ohio/>
 - d <https://dental360usa.com/>
 - e https://network.aadmd.org/landing?space_id=8253466
- 5 Hot Topics

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: Michelle Madden (IOPC), Rachel Murphy (RHDD)

Policy Core Committee Representative: TBD

OPRA Staff Lead: Christine Touvelle

OPRA Human Resources Committee

Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

10am-12pm

1. Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: Kristi Williams, Compliance Manager, OSSAS DODD
 - The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities presented for about 45 minutes on the top citations for 2022 for agency and independent providers in compliance reviews. The top citations are:

10. UI log with required elements- Cited 49 times
 9. Internal compliance program- Cited 54 times
 8. UI policy/procedure- development & implementation- Cited 59 times
 7. Personal funds- ledger and reconciliation- Cited 60 times
 6. Documentation elements- ie. date, name, Medicaid #- Cited 75 times
 5. BCII/FBI check prior to employment- Cited 88 times
 4. Service plan implementation- Cited 90 times
 3. Pre-employment attestations- Cited 104 times
 2. Rapback enrollment for DSPs- Cited 130 times
 1. Initial database checks for new DSPs- Cited 143 times
-
3. Guest Speakers: Heida Hill, 19 Services, Inc.
 - a. Heida gave an overview of top strategies 19 Services is implementing with their clients on how to have successful compliance reviews.
 4. Conference
 - a. Proposed Sessions
 - b. This conference will host a 3 session conference day that reviews federal and state labor laws.
 5. Hot Topics

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

OPRA ICF Committee Report

February 15, 2023

1pm-3pm

OPRA's ICF Committee held their meeting on Wednesday February 15, 2023. The committee is chaired by Kurt Miller and Bob Heinzerling. Guests at today's meeting included Robert Capaldi from the Department of Developmental Disabilities.

- Robert Capaldi provided updates from the department.
- The committee listened to a presentation from Pete Moore regarding the current state of the budget ask as well as budget coalition updates. It was explained to the group that we are entering into a challenging time as we begin meeting with legislators. The coalition has been actively working on a plan to include testimony of partners as well as continuing meeting with The Impact Group to assist in developing the campaign. Pete also went over updates regarding all of the budget coalition sub-groups as those groups begin meeting to develop targeted goals of simplification and sustainability.
- The committee reviewed the Retention Bonus and if those serving both waiver and ICF individuals have developed their plans for disbursement of the bonus. The group had several questions regarding how to utilize these funds.
- A discussion was held regarding the end of the Public Health Emergency. A review of what flexibilities will change or end was reviewed. Additionally, an open discussion regarding which flexibilities the group would like to see extended was had.
- The group reviewed any surveys or citations from surveys in the recent weeks as well as priorities for the coming year.

The next meeting of the ICF Committee will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

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: Jamie Steele

OPRA Staff Lead: Rachel Hayes

OPRA Residential Committee Meeting

February 15, 2023

10am – 12pm

OPRA's Residential Waiver Committee held their meeting on Wednesday February 15, 2023. The committee is chaired by Jamie Steele and Susan Berneike.

- The group reviewed updates provided by Ann Weisent, DODD. Updates were provided via email as Ann could not be at the meeting today.
- Additionally, an update regarding the 6.5% was held. The committee reviewed the Retention Bonus and if members have developed their plans for disbursement of the bonus. The group had several questions as well as a lengthy discussion regarding how to utilize these funds.
- The committee listened to a presentation from Pete Moore regarding the current state of the budget ask as well as budget coalition updates. It was explained to the group that we are entering into a challenging time as we begin meeting with legislators. The coalition has been actively working on a plan to include testimony of partners as well as continuing meeting with The Impact Group to assist in developing the campaign. Pete also went over updates regarding all of the budget coalition sub-groups as those groups begin meeting to develop targeted goals of simplification and sustainability.
- A discussion was held regarding the end of the Public Health Emergency. A review of what flexibilities will change or end was reviewed. Additionally, an open discussion regarding which flexibilities the group would like to see extended was had.

The next meeting of the Residential Waiver Committee will be on Wednesday April 19th, 2023.

Marketing and Communications

Summary

The Marketing and Communications Committee is designed for organization leaders and their marketing and communication staff. The goal is to provide a focus on sharing strategies and tools, develop and hone innovative ideas, and provide feedback to other members of the group. The committee will periodically invite guest speakers to address identified needs of the group.

Committee Chairs: Liz Owens (The Alpha Group) and Courtney Spencer (Ability Works)

Policy Core Committee Representative: TBD

OPRA Staff Lead: Melissa Fannon

The next scheduled Marketing & Communications meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21st, 2023.

Membership Update

Membership Update **(As of 3/17/23)**

Provider Members – 187 members

- 3 new members
- 3 members quit (Assured Health, Boundless & Recreation Unlimited)
- 150 members renewed
- 34 members yet to renew (10 were new members in 2022)

\$925,510.50 was invoiced --- \$925,073.25 was invoiced by this time in 2022

\$740,379.25 has been paid so far

\$185,131.25 still owed (mostly from semi-annual and quarterly dues yet to be paid)

Public Entity Members – 28 members

- 1 new member (at level 1 membership)
- 27 members renewed (2 renewed to a Level 2 membership)

\$54,000 was invoiced --- \$48,000 was invoiced by this time in 2022

\$51,000 paid so far

\$3,000 still owed

Associate Members – 71 members

- 8 new members
- 41 members renewed
- 22 members yet to renew (16 were new members in 2022)

\$22,040 was invoiced --- \$14,105 was invoiced by this time in 2022

\$19,505 paid so far

\$2,535 still owed

Total dues invoiced for 2023 - \$1,001,550.50

Total dues paid so far - \$810,884.25

Total dues still owed - \$190,666.25

OPRA Guest/Member Initiative

The OPRA Guest/Member project is in full-swing. OPRA currently has 13 guest members, 2 of which were past OPRA members (Ardmore & Upreach). The OPRA staff will be holding a virtual scream room for guest members on March 29th.