

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 Meeting Packet

January 24, 2024

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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’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.

**Board Meeting Agenda**

**1/24/24**

* Welcome and Safe Place Statement
* New Board -Members’introduction
* Approval of December minutes
* Finance Committee Report
  + Approval of financial report
* Governance Committee
  + Board self-assessment
  + Board Doctor visit next month
* Board Report
  + Waiver modernization update
  + ARPA grants
  + State budget priorities
    - Capital
    - Operating
  + DODD compliance proposal
* CEO Report
  + Strategic planning plan
    - Internal
      * Member survey
      * Board self-assessment
      * Dues
      * Non-dues revenue
    - External
      * The future of our system; the next 5 -10 Years
      * Funding and reform
      * Partnerships (beyond the coalition)
  + Great Provider Series (GPS)
    - COO and middle/front-line manager training
    - DSP annual requirements (OPRA Talks)
  + 2024 Spring Conference
    - Logistics
    - Format/Sessions
  + Dues Review Committee
* Open Discussion
* Next meeting (In-person, 2-28-24)
* Adjourn

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**12-21-23**

* Welcome and Safe Place Statement: Adam Guinther opened the meeting welcoming the Board and he read the safe place statement.
* Recognition of Board Members: Adam Guinther and Pete Moore Thanked Michelle Herndon, Beth Lucas, and Phil Miller for the their participation on the OPRA Board and for their dedication to OPRA.
* Finance Committee Report: Liz Owens, Board Treasurer, introduced the OPRA 2024 budget to the Board and opened the discussion. Pete Moore talked about some of the highlights including the hiring of a new OPRA Team member, the Chief Innovation Officer. Pete indicated that the hiring of a new employee is the biggest change in the budget and a needed addition to as we head into waiver redesign, ICF modernization, and other system reform work. Pete highlighted that this budget is not as conservative as previous budgets during his tenure, but the additional team member is needed as we look toward the future.
  + 2024 Budget approval: Liz Owens made the motion to pass the 2024 Operating Budget as presented, Michelle Madden seconded the motion, the budget passed with a unanimous vote.
* 2024 Schedule review: Pete Moore presented the 2024 OPRA Board meeting schedule. There were no significant changes to the presented schedule.
* Open Discussion: There were no open discussion topics.
* Adjourn: Scott DeLong made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Tami Honkala seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

**Present Board Members**

**District 1 –** JamieSteele, Jim Steffey, and Felicia Hall

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

**District 3 –** EdgarBarnett, Lisa Reed and Mary Thompson-Hufford (absent)

**District 4 –** RoyCherry and Tim Menke

**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, Tammy Honkala and Beth Lucas (absent)

**At-Large –**Scott DeLong- Vice Chair, Felicia Hall, Bob Gaston, Kurt Miller and Tim Neville

**OPRA Staff Present**

* Pete Thompson
* Pete Moore
* Scott Marks

**Building OPRA’s Strategic Plan**

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**The Future of our System: OPRA’s Strategic Priorities**

1. What do we need to do to build a sustainable system?
   1. Waiver redesign
   2. ICF Modernization
   3. Ongoing cost of living increases
   4. System reform priorities
      1. MUI
      2. Certification
      3. Limit the number of providers
      4. Billing
   5. Funding priorities
2. Who should we partner with and why?
   1. What does the future Provider and County Board relationship look like?
   2. What does the future Provider and DODD relationship look like?
   3. What does the future Provider and Person Served/Family relationship look like?
3. How do we lead the Quality Discussion?
   1. What is a “Provider in Excellent Standing” (PIES)?
      1. How do we measure quality services?
      2. How do we measure sound business practices?
      3. How do we measure compliance with rules and regulations?
   2. What should PIES providers get in return?

**OPRA Committee Reports**

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| Policy Committee |

Summary

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 Agenda**

**Wednesday, December 13th**

**10 AM-12 PM**

* Welcome and Safe Place Statement
* BEST update
  + Scott gave an update on the developments of the BEST service (paid voc hab). The update brings a nearly 8 year workgroup to an almost close. Slides describing the changes are available on the website or upon request from Scott.
* Small group work
  + The OPRA team gave updates on the small group work that was established at the last committee meeting.
  + Alt Payment: expect an email next week from Scott with some information on alternative payment methods from ANCOR.
  + Rule Review: DODD has slowed down rule review going into the last part of the year. We anticipate rule reviews to pick up in the near year but at a slower pace than this fall. This group is ad hoc and will review rules as they are put out for public comment and public hearing.
* MUI review
  + Rachel gave an update on DODD’s MUI workgroup. The group has met a few times to discuss areas of possible change and has focused on the culture of MUI investigations and the impact on staffing.
* Self-Med Assessment review
  + Rachel and Christine gave an overview of proposed changes to the self-medication administration assessment and additional considerations. Susan Mullins from DODD will be presenting in the Health Care Committee tomorrow (12/14) on the changes. A link of the presentation will be available for review. Please reach out to Christine or Rachel for additional information.
* HB 236 and 321
  + Christine reviewed two pieces of legislation that could impact the DD system. Bill language and LSC analysis was distributed to the group prior to the meeting.
  + HB 236 woud require licensed settings to allow residents to designate an “advocate” who would be able to access the resident with few limitations.
  + HB 321 would establish a statewide database for first responders where people could list any “special needs.” The intent to minimize conflict between first responders and people with disabilities and avoid negative outcomes from these interactions. Committee members shared local examples of where such databases already exist.
  + Any additional comments or thoughts on the legislation should be sent to Christine.
* Meeting wrap-up
  + Christine will send out a 2024 reoccurring calendar invite for the committee at the start of next year.

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| 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),

**Policy Core Committee Representative:**

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Scott Marks

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| Employment |

Summary

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),

**Policy Core Committee Representative:**

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Scott Marks

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| 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(s):** Shelly Wharton (The Society)

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

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Anita Allen

**OPRA Health Care Committee**

**Thursday, December 14th, 2023**

**10am-12pm**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Guest Speaker: Susan Mullins, DODD
   1. Susan gave an overview of proposed changes to the self-med admin assessment and additional considerations. The changes are the result of work by the budget coalition to streamline the assessment process and align the assessment with technology advances in the med admin space. Copies of the assessment and additional considerations were sent to the committee prior to the meeting.
   2. Comments on the changes are being collected till 12/22 although additional thoughts can be sent after the deadline. Comments can either be sent to Christine and Rachel or ma.database@dodd.ohio.gov
3. Hot Topics:
   1. Planning for next year
   2. Christine is sending a survey link to gather feedback to plan for next year. We would love to hear your feedback so we can plan the best possible committee in 2024.
   3. Christine will be sending out a reoccurring calendar invite for the 2024 meetings at the start of next year.

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| 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:** Patty Schlosser (Manahan)

**Policy Core Committee Representative:** TBD

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Christine Touvelle

OPRA Human Resources Committee

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023

10am-12pm

**Agenda and Notes**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Update on OPRA’s Compensation and Benefits Survey
   1. New vendor, revised questions, tentative timeline
   2. Christine provided an update on the small workgroup who is revising the OPRA compensation and benefits survey. The group made significant changes to the benefits sections and will be looking at the line personnel sections next.
   3. The small group decided on a quarter 2, 2024 survey so that data would be available for year-end budgets. This will limit data to the 1/1/24 increase.
   4. OPRA has contracted with a new vendor- Compensation Resources- to conduct the survey.
3. HR Trends Round Table
   1. Predictions for hot issues and rule changes in 2024
   2. Christine led a presentation on the HR-related issues we are watching in 2024. Scott, Pete, and Rachel added comments. The presentation was sent out to the committee and is also available on the OPRA website.
   3. Planning for next year’s schedule of committee meetings
      1. Guest speakers, topics
      2. The committee provided suggestions for speakers for next year’s committee meetings and conference session. Suggestions include: unionization in the DD space, RapBack and reading background checks, frontline supervisor and middle manager training, employee mental health and performance reviews, fostering autonomy in frontline workers, using stay interviews, documenting employee issues, alternative benefits, AI in HR, licensure/certification compliance for HR

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| 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**

**Committee Chairs: Bob Heinzerling, Kurt Miller  
OPRA Staff Liason: Rachel Hayes**

OPRA’s ICF Committee meeting was held on December 10, 2023. Several guests participated in discussion. OPRA was pleased to host Beth Chambers from DODD who provided updates and information related to the OISP. Beth discussed implementation timelines as well as a status update regarding ongoing meetings between the department and ODH. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that ODH is on board, particularly with the assessment piece. Beth assured members that ODH has stated they are on board with the OISP. Any areas where a citation will be issued regarding the OISP will go to both the department and ODH for review.

A discussion regarding telehealth was held and how this fits into the Technology First piece that Ohio has championed. Additionalluy, members discussed building security and entry issues to gather feedback on how different providers handle this issue. Finally, the group engaged in a discussion regarding House Bill 236 (Never Alone Act). The group was presented with information regarding the potential legislation and some of the issues that this legislation would propose. Christine and Rachel let the group know that we are in the beginning stages of this process and will continue to update the group to potential legislation being drawn up.

1. OISP Update

* Beth Chambers, DODD

1. House Bill 236
2. Telehealth Discussion
3. QIDP Credentialing
4. Building security / Entry procedures

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| 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:** TBD

**OPRA Staff Lead:** Rachel Hayes

**OPRA RESIDENTIAL WAIVER COMMITTEE**

**Committee Chairs: Susan Berneike, Jamie Steele  
OPRA Staff Liason: Rachel Hayes**

OPRA’s Residential Waiver Committee was held on December 20, 2023. Several guests participate in discussion. OPRA was pleased to host Beth Chambers from DODD who provided updates and information related to the OISP. Beth discussed implementation timelines as well as a status update regarding ongoing meetings. Beth reported that most county board’s are onboard with the process and they feel that SSA’s are beginning to embrace the process. There are still IT bugs that need to be addressed. DODD is addressing these bugs based on the level of importance.

Additionally, the group held a discussion regarding waiver nursing and assessment. Rachel reviewed new draft of the Self-Administration Assessment and some of the changes. Overall the group was pleased with the form. The form will be available for use sometime at the start of the new year. The group also discussed updates regarding Waiver Redesign and the subgroups formed to look at new services (particularly around telehealth). Finally, the group engaged in a discussion regarding House Bill 236 (Never Alone Act). The group was presented with information regarding the potential legislation and some of the issues that this legislation would propose. Christine and Rachel let the group know that we are in the beginning stages of this process and will continue to update the group to potential legislation being drawn up.

1. OISP Discussion

* Beth Chambers, DODD
* Most pressing issues
* Advocacy going forward

1. Waiver Nursing and Assessment
2. House Bill 236
3. Update on Waiver Redesign Subgroups