***OPRA Board of Trustees***

***Consent Agenda***

***April 27, 2016***

***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 at a later time due to the current system reform workload.

**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. DODD negotiated 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. Mark is co-chairing the ANCOR national campaign to impact the regulation. A kick-off conference call was held with ANCOR members on Wednesday, December 9th. A lobbyist, consultant and PR firm have been engaged by ANCOR for the campaign. Mark has participated in several meetings with lawmakers in DC in hopes of securing legislation for provider relief and to impact the DOL regulation. It is possible that the regulation could be released as early as April. ANCOR continues to work on building partnerships to impact the rule and to gain funding too.

The rule is expected to be finalized no later than May 16th, to avoid potential invalidation of the rule under the Congressional Review Act. The rule is expected to have a 60 day implementation period. ANCOR continues to ask for a longer implementation period, a lower OT exemption threshold, and a temporary increase in funding to allow time for states and providers to plan for dealing with the rule.

The Save Our Services (SOS) Campaign is getting more attention from legislators, the administration and the media ([www.disabilitysos.org](http://www.disabilitysos.org)). A letter is being circulated for House democrats to sign, asking for special consideration with the implementation timeframe for human services organizations. Two potential sponsors of legislation for a temporary FMAP bump have been identified, with legislation introduction as soon as possible, perhaps by mid-May.

4 OPRA members (Matt Ottiger, Lisa Reed, Kurt Miller and Adam Guinther) and Mark participated in an ANCOR fly-in to DC on April 21st. Rep Stivers and staff from Senators Brown and Portman and Rep Fudge met with the OPRA group. Ohio federal legislators may play an important role in any solution for DD providers.

It has been reported that US Department of Labor Secretary Perez acknowledged that IDD providers are one of two groups that have a valid concern with the rule. ANCOR has requested a meeting with Secretary Perez.

**4.** **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. It has been reported that ODH has begun doing ICF surveys on behalf of DODD.

***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 was completed and sent to OHT. The report recommended the state look into residential habilitation as a waiver service. DODD released a draft rule for residential habilitation with a daily rate. DODD expressed a willingness to consider a weekly rate instead. The OPRA Waiver Kitchen Cabinet will evaluate the draft rule and research residential habilitation in other states.

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

**1. Healthcare Integration Workgroup**

Mark continues to make national connections at CMS, providers, managed care company, US Congress and others associated with doing similar research. Director Martin is considering partnering with CERIIDD and may have a proposal to CERIIDD by the end of 2015. OPRA had engaged an epidemiologist and consultant to help with the feasibility, funding and start-up of CERIIDD. These are monthly arrangements and may be discontinued if CERIDD does not happen. The epidemiologist switched back to unpaid status January 1, 2016, until such a time as OPRA secures funding for CERIIDD. Mark has spoken again with CMS, and found them receptive of the need for this data analysis. We are continuing to write our start-up business plan. We are exploring an Ohio GRF budget ask for CERIIDD funding. Representative Amstutz has drafted an amendment to that would permit DODD to fund epidemiological research on people with IDD. The concept was discussed at the HHS Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee and no clear objections surfaced.

Energy continues to grow around the CERIIDD project - On April 11th , Mark Davis and Lisa Mathis traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with employees representing ACL, including Commissioner Aaron Bishop, Director John Tschida, Program Specialist Katherine Cargill-Willis, Deputy Director Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Dawn Carlson from NIDRR, and Terrill Curtis to discuss the need for epidemiologic research investigating the relationship of LTSS, healthcare, and quality outcomes for individuals with IDD. Interest was strong enough that a follow-up meeting was requested, although a date for the meeting has not yet been confirmed.

On April 22, Mark Davis and Lisa Mathis met with Dr. Julie Gentile, M.D. and Director of Intellectual Disability Psychiatry at Wright State University. Dr. Gentile is interested in CERIIDD and will staying with the CERIIDD team.

**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. DD Council approved our project request and awarded $20,000 to help fund the marketing plan. DODD has indicated that they have the capacity to perform most of the tasks listed in the marketing plan and will take the lead. In a meeting with DODD and OACB it was decided that Council funds will be used primarily for the development of the video(s). OPRA and OACB will assist. It remains clear the DODD expects Shared Living to grow significantly.

**3. Trauma Informed Care**

Kim Kehl is presented “Trauma-Informed Approach: Key Assumptions & Principles” at the Spring Conference as part of the Program Directors track on 4/6.

***D. Business Intelligence Tool***

Data has been collected from DODD that identifies all providers in the State of Ohio and the counties which they offer services. This along with the OPRA Provider Capacity Survey that was collected in recent weeks, are being used to categorize providers throughout Ohio. In addition, requests have been made for DODD to provide the amount of individuals being served by geographical locations and their acuities. This information should aid OPRA members in making an educated decision on increasing their services and where to potential develop their business within Ohio.

***E. Dropout/DSP Pilot Project [Community Connections, Career Partnerships-Ohio]***

OPRA member providers participating in the pilot are: Heinzerling, CCHS and ViaQuest for students from Franklin Heights High School in the South-Western City Schools District. Janice Hall has been engaged as the project manager for C3P(O). The target is to have five additional locations offering the program in the 2016-17 school year.

Garry Mosier and Janice Hall met with leadership at Tri-Star CTC in Celina about C3P(O).

On February 22, leadership from Rushmore Academy and Tri-Rivers CTC (Marion County) will be doing a site visit to the C3P(O) program at Franklin Heights High School.  Adam Guinther and Janice have been invited to Rushmore Academy's Board meeting on March 8.

The application package was submitted to Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for consideration of credentials approval. The response from ODE should come by June.

Mark, Bethany and Ashley Pierce gave an overview of the project at the OCTA conference.

Roy Cherry, Janice and representatives from the Lucas County Board of DD met with the Superintendent and others at Penta Career Center in Perrysburg. Janice will follow up with Penta.

Roy Cherry and Janice will be meeting with Toledo Public Schools in May.

The C3P(O) Advisory Committee continues to meet at Franklin Heights HS.

The students from the C3P(O) program at Franklin Heights HS presented at the OPRA Spring Conference.  The session went extremely well.  Staff from Rushmore Academy, Medina City Schools and Butler Tech were in attendance.

Rushmore Academy will begin the 2nd C3P(O) class in Ohio inon July 20th. Bethany and Janice are working with staff of Rushmore Academy to begin to prepare the schedule and syllabus for the 2016-17 school year.

Candidates for the 2016-17 Junior class at Franklin Heights HS will be interviewed on April 25th.

Medina City Schools is very interested and may present the C3P(O) contract to their board in May.

Staff from Butler Tech is excited about C3P(O) and want to be a part of this project. Janice has a follow up meeting with Butler Tech scheduled for May 11th.

ECOT was hoping to "partner" with Franklin Height HS, but cannot.  ECOT is exploring other options and Janice will follow up with them.

Bethany and Janice made a presentation at the Member Orientation on March 3rd, and led a session at the Spring Conference.

Anyone interested in C3P(O) is encouraged to contact Janice at jhall@opra.org.

***F. Member Relations Data***

During 2015, OPRA staff interacted heavily with committee members and created a dialogue that has helped develop OPRA’s events, trainings and conference sessions. Based on the utilization of the Communication Plan, OPRA increasing attendance at committee meetings, District meetings and the OPRA Member Only Friday Conference call we have seen an increase in member and staff communication and outcomes. Please see Events section M.

***G. Communication Plan***

The Communication Plan for 2016 will being mirroring the new OPRA Strategic Plan and Mission statements. During 2016, OPRA staff are working to develop new and interactive methods to engage our members. During 2015, the OPRA Member Only Friday Conference call was created and was met with an overwhelming success and interaction between OPRA staff and members. This personal and efficient tool has generated positive feedback and increased member interaction. During 2016, staff are continuing to develop new and creative vehicles to keep our members informed and educated.

**Website**

Elements of the site continue to be reviewed for use-ability, necessity, function, and aesthetic appeal.

**ROUNDUP**

OPRA Intern Christine Touvelle has been managing the collection and formatting of ROUNDUP articles and elements. Generally, this e-newsletter is distributed about every 6 weeks.

**Social Media**

OPRA’s Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to collect followers. The Facebook page has 468 followers (as of 2/19); the Twitter account, 215. Both social media platforms have seen an increased level of activity since the start of 2016, largely due to more regular posts and tweets.

***H. New Member Orientation***

The New Member Orientation was held in March, with presentations from CompManagement, Provider Resources Group, OADSP, and OPRA.

***I. Technical Assistance Projects***

Staff has decided to not offer website development nor maintenance services at this point. We will continue to TA to our members.

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

The state submitted the “revised” transition plan to CMS, but made no revisions from the October 2015 version. OPRA will talk with other stakeholders who submitted comments to determine our response. 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. OACB and OPRA sent a letter to Director Martin, expressing our concern with stakeholder input not being seriously considered as evidenced by no changes to the state transition plan.

***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. Christine has successfully completed her internship at OPRA.

***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. January 15, 2016 was the implementation date for the pilot. We are starting with provider set-up and then in two weeks will open it up to individuals receiving services and families.

The website is up and running, but only 1% of individuals in the pilot have submitted reviews. The team is discussing possible strategies to maximize participation.

The Provider Guide Plus (PG+) planning committee has decided to expand the PG+ pilot to all agency providers in Cuyahoga and Coshocton Counties.

***M. Events***

Events are being created for the following dates and topics:

* Feb. 23 – DODD CEO training (Session 1 of 3)
* Mar. 3 – New Member Orientation
* Mar. 8 – Legislative Advocacy Day
* ~~Mar. 23&30 – CEO Summit~~
	+ ~~( System Reform – Strategies, Challenges & Solutions)~~
* April 5&6 – 2016 OPRA Spring Conference
* June - IT & Housing Symposium
* July 20 – Nursing & Behavioral Health Updates (Part 1 of 2)
	+ The Role of a Nurse in the DD Field 101, How to effectively utilize Nurses in a IO Waiver setting, How to decrease medication errors, Nursing and the Law, Behavioral Health Dual Diagnosis
	+ Update will offer CEUs.
* Future events throughout 2016: OPRA staff retreat, Partnership Symposium, Frontline Supervision, Nursing & Behavioral Health Updates (Part 2 of 2), Advance 2016-2017, 2016 Fall Conference, DODD CEO Training Session 2&3, ICF Updates, and the OPRA Board Retreat

The 2016 OPRA Fall Conference venue has changes to Nationwide Training & Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. Over the last few months, OPRA staff had visited several potential new locations for the conferences. The Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio has been a very good site for several years, but with the increase in attendance and vendors, it was time to find a new venue. Contracts were negotiated for a two year period (4 Conferences). Our goal is to continue the fiscal management of these events, but also offer a more enjoyable location. Lewis Center, Ohio is located just north of I270 close to Polaris Mall, Interstate 71, and SR315 for more information click <http://www.nwhotelandconferencecenter.com/>

***N. 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.

Superintendents of SWOCOG (Southwest Ohio Council of Governments) joined us at our OPRA conference to speak with members about the upcoming transition of their county DD boards out of direct care. We have subsequently met individually with each SWCOG superintendent to identify individual county needs. We are working on a comprehensive (draft) plan with COG representatives to identify next steps to build provider capacity.

We have upcoming meetings with the MEORC, SOCOG and NEON GOGS to begin discussions.

Jeff Davis and Lisa Mathis have focused on developing ways to support OPRA members to transition toward community-based day services and competitive employment, as well as build private provider capacity in order for the county boards to disengage from direct care. Individual and group meetings have been held with superintendents, county boards, OACB, and private providers in an effort to pinpoint barriers and build on successes. It seems that the current challenges are facilitating communication between agencies that perhaps is unprecedented.

At the OPRA Spring Conference, SWOCOG superintendents returned for a follow-up session and superintendents from SOCOG hosted an informational meeting for any interested parties. Stacy Collins from DODD presented on the future of Adult Day Services in Ohio. Stacy confirmed that DODD will be posting proposed day rules and rates sometime in May for public review, and that the new rules are planned to go into effect on October 1, 2016.

On March 28th an OPRA Employment First Workgroup was held. Julie Hance from OOD presented on DODD-OOD integration and the Ohio Transition Support Partnership. Tom Sawyer from the Cleveland Site Center demonstrated visual adaptations for home and work for people with low vision and blindness.

On April 25th, another OPRA Employment First Workgroup will be held featuring the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County.

**O. Membership**

2016 Membership materials and processes have been developed this year in tandem with upgrades/updates to OPRA’s website – and as such, faced set-backs affecting the proposed timeline for 2016 Membership strategies and tactics. Three “touches” are planned for the 2016 Membership Year’s renewal campaign:

1. Email renewal notice – this will include a link directly to the dashboard of an organization’s OPRA Representative.
2. Letter renewal notice – this will include facts and figures related to the success of OPRA and its Membership in 2015
3. Email renewal notice – this will include a link directly to the dashboard of an organization’s OPRA Representative, and a link to the new OPRA promo video.

Several high-level glitches have delayed the ability for Members to renew and other providers and businesses to join online. In the meantime, simplified renewal and join forms (planned simplification) are available via PDF. This delay does not seem to be causing a lag in renewal figures.

Please see Membership handouts for the current status of the 2016 campaign.