

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

5.17.23



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.



Table of Contents

| OPRA Board Meeting Agenda | Page 3 |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| March 2023 Meeting Minutes | Page 4 |
| Policy Committee Minutes/Updates | Page 6 |
| Committee Summaries | Page 8 |
| Membership Update | Page 13 |
| Board Roster | Page 14 |

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 May 17th, 2023

- Welcome/Safe Place Statement (Adam Guinther)
- Approval of minutes from March Meeting (Adam Guinther)
- Treasurer's Report (Liz Owens)
 - Review Report
- Governance Committee Update: Upcoming Elections
- Board Report (Pete Moore)
 - Budget Update
 - Post Budget Messaging
 - Provider review feedback process
 - o Blueprint update
 - o 6.5% retention bonus/County Board Rate Contribution
 - Post Budget Priorities (small group discussion)
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
 - PAC Golf update
 - o Membership Update
 - o OPRA Team update
 - o Conference schedule for next year and beyond
- Open Discussion
- Next Meeting, June 28th, 2023 (Virtual Board Meeting)
- Adjourn and Enjoy the Conference!!!



OPRA Board Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2023

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

- Adam Guinther called the meeting to order and read the Safe Place Statement
- Adam Guinther asked the board to review and approve the minutes from minutes from February's Board meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Liz Owens and it was seconded by Mary Thompson-Hufford. The Board voted to approve the minutes.
- Liz Owens presented the Treasurer's Report and welcomed Phil Alexander, Wells Fargo. Phil reviewed OPRA's investment portfolio and talked about what to expect in 2023. There were no A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Scott DeLong and it was seconded by Phil Miller. The Board voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.
- Bob Gaston presented Governance Committee Update. Bob talked about upcoming activities for 2023. The following is what the Governance Committee discussed at their organizational meeting:
 - Review of Governance Committee Description/Charter
 - Identify and review schedule of tasks assigned to committee/oversight role Quality of Board Experience
 - Providing board members with the best possible board experience through orientation, education, mentoring, evaluating and recognition. Consider surveys during and at the end of each meeting – "reflections"
 - Suggestions on board development opportunities for consideration during annual retreat
 - Discussion about succession planning next generation of leaders
- Pete Moore presented items from the Board Report.
 - Pete discussed the upcoming opportunities for budget testimony in the House and Senate committees. He also discussed the strategy and who might participate in delivering testimony.
 - Pete talked about the budget amendment and that the DD budget coalition agreed to continue to push for an average wage of \$20/hour. Representative Scott Lipps stated we would submit an amendment that will be for and average wage of \$18/hour and work with the County Boards to get an extra dollar.
 - The Development Rule was discussed and it was announced that an amendment was introduced pursuing a change in statute to address the number of people per bedroom for providers who serve people who are medically fragile.
 - Scott Marks discussed the future of 14c advocacy with introduction of Federal legislation
 - Scott Marks led a discussion on Blueprint proposal. Tim Menke asked a question on how Blueprint and Budget work align and it was stated that one of the issues with the



- Blueprint proposal was it was developed as budget neutral and OPRA suggested the Blueprint work halt until we see the results of the current budget work.
- Pete presented the current status of the 6.5% retention bonus project and what will happen with the County Board commitment of funds beyond the retention project.
 Pete stated the County Boards are still discussing the future of the investment. Jamie Steele inquired about the project and its future.
- CEO Report (Pete Moore)
 - o PAC Golf event on June 2nd
 - Pete provided updates about the upcoming Spring Conference
 - o Pete provided an update on the current status of OPRA Membership.
- The Board discussed District meetings (plan for the rest of year, topics, guest speakers (Director? Legislator visit?)

Motion to adjourn made by Scott DeLong and seconded by Phil Miller, the Board approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Madden, Secretary

Present Board Members

District 1 – Jamie Steele, Melissa Morelli and Jim Steffey

District 2 – 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, Michelle Madden- Secretary and Phil Miller

District 6 - Adam Guinther- Chair, Liz Owens- Treasurer and Bob Heinzerling

District 7 - Diane Beastrom and Tammy Honkala

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



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, May 10th 2PM-4PM

Core Committee Member Attendance: Scott DeLong, Anne Hanning, Jennifer Marshall, Kurt Miller, Tim Neville, Jo Spargo, Shelly Wharton, Tony Thomas, Becky Sharpe, Diane Beastrom.

- Welcome and Safe Place Statement
 - Scott DeLong opened the meeting and read the safe place statement
- Budget Messaging
 - Review rate model scenarios Scott Marks reviewed the Waiver Rate Model/Template
 to show the impact of the various possible increases to the budget. We discussed the
 possibility of sharing the rate model as part of our communication strategy about the
 impact of the budget.
 - The governor and language Christine discussed the likelihood of Governor DeWine's veto of specific language related to rate increases. With the past two budgets the Governor has vetoed language that outlines specific language regarding the use of the budget increases but leaves the appropriation. This allows DODD to use the money as needed but prevents the obligation of future legislative commitments.
 - Each service type will be uniquely addressed- We stressed the fact that each service area will be impacted differently so, in turn, the messaging will look different. The messaging may include distinct messages specific to each service area.
 - Concerns about messaging?- We went through each area
 - ICF
 - Day/Voc/Employment
 - Residential Waiver
 - Shared Living
 - Remote Supports



- We asked the group for specific concerns when it comes to budget messaging. There
 were no significant concerns in each area but the need to express caution when
 discussing "average wage" was a consistent theme throughout the discussion.
- Summary: The Committee offered thoughtful and helpful discussion and feedback regarding FY 24/25 budget messaging. It was clear that we need to continue to express caution when it comes to the messaging that includes information about wages for DSPs. It was acknowledged that discussion about wage in our interactions with the legislature was very helpful especially when comparing the average wage in comparison to the what the State's Developmental Center's pays it's DSPs but when the average wage is the basis for the our discussions with DSPs, expectations are set and difficult explain. The OPRA Team will work on a messaging template that will reinforce the need for each provider to have conversations about how the rate increases will impact their organization based on the provider's need to address the workforce crisis. We will avoid the average wage and discussion about percentage increases and instead focus on the overall investment by the state and how that investment will address the workforce challenges. Each provider will consider the needs of their employees and make sound and thoughtful decisions about the best way to invest the increases in an effort to solve the workforce issues. It was acknowledged that if a provider does not consider wage increases as a part of their strategy, they will fall behind to not only DD providers, but all other industries in their community.

Meeting wrap-up- The OPRA Team will construct a communication that will reflect the discussion during the meeting and send it out for reaction.



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

The next Day Array Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1st @ 9:30am



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

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

The next HR Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th @ 10am



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

The next ICF Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21st @ 1pm

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

The next Residential Waiver Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21st @ 10am



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

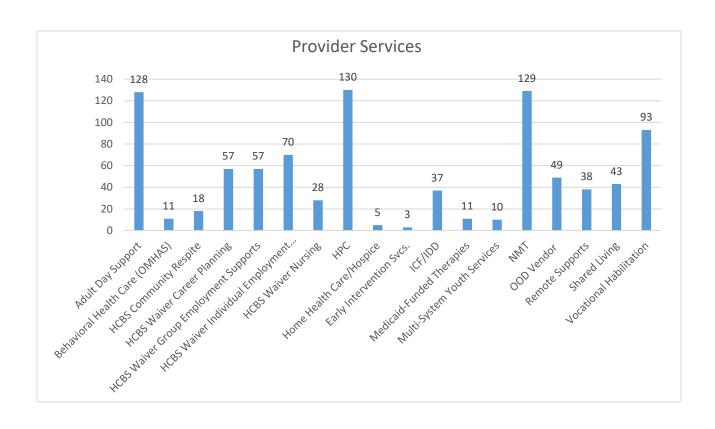
OPRA Staff Lead: Melissa Fannon

Next Marketing & Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th @ 10am.



Membership Update

- Currently, OPRA has a total of 177 provider members, 28 public entity members and 61 associate members.
- So far in 2023, OPRA gained 7 new provider agencies (No new OPRA members was generated from the March Membership Drive). 1 new public entity member (at level 1 membership) and 13 new associate members.
 - Total membership dues invoiced for 2023 (Provider, Public Entity & Associates) -\$1,098,004.25
 - o Total dues paid so far \$1,052,160.50
 - Total dues still owed \$45,843.75 (mostly due to semi-annual and quarterly payments)
- Membership Certificates and Directories will be mailed to all OPRA Provider members in June, 2023.





2023 Board of Directors Roster & Contact Info

Executive Committee

Chairperson Adam Guinther <u>aguinther@rhaminc.com</u>
Vice Chairperson Scott DeLong <u>sdelong@crsi-oh.com</u>
Treasurer Liz Owens <u>lizowens@alphagroup.net</u>
Secretary Michelle Madden <u>mmadden@iopci.org</u>
Immediate Past Chairperson Jamie Steele <u>jamie.steele@ovrs.org</u>

OPRA District 1

Melissa Morelli, Regional Director

Active Day, Inc.

2600 Civic Center Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231 Office: (513) 919-0311

Mobile:

mmorelli@activeday.com

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD

Employment Supports, HPC and NMT

Jamie Steele, Executive Director

Ohio Valley Residential Services

2261 Victory Parkway Cincinnati, OH 45206 Office: (513) 281-6800 Mobile: (513) 200-3695 jamie.steele@ovrs.org

Services Offered: Community Respite, HPC,

Remote Support and Shared Living

Jim Steffey, President/CEO

Envision

3030 West Fork Road Cincinnati, OH 45211 Office: (513) 619-2928 Mobile: (513) 550-9687 jsteffey@envisionohio.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Behavioral Health Care, HPC, Medicaid Funded Therapies, NMT and

Shared Living

Ashley Brocious, CEO

RT Industries 110 Foss Way Troy, OH 45373

OPRA District 2

Office: (937) 552-3900

Mobile:

ashley.brocious@rtindustries.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, HPC, NMT and Vocational

Habilitation

Michelle Herndon, Executive Director/CEO

S & H Products 435 Stolle Avenue Sidney, OH 45365 Office: (937) 492-3596

Mobile:

mherndon@sandcoind.com

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, HPC, NMT and Vocational

Habilitation



OPRA District 2 continued

Dennis Grant, Executive Director

United Rehabilitation Services/Dayton

4710 Old Troy Pike Dayton, OH 45424

Office: (937) 233-1230 Mobile: (937) 469-5291 dgrant@ursdayton.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Community Respite, HPC, Medicaid Funded Therapies, NMT, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, Waiver Nursing, Multi-System Youth Services and Vocational Habilitation

OPRA District 3

Lisa Reed, Executive Director

RHDD

P. O. Box 997 / 1517 Chestnut Street

Coshocton, OH 43812 Office: (740) 622-9778 Mobile: (740) 502-1838

Ireed@rhdd.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD

Employment Supports, Waiver Nursing, HPC,

NMT, Shared Living and Vocational Habilitation

P. O. Box 567

Carroll, OH 44615 Office: (330) 627-5524

Edgar J. Barnett, Jr., CEO

Carroll Hills Industries, Inc.

Mobile:

ebarnett@carrollhillsindustries.com

Services Offered: Adult Day, HCBS Employment Waivers, NMT and Vocational Habilitation

Mary Thompson Hufford, CEO

The Fuse Network

P. O. Box 4008 / 141 W. Main Street

Newark, OH 43055 Office: (740) 641-8347

Mobile:

mthompson@fuseoh.net

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD

Employment Supports, HPC, NMT and

Vocational Habilitation



OPRA District 4

Roy Cherry, Executive Director Tim Menke, CEO Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio Lott 3350 Hill Avenue 1545 Holland Road, Suite B Maumee, OH 43537 Toledo, OH 43607 Office: (419) 867-5950, Ext. 212 Office: (419) 381-5200 Mobile: Mobile: (419) 276-4658 rcherry@epilepsycenter.org tmenke@lottserves.org Services Offered: Adult Day, HCBS Employment **Services Offered:** Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Waivers, HPC, NMT and Vocational Habilitation **Employment Supports and Vocational** Habilitation **Dustin Watkins, Executive Director** Bittersweet, Inc. 12660 Archbold-Whitehouse Rd. Whitehouse, OH 43571 Office: (419) 875-6986 Mobile:

OPRA District 5

Vocational Habilitation

dwatkins@bittersweetfarms.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, HPC, ICF, NMT and

| Jeff Johnson, Executive Director | Michelle L. Madden, Executive Director |
|--|---|
| Weaver Industries, Inc. | Independence of Portage County, Inc. |
| 520 S. Main Street, Suite 2441 | 161 E. Main Street |
| Akron, OH 44311 | Ravenna, OH 44266 |
| Office: (330) 379-3660 x262 | Office: (330) 296-2851 |
| Mobile: (330) 815-1125 | Mobile: |
| jjohnson@weaverindustries.org | mmadden@iopci.org |
| Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD | Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD |
| Employment Supports, NMT and Vocational | Employment Supports, HPC, ICF, NMT and |
| Habilitation | Remote Supports |
| Phillip E. Miller, CEO | |
| Portage Industries, Inc. | |
| 7007 State Route 88 | |
| Ravenna, OH 44266 | |
| Office: (330) 296-3996 | |
| Mobile: (330) 221-6143 | |
| pmiller@portageind.org | |
| Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD | |
| Employment Supports, HPC, NMT, Shared Living | |
| and Vocational Habilitation | |



OPRA District 6

Adam Guinther, Executive Director

Residential Home Association of Marion (RHAM)

205 W. Center Street Marion, OH 43302 Office: (740) 387-9999 Mobile: (419) 565-3677

aguinther@rhaminc.com

Services Offered: Waiver Nursing, HPC & NMT

Services Officied: Warver Harsing, The Cartin

Liz Owens, CEO

The Alpha Group of Delaware, Inc.

1000 Alpha Drive Delaware, OH 43015

Office: (740) 368-5810, Ext. 113

Mobile:

lizowens@alphagroup.net

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, HPC, NMT and Vocational

Habilitation

Robert Heinzerling, Executive Director

Heinzerling Community 1800 Heinzerling Drive Columbus, OH 43223 Office: (614) 272-8888 Mobile: (614) 638-5774 rheinzer@heinzerling.org

Services Offered: ICF

OPRA District 7

Diane Beastrom, President/CEO

Koinonia Homes, Inc.

6161 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 400

Independence, OH 44131 Office: (216) 588-8777 Mobile: (216) 262-0813

diane.beastrom@koinoniahomes.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Behavioral Health Care, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, HPC, ICF, Multi-System Youth Services, NMT, Remote Supports, Shared Living and Vocational Habilitation

Beth Lucas, President/CEO

UCP of Greater Cleveland 10011 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44106 Office: (216) 453-4951 Mobile: (216) 534-9960 blucas@ucpcleveland.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, ICF, Medicaid-Funded Therapies, NMT and Vocational Habilitation



OPRA District 7 continued

Tamara Honkala, President/CEO

HELP Foundation, Inc. 26900 Euclid Avenue Euclid, OH 44132

Office: (216) 432-4810 Mobile: (440) 840-8951

thonkala@helpfoundationinc.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD Employment Supports, Waiver Nursing, HPC,

Medicaid-Funded Therapies, NMT, Remote Supports

and Vocational Habilitation

OPRA At-Large Directors

Scott DeLong, President/CEO

Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI) 1150 Scioto Street, Suite 100

Urbana, OH 43078 Office: (937) 653-1353 Mobile: (937) 776-9380 sdelong@crsi-oh.com

Services Offered: Community Respite, Waiver

Nursing, HPC, ICF, NMT and Remote Supports

Bob Gaston, CEO

ARC Industries, Inc. 2780 Airport Drive, Suite 450 Columbus, OH 43219 Office: (614) 479-2450

Mobile:

bob.gaston@arcind.com

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver & OOD **Employment Supports, NMT and Vocational**

Habilitation

Felicia Hall, Regional Director - Ohio

ResCare, Inc. 5099 Camelot Drive Fairfield, OH 45014

Office: (513) 858-4550 x111 Mobile: (513) 460-1708 fhall@rescare.com

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver

Employment, Waiver Nursing, HPC, ICF, NMT, Remote Support, Shared Living and Vocational

Habilitation

Kurt Miller, President/CEO

Empowering People, Inc. 1268 N. River Road, NE Warren, OH 44483 Office: (330) 974-1266 Mobile: (330) 307-6816

kmiller@empowering-people.net

Services Offered: Adult Day, HPC, ICF and

Vocational Habilitation



OPRA At-Large Directors continued

Timothy Neville, President/CEO

Echoing Hills Village, Inc. 36272 County Road 79 Warsaw, OH 43844

Office: (740) 327-2311 x1134 Mobile: (330) 324-8340

tneville@ehvi.org

Services Offered: Adult Day, Waiver

Employment, Waiver Nursing, HPC, ICF, NMT, Remote Support and Vocational Habilitation