***OPRA Board of Trustees***

***Consent Agenda***

***September 23, 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 sent a letter to Director Martin, requesting a meeting to discuss making this effort a priority. We will follow up with Director Martin, now that the budget process has concluded.

**2. 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.

**3. Threshold for Exempt Status**

The US DOL released their proposed rule that would increase the $455 weekly threshold for exempt status to $970/week, or $50,440 annually. ANCOR provided testimony to The Education And Workforce Committee,  Subcommittee On Workforce Protections of the US House of Representatives. ANCOR’s testimony highlighted DD provider’s almost sole reliance on Medicaid, our strong desire to pay our staff fairly and to be able to afford to stay in business. ANCOR suggested a conversation with lawmakers, so they may better understand our situation and review our data. OPRA has asked our members to participate in a data collection effort by ANCOR. This regulation has the potential to have a major impact on provider’s viability and we will actively participate with ANCOR in their efforts on this regulation.

**4. Video Conferencing**

We had our first round of meetings using *Go to Meeting/Go to Webinar*. Feedback indicates some issues with audio (difficult to hear) and the question feature (typed questions are not presented on screen). Urban computing is making adjustments to improve the quality of the sessions.

**5.** **ODH and DODD Streamlining**

The budget bill contains language that would give DODD the authority to delegate licensure reviews to ODH. The administration intends to follow this path. The internal champion at OHT has retired, calling into question the administration’s ability to complete this transition.

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

**1. Waiver Pilot**

The budget bill contains language that allows DODD to request authorization from CMS to do a daily or weekly rate in the IO waiver. The final report on the waiver pilot is being completed and should be to OHT by July 31st. The report may recommend residential habilitation as a waiver service. “Res hab” is an all-inclusive service that will be studied further by the OPRA waiver kitchen cabinet.

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

**1. Healthcare Integration Workgroup**

Following the meeting hosted by Bard Edwards on May 29th and a conversation with Director Martin, it was decided that we would focus on obesity and trauma in Ohioans with IDD. Our intent is to look at the impact on healthcare outcomes and cost for these two conditions. Along with Ohio, four other states have been identified as potential participants. Currently, Jason and Maryse is working on finalizing a business plan which will include appropriate framework that can be used to secure funding through a variety of potential sources. Providers that indicated an interest to participate in the Health Home initiative will be contacted soon to determine their willingness to be part of this pilot. Informational meetings will be scheduled. A full project description and plan will be issued soon.

A meeting was held on July 9th with interested members to review the purpose of our plan and provide insight on the next steps. Five member agencies participate. Our next steps include refining our business plan, seek funding and build on our data that focuses specifically on obesity and trauma for individuals with IDD.

The business plan has been drafted. We are making some minor changes. Maryse is completing the final report from the summary completed by Barb Edwards. The new OSU intern has been doing a literature review, specifically to build the argument of the importance of this research and what it potentially could lead to. Mark has made national connections at CMS and those associated with doing similar research.

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

We are convening a stakeholder meeting Wednesday, June 17th with interested members, county board SSAs, advocates and the Department to create a statewide Strategic Marketing Plan focusing on recruiting host families and educating families and SSAs about Shared Living as a model.

On September 1st b.complex creative delivered the revised marketing plan to OPRA and OACBDD. The plan will be discussed with DODD on September 22nd. Carolyn Knight of Ohio DD Council has indicated an interest on the part of Council to review the plan to see how Council might assist.

**3. Trauma Informed Care**

Kim Kiehl presented TIC information at the HR Committee meeting on 5/12. The HR Committee is compiling data for Kim to use in determining next steps for further proliferating TIC in our system.

***D. Business Intelligence Tool***

We have selected a data visualization tool, data base platform and strategy for moving forward. Our goal is to have a demo for the board by August 31, 2015. The BI tool will start out narrow in scope and be for internal OPRA purposes, then in 2016 will be expanded for general membership purposes.

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

OPRA member providers: Heinzerling, CCHS and ViaQuest have all shown extreme interest in hosting the students for their internships. The next step is to meet with identified teachers at Franklin Heights High School to begin to prepare mentors and providers. We also plan on pursuing a grant to pay for the student graduation stipends and off set some of the OPRA costs associated with promoting and supporting the program. Franklin Heights High School CBI students received the application to participate in the program. As of May 13th, 15 students applied.

13 Franklin Heights students were interviewed on May 27th, of which, all will be accepted into the program. Heinzerling, CCHS and ViaQuest presented prior to the interviews.

Currently we are working on the agreements between all parties, creating the syllabus, setting up orientation, scheduling a meet and greet, planning staff mentor training, and developing a logo. We do plan to have two back-to-back sessions at our fall conference where the program will be discussed, along with provider, educator and student testimonials.

We continue receiving calls across the state, both from providers and schools interested in learning more about the program. We have been asked to speak that the Ohio Career Tech Adminstrator’s conference in October.

Delaware County Career and Technical School has expressed serious interest in incorporating C3P(O) into their Health Sciences program as a “requirement”. They wish to implement this in the 2015-16 school year. Jason met with them on May 22nd.

Janice Hall and Jason met with Dennis Doutt who is on the Board of East Guernsey Local School District and the Vice President of Mid-East Career and Technical Center in Guernsey County. Mid-East Career and Technical Center has a new Superintendent starting in August who is looking for new opportunities to offer students. We are planning to schedule a meeting in the early fall to talk about the possibility of C3P(O) being offered at Mid-East in the 2016-17 school year.

A draft of the syllabus is completed and is awaiting review and approval from SWCS. Provider training has been scheduled in August. Vorys and Jason has been working on the contract.

The inaugural class started on August 31st. We were excited to find out that all 13 students interviewed returned and were excited to get started. On September 1st, Congressman Stivers, Director Martin and Mark attended class to give kick off speeches which were well received. Also in attendance was Franklin County Board of DD Superintendent Jed Morrison who has indicated his support for this program. Jason and Bethany have revised the budget for new programs going forward. Necessary changes to the program will be made, based on lessons from this first class. The target is to have five additional locations offering the program in the 2016-17 school year.

***F. Member Relations Data***

Training topics have been identified as; Wage & Hour, Housing, Legislative & Policy, Employment & Integrated Services, and Business Development. This information is being developed into sessions for this summer and fall. In addition, training is being created to specifically meet the needs of our members based on size and location. An HR seminar was held in Marion on 9/15/15.

***G. Communication Plan***

OPRA owned website went live on May 13, 2015. This new cost effective design and member friendly tool, will enable members and staff to navigate easier. This new system will aid in the elimination of tasks for staff and abolish other programs (AdminE, SurveyMonkey, Capwiz) over the next few months at a savings. The new website will be fully functional by late summer, with little or no impact on members in the meantime. This new website enables OPRA to move closure to the implementation of the BI Tool currently under development. We have experienced several problems with the functionality of the website recently, due to being hacked. Working with Urban computing to restore lost data and regain full function.

***H. New Member Orientation***

In August 2015, sessions are being scheduled for 2015 OPRA members to help clarify the benefits of membership, a review of the lists serves, committees, benefits, and member discounts.

A new member orientation was held on Thursday, August 6. Several new members attended and the feedback was positive.

Two separate sessions are planned for early 2016: Thursday, January 28, and Friday, January 29. We welcome any input on content/speakers/vendors.

***I. Technical Assistance Projects***

OPRA will provide technical assistance to the Kentucky Association of Private Providers (KAPP), in the following areas: website development and maintenance, conference planning and implementation, member services/vendor arrangements. Urban Computing is in the process of transferring the website platform. Mark and Anita attended the KAPP Board meeting on 5/21. Six of our vendors presented on their services. The KAPP website project has not gone smoothly, due to several factors including the OPRA vendor’s website crashing. An acceptable resolution is being worked out with KAPP.

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

The state submitted the transition plan to CMS. Facility-based combination of work/non-work (for settings that are determined to have institutional qualities based on an on-site evaluation) are proposed by the state to be remediated by March 2024. CMS spoke at the ANCOR conference and indicated that any request for an extension of time to come into compliance with the rule will be denied, but also indicated that states who are on a clear path to compliance will be dealt with moderately. Governor Kasich vetoed the language in the budget that would have required the continuation of sheltered employment and provider capacity in sheltered employment. Both requirements if enacted, would have appeared to be in violation of federal law. It is possible that the House and Senate will move to override the governor’s veto.

***K. Internship Program***

A new intern will begin in the Fall 2015 semester. Christine Touvelle is a BSW student at OSU who has experience in the I/DD field. She is very interested in learning more about our field of services on a macro-level. She will be with us for both the fall and spring semesters.

***L. 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. DODD is aware and supportive of our efforts.

We have selected Provider Search as the company to proceed with the pilot. We are in the process of contracting with Provider Search. The 4 OPRA member participants, 2 county boards and 1 parent on the leadership team for the pilot agreed on draft Goals for the pilot. DODD and OACB have approved funding and will partner with the OPRA Foundation on the new website.

***M. Events***

Trainings are being created for our Human Resource staff for a day seminar to provide updates on Wage and Hour (Exempt/Non-Exempt), Workers Compensation, FMLA/ADA, and Social Media. The Nursing Committee and our events staff are coordinating a day training for our nurses the potential topics are: The Role of a Nurse in the DD Field 101, Timeline for QA, Being a Nurse and the Law and an Autism session. Both of the seminars will offer CEUs. The goal is to have these trainings in August.

Annual awards nominations close on Friday, 9/25. By this time, the programming should have been published, and attendee registration open. Sponsor, exhibitor and advertiser requests are still coming in. The party on Tuesday night, 11/3, will feature a beanbag tournament benefitting one winning team and the OPRA|PAC. If you can lend OPRA beanbag sets, please see Emily! The Annual Meeting for OPRA Members takes place first thing on Day 2 (11/4). Please spread the word that all employees of OPRA Member organizations are welcome and encouraged to attend (the meeting has been submitted for CEUs).

***N. Ohio Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, September 13 – 19, 2015***

At OPRA’s request, Governor Kasich has once again proclaimed a Ohio Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week. This year’s week is September 13 – 19. At OPRA’s request, US Senators Brown and Portman cosponsored the Senate resolution to do so nationally.

***O. Employment First/Day Services***

Many changes have been made to the previously submitted draft revisions to the proposed day array services from March 2015. Jason sent out to the Board a summary of these changes. Since then, no new information has been provided by the Dept. as of yet.

From the EF Advisory Committee meeting this week, the following information was shared:

* OOD/DODD EF Partnership
  + There are 25 active EF VRCs in the State with a caseload of 60.
  + 2,196 individuals are eligible
  + To date—there has been a total of 362 placements (since the life of the partnership). There is no information on how many of the 362 are still employed.
  + OOD is going to look at determining a way to share information with SSAs after they close a case to ensure continuous communication.
* Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) the online calculator is scheduled to go live in September 2015. Regional trainings will be offered and providers are encouraged to attend. A list of dates/locations will be sent.
* Employment First Tracking System
  + 11,530 Employment Records
  + 10,561 Individuals Records
    - The difference in these two numbers is that some people my have more that one job.
    - These numbers also include enclaves and VH.
    - The breakdown of the data:
      * $7.90 is the average hourly wage for Community-Based Employment
      * 2,282 people in SE Individual with an average hourly wage of $8.02, working 18.7 hours per week
      * 2,019 people in SE Enclave with an average hourly wage of $7.72, working 20.1 hours per week
      * 25 people are self-employed with an average hourly wage of $8.31, working 23.22 hours per week
      * Of the numbers above:
        + 75% are A
        + 1.2% are A1
        + 1.8% are B
        + 1% are C
        + 22% None (not on waiver)
      * $3.35 is the average hourly wage for individuals employed in Sheltered Workshops
      * 30.8% earn less than $1.00 per hour
      * 50.3% earn between $1 - $5 per hour
        + 66% are A
        + .03% are A1
        + 15% are B
        + 6.5% are C
        + 14% None (not on waiver)
  + Dept is looking to expand this system to include individuals who live in ICF’s
* EF State Leadership Mentor Program through ODEP is currently working to align policy and activity around transition youth. Implement in October. Working with Dr. Pinchak of OSU and Dr. Sabo of Wright State
* The department has indicated that they are still moving forward with the three RFPs. They hope to have these out in August.
  + ICF-Employment
  + Integrated Community Supports
  + Employment Navigator Liaison

Recently the department announced that existing services Adult Day Supports (ADS) and Vocational Habilitation (VH) will remain in place as they currently are (same ratio and same reimbursement rate) through this next waiver application period (4 years). The impression remains that the department will phase out these services over time, so it is imperative that providers continue to plan for change. The new services (Integrated Community Supports, Supported Employment Enclave and Supported Employment – Individual) are expected to launch July 1, 2016.

The Department has promised an update around the end of September 2015 or the beginning of October. This update will include proposed rates. Teresa Kobelt is presenting on the updates at the OPRA Fall Conference.