***OPRA Board of Trustees***

***Consent Agenda***

***May 25, 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. The Partnership will continue to pursue this issue in 2016.

**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.

US DOL published the OT rule on May 18th. For the synopsis of the rule and more information go to:  <https://www.dol.gov/featured/overtime/>. DOL issued a notice of nonenforcement for IDD Medicaid residential providers in settings of 15 or less beds. The ANCOR team is working to get clarification from DOL on a few points of the rule and is meeting with Sec Perez and his staff on May 26th in DC. Mark talked with VP Biden, Sec Perez and Sen Brown about our appreciation of the nonenforcement policy and the need for additional funding to implement the rule successfully.

**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, in some instances. This is not moving at the pace we had anticipated.

***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.

The Letter of Intent requesting funding for CERIIDD from RWJF is nearly ready and will be submitted by the end of this month.

**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.

On April 25, 17 of 18 applicants were interviewed at Franklin Heights High School.  (One of the students had a long-standing dental appointment and could not be there.)  We accepted all 18 into the program for the 2016-17 school year, contingent upon their eligibility due to grades/credits. It is anticipated that a few students will be ineligible due to academics.

On April 26, Scott DeLong and Janice Hall met with the Superintendent of Mechanicsburg Schools.

On April 29, Bethany Toledo and Janice met with Melanie Kasten-Krause and a couple of her staff to discuss SHC being an internship site if Medina City Schools decides to implement the program.

On May 3, 8 of 12 applicants at Rushmore Academy were interviewed.  The other four will be given another opportunity to be interviewed.  Rushmore Academy officially "sealed the deal" on this date by signing the contract.  Their school year will begin on July 20, 2016 and they expect about 100 new students.  They would like to give these students an opportunity to hear about and apply for the C3P(O) program, so it was decided to begin the program on August 15, with the "Kick-Off" being on August 16, 2016.

(Rushmore will work a little differently than Franklin Heights in that the program will be completely out of the school.  The "class time" will be held at RHAM's office on Tuesday afternoons.  "Internship" days will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.  There will not be anything going on with C3P(O) for the students on Fridays.  Also, Rushmore opted not do provide a stipend at the end of the school year - instead they will pay the students up to 10 hours per week for their participation in the program.

On May 9, representatives from Medina City Schools met with the students at Franklin Heights HS along with Bethany Toledo, Dr. Bruce (ODE) and Janice.

On May 11, Janice met with the Interim Superintendent and "Life Connections" teacher from Butler Tech.  They would really like to participate in C3P(O) for the 2016-17 school year, but are not sure if they can secure funding at this late date.

The award ceremony for the students at Franklin Heights High School to receive their Certificates of Initial Proficiency will be held at 7:00 pm on June 1, 2016 at the school's auditorium. Several legislators and Director Martin will provide recognition of the students.

Roy Cherry and Janice are meeting with the Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools on June 6, 2016.

Anyone interested in C3P(O) is encouraged to contact Janice at [jhall@opra.org](mailto: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. We are currently in the process of hiring a full time communications person.

**Website**

Elements of the site continue to be reviewed for use-ability, necessity, function, and aesthetic appeal. We are addressing issues of user friendliness and attempting to simplify the site.

**ROUNDUP**

OPRA Intern Christine Touvelle, who had been managing the collection and formatting of ROUNDUP articles and elements has graduated. Generally, this e-newsletter is distributed about every 6 weeks. The Roundup will fall under the purview of the Communications position.

**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. We will have new intern, Rachel Williams, joining us in August. She is a BSW student with a minor in communications.

***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 as well as Knox County. This will be done the end of June/beginning of July. Our plan is to expand PG+ to the entire state by the end of this year.

***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
* April 5&6 – 2016 OPRA Spring Conference
* June 16, Nursing Session on the new delegation rules, EHR’s and system challenges.
* 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
* 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***

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.

Lisa Mathis and Jeff Davis continue to bring county boards and providers together to encourage collaboration and build provider capacity. Lisa is currently working on a startup guide for providers interested in expanding into day and employment services.

An Employment First Workgroup will be held May 23rd. Tom Hess from DODD and Tracey Willis will be presenting. Tracey will present on transition. Tom Hess will be presenting on DODD proposed rules going into effect October 1st.

DODD has recently publicized a new fee schedule that will negatively impact OPRA members providing OOD services. Lisa and Jeff are working with OOD to accomplish the following objectives:

* OOD should reconsider the proposed fees, especially for Tiered Job Development. - the proposed fees are much too low. OPRA members are being asked to provide additional data in support of higher fees. The data will be submitted to OOD by May 31st.
* OOD should unbundle mileage and report writing
* OOD should create an enhanced fee schedule for Supportive Employment

***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. We are including invoices with the second round of notices. This has increased response.
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.