***OPRA Board of Trustees***

***Consent Agenda***

***February 25, 2015***

***NOTE: Some of the information is carried over from the prior month. Updates are in red font and underlined.***

***A. Efficiencies and Simplification Focus Area***

**1. Licensure and County Board Accreditation/National Accreditation**

The Partnership is continuing to pursue abbreviated reviews for county board accreditation and licensure. Nancy Neely and Mark Davis are coordinating this effort for the Partnership. The Partnership recently agreed to send a letter to Director Martin, requesting a meeting to discuss making this effort a priority.

**2. Background Checks - Rapback**

The Automated Registry Check System (ARCS) is now available to all HCBS waiver providers in Ohio. It is also available for ICF providers. It is one portal for providers to enter data for all registries. The state is preparing to extend Rapback to DD and other providers soon. Several members have reported problems accessing the system. Although not widespread, ODM has been experiencing IT problems and is fixing issues one provider at a time. Anita is coordinating with ODM one member at a time. There have been a handful of issues in the past month.

**3. SSA and Program Management**

CMS has informed DODD that an end date is needed, for county boards to discontinue delivering HCBS as the boards also deliver TCM. It is expected that DODD will attempt to negotiate a 10 year timetable for county boards to be out of delivering HBCS.

**4. Behavior Support Rule**

OADSP has developed a training curriculum and training dates have been set through April. DODD will also be offering webinars. “Preview” training sessions brought to light issues that will conflict with ICF regs. Kate Haller will be the point person when there are conflicting citations and will coordinate efforts with ODH. We have received inquiries from members on the content of the training sessions, specifically around rights restrictions/access to food and the involvement of the guardians. DODD sent out a memo clarifying the use of the behavior add-on. The language is more direct than previous versions and will allow for an increased use of the add-on.

**5. Threshold for Exempt Status**

The US DOL is expected to release a proposed rule. ANCOR will respond according to the content of that rule. As part of an ANCOR contingency, Than Johnson and Mark Davis met with the US DOL. The DOL is considering changing their regulations to increase the $455 weekly threshold for exempt status. OPRA presented data from the salary survey and members that indicated a cut in DSP wages if DOL pursued this course.

**6. Video Conferencing**

We are researching other options that are less expensive. Our contract with Blue Jeans expires in August of 2015.

**7.** **ODH and DODD Streamlining**

No Update.

***B. Workforce Sustainability and Quality Focus Area***

**1. Waiver Pilot**

No update.

***C. Compassionate and Accountable System Reform Focus Area***

**1. Health Home Project**

We are evaluating our strategy moving forward. It may be best to pursue an integrated, coordinated system of care rather than an IDD-specific health home.

**2. Adult Foster Care (Shared Living Services)**

DODD asked OPRA to lead a workgroup of system stakeholders to identify ways to increase the use of Adult Foster Care statewide. During the June 16, 2014, meeting at Goodwill/ Columbus, hosted by OPRA, committee members discussed the need for *clear messaging* regarding the re-branding of Adult Foster Care (AFC) services, and the *change in terminology* needed to move away from AFC to a new name for the services,

We now have 18 counties who have indicated an interest in working with us. We are in the process of setting up meetings with those counties an interested providers. Our goal is to create working relationships between providers and the individual counties to allow a proactive approach to matching individuals with potential new waivers.

**3. Building System Capacity for Individuals Experiencing Intense Challenges.**

No Update.

**4. Trauma Informed Care**

DODD is sponsoring several training sessions over the next few months. The first one is full. Nursing and Social work credits available. OPRA is partnering with Kim Kehl of OMHAS in an effort to get regional training and meeting notices out to our members. Kim attended the joint Policy and Program Directors meeting and presented information on MHAS’ TIC efforts. We met with the AP group which specializes in TIC training and implementation. We are discussing regional training opportunities.

***D. Business Intelligence Tool***

No update

***E. Dropout/DSP Pilot Project***

OADSP presented to South-Western Schools earlier this month.  School officials were extremely impressed at the curriculum and the structure of the program, even mentioning that this is better than any CBI program they currently offer.  They wish to run their C3P(O) program in two years.   First year the students would earn their CIP and the second year they would earn their CAP.  They also mentioned that ODE recently introduced new requirements for graduation that apply to the Class of 2018.  One of these requirements is that students must have the ability to learn and develop specific job-related skills  that are directly connected to a job-in-demand in Ohio.  With this said, it firms up the idea that this is a perfect collaboration.  Jason is now contacting agencies to see if they are interested in being a host site for the internships.

***F. Member Relations Data***

A member tracking system is being developed and the data is being processed to track member related communications. This data will be used to track trends, identify training needs and address member concerns. Staff will coordinate the development of training and information resources for our members in 2015.

***G. Communication Plan***

OPRA’s semiannual publication, *Provider Periodical* is being designed for the distribution date of April 30, 2015. Topical articles, updates, editorials and advertisement opportunities will be the focal points of each publication. As part of OPRA’s marketing plan, promotional materials, vendor booth design and attendance at statewide conferences are being scheduled.

Mark Watson has been reviewing data that influences how providers manage their businesses. Questions, comments and concerns have been reviewed and the information reveals that managing a business takes more than compassion for others; it requires a multifaceted approach to business management.

Over 177 communications were reviewed and the facts revealed that Compliance, Human Resources, Legislative and Policy, and Housing top the list of concerns. This information was categorized by districts, so that solutions may be locally designed and delivered.

***H. New Member Orientation***

On February 5th and 6th, 2 (repeat) sessions were held to help clarify the benefits of OPRA membership. A review of the lists serves, committees, benefits, and member discounts spanned the morning. The members received a review of current changes and an update on advocacy from OPRA staff.

After an OPRA sponsored lunch, presenters informed the members of business trends, diverse marketing approaches, scheduling system options, DSP training opportunities and the newest in IT for the new or growing business.

The participants provided valuable feedback to modify or change the orientation, but the overall comments were extremely positive and very appreciated.

**J. Roundup, Magazine and Website Advertisements**

We are considering paid advertisements in OPRA Roundup, OPRA Website and other OPRA publications. We have received very positive comments regarding our latest efforts in communicating with our members and see the opportunity to offer additional services to those organizations that might benefit from advertising in our publications. OPRA Roundup circulation exceeds 800 readers and is growing monthly.

***K. Technical Assistance Projects***

At their request, OPRA has proposals for technical assistance in to the Kentucky Association of Private Providers and the Iowa Association of Community Providers. These two projects, if accepted, will result in OPRA being at our maximum capacity in providing external technical assistance.

**L. CMS Regulations on Definition of Community, Conflict-Free Case Management, Person-Centered Planning – State’s draft transition plan**

The state has closed its comment period for the draft CMS HCBS transition plan. The plan is due to CMS on March 17, 2015.

**M. Internship Program**

Nathaniel Cindrich is a first-year MSW student at The Ohio State University. He is originally from Warsaw, Indiana and studied psychology and cognitive science at Indiana University Bloomington. During his undergraduate career, Nathaniel worked in a lab that researched visual processing using electroencephalography and eye-tracking. Currently, he is interested in macro social work practice and social justice. Nathaniel will be working closely with staff on research, projects and the upcoming spring conference.

**N. Provider Information and Selection Tool Pilot**

Cuyahoga and Coshocton Counties, along with OPRA members in those counties, are designing a provider information and selection tool pilot. The pilot will propose an “Angie’s List”-type tool for people to obtain useful information on providers. We have talked with one vendor and have a meeting set to talk with another vendor. After the second vendor conversation, we will determine our path forward. DODD is aware and supportive of our efforts.