***OPRA Board Consent Agenda***

***May 24, 2017***

***NOTE: Some of the information is carried over from the update given at the Board retreat last month. Updates are in blue font and underlined.***

***A. 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 is recommending that the board and OPRA consider the weekly billing unit proposal by DODD. Provider and county board representatives of the Waiver Workgroup met with DODD to review the flat rate proposal. Several issues need resolution, and DODD continues to move the project forward.

**2. Threshold for Exempt Status** An injunction was issued by an Obama appointee, federal Judge in Texas on November 22nd, essentially blocking the implementation of the Department of Labor (DOL) overtime rule. The DOL was granted their motion for an expedited appeal, but the timeframe for the court’s decision is after the inauguration. Members of Congress have said they plan to use the Congressional Review Act to nullify the rule. Rumors are that the rule is a Week One priority for the Trump administration. Bottom line, it seems that the rule will not survive, but will require ongoing monitoring. We continue to watch the lawsuit, but every signal out of Washington indicates that this rule will not survive. Democrats in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland, Wisconsin and Michigan may propose state-level versions of the OT regulation.

The court case remains pending. The Trump administration has asked the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court to delay filing their brief in the case by 30 days – to March 2nd. This extension is to give the new administration time, to consider what they want to do with the rule. Trump’s nominee for US DOL secretary, Andrew Puzder, has been an outspoken critic of the rule.

Texas Judge Mazzant declined the DOL’s previous request to put the case on hold, pending the Fifth Circuit’s review of the temporary injunction. Judge Mazzant has yet to rule on the AFL-CIO’s motion to intervene and on a separate request from the states and a number of business groups to block the rule permanently.

All indications are that the rule will not resurface. There is unconfirmed talk of the Trump administration introducing an new DOL OT threshold rule that increases the threshold to the mid-$30’s.

**3. Shared Living Services** (the expansion of this service is expected to assume some of the demand for DSP workers and allow providers to take on new individuals in other services – see C.2. below for more information)

**4. Healthcare Integration Workgroup** (the integration of LTSS and healthcare funding , services and outcomes is expected to result in more flexibility for individuals and providers, thereby increase margins and the ability for providers to structure DSP pay higher to achieve outcomes in both LTSS and healthcare – see C.1. below for more information)

**5. DSP Pilot - 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).

All 12 students enrolled in the C3P(O) program at South-Western City Schools finished the program and earned their Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) from DSPaths. 10 of those students plan to continue on to earn their Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP) next school year. Over 90% of the students plan to work in the IDD field after high school graduation. Most of the students now plan on attending college.

There are 4 new groups in the program in the 2016-17 school year with 3 new school systems. Our C3P(O) curriculum and credential received approval Ohio Department of Education as an approved credential.

The first C3P(O) newsletter went out and received positive feedback. Attendance bonuses for the first semester were awarded to 5 students at Medina Schools.

Trish Otter, Diane Beastrom, Janice Hall and Mark met with the Cleveland Metro Schools and they are evaluating the possibility of implementing C3P(O). If they decide to do that, it will likely be in the 2018 – 19 school year.

OPRA had a vendor booth at the OACB conference and shared info on C3PO with conference attendees. Janice and OPRA staff will be meeting with Kelly Miller and staff to discuss the project. The Compliance Unit was unaware of C3PO and considered citing a provider for having someone under 18 engaged with residents. The citation was not issued and they requested more information.

An all-day C3P(O) retreat was held on January 19th, to discuss the program model and expansion of the program inside and outside of Ohio. We decided to hold off on national expansion, until the pilot was completed in Ohio (about one year). More details will be discussed as they are agreed upon.

A second meeting was held with the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools. They are impressed with the program. They are going to talk with their fiscal officer next, about the viability of the program. If ok with their fiscal officer, they will approach the building principals (as they use a school-based budgeting model). Although unlikely because of timing and if approved, the program may be started next school year.

The following schools also may implement the program next year:

The Mid-East Career Tech Center in Zanesville

Clermont Northeastern Schools in Batavia.

Janice is meeting with the Provider Partnership Project of the OACB on February 27th, to present on C3P(O). The project participants include: Allen, Licking, Pickaway, Sandusky and Stark county boards and West Con COG, along with providers in those areas.

Clermont Northeastern High School in Batavia will be implementing C3P(O) for the 2017-18 school year.  Residential Concepts will be the provider-host and all of the students will be doing their internships at their location(s).

In addition to Clermont Northeastern, Foxfire High School in Zanesville is implementing a 12-week summer session which will include C3P(O).  Lisa Reed and Janice Hall did a presentation to two different groups of students on May 4th and 17th. They also met with Mr. Vanreeth who said the school has identified 11 students for the program.  RHDD will be the provider-host and the students will be doing their internships at two of RHDD's sites.

On April 26, representatives from CEVEC in Mayfield Heights visited the students and staff at Medina High School.  The meeting went well and CEVEC was very impressed.  A follow-up meeting with them is scheduled for June 2.

Pickaway Ross has been interested for quite some time, they may want to implement during the 2017-18 school year, so Janice is meeting with them on May 24th.

Dr. Bruce at the Ohio Department of Education met with Vermillion High School and that they are interested in learning more about C3P(O).  Janice has a meeting with them on June 1st.

On May 16th, Janice, Lisa Reed and Dan Sechkar met with Morgan High School in McConnelsville.  This meeting was arranged by the Morgan County Board of DD who is very interested in the program and has offered whatever assistance is necessary.  The meeting went extremely well and they asked what they need to do to make it happen for the 2017-18 school year.

We continue to have our monthly Advisory Committee meetings.  Changes to the existing programs for the 2017-18 school year are as follows:  Self-Directed Living will be the provider-host at Medina High School (meaning that the entire program will be taken off school grounds).  CCHS will be the provider-host for Franklin Heights High School.

On April 20, Janice spoke to the Supporting Excellence Partnership about C3P(O), and on April 30 we had a vendor table at the annual Career Based Intervention (CBI) conference.

C3P(O) graduations:  Rushmore Academy and Harding High School - The ceremony was held on May 9th.  Seven students received the Certificate of Initial Proficiency and one student received a Basic Certificate.  Medina High School - The ceremony was held on May 11th.  All seven students received the Certificate of Initial Proficiency.  Franklin Heights High School - The ceremony was held on May 18.  Twelve of thirteen juniors received the Certificate of Initial Proficiency and all ten seniors received the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency. Director John Martin attended the Franklin Heights HS ceremony. President Larry Obhof prepared comments for Mark to read at the Medina ceremony. President Obhof sent an indiviudalized congratulatory certificate for each graduate.

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

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

This pilot will allow families and individuals to write reviews of providers, and will encourage a new “customer service-oriented” culture among DSP’s. (see C.7. for additional information)

**7. Direct Care Workforce Workgroup**

Lisa Reed (RHDD) is chairing and Anita is staffing the OPRA Direct Care Workforce Workgroup. OPRA established this workgroup in 2015. The workgroup reviewed reasons DSP’s leave and brainstormed solutions. Top 3 reasons: lack of transportation, lack of child care, poor supervision. Continuing to work with Lucas County Family and Children First Council on a grant to pilot solutions to these problems. OADSP also involved. Pilot is one year in duration and started July 1, 2016. The grant received an extension through December of 2017. Data collection has begun in earnest and the first full data set is expected in early July. In addition to retention statistics, data set will include numbers of staff who accessed ERN services, the type of services accessed, status of referrals and number of loans to employees/dollar amount/status.

Bridges out of Poverty training is a major component of the grant. Members have been requesting the training. We are in contact with Bridges out of Poverty trainers and are negotiating regional BOP training for 2017. There are licensing issues that need to be reviewed and addressed. Washington County Family and Children First Council received a BOP grant and have opened up 2 free training sessions to OPRA members. The Lucas County Family and Children First Council has extended invitations to OPRA members for free and low cost BOP sessions in Toledo. These are posted on our training and events emails.

We will be offering attendance to members for sessions scheduled by the Bridges Out of Poverty (BOP) licensed entities. We will also be scheduling a few OPRA sponsored sessions in different areas of the state.

Free informational session scheduled for 3/3 at OPRA. This session will offer an overview of BOP, along with presentations from workforce resource entities that have participated in the grant and are available on a statewide basis.

Anita met with representatives from WestCON about implementing components of the grant in their counties. They are very interested in this project and anticipate being able to do this sometime later this year. We are still in need of funds to get sister projects up and running. WestCON is exploring some local funding options.

OPRA had a vendor booth at the OACB conference and shared information on our workforce initiatives.

**8. ODDC Marketing Grant for DSP Recruitment**

On Friday, December 8th the Ohio DD Council awarded OPRA a $35,000 grant to create statewide marketing materials targeted to recruiting direct support professionals. All materials will be generic with consistent messaging so that they may be customized and used by providers across the state. The first meeting of interested stakeholders will be at 12:30 on Thursday, December 5th. This meeting will be designed to help craft the message. All products are anticipated being finished by the end of March 2017.

A rough cut of the TV spot has been shared with the HR and Nursing committees. Will reconvene the Workforce committee when spot is ready.

**9. DD Awareness Day**

Direct care issue will be worked into the agenda for the DD Awareness Day, by highlighting the value of the work. The DD Awareness Day was a big success, capped by a fine musical performance by Zayne Harshaw and a surprise appearance by Governor Kasich.

***B. 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. Mark Davis and John Pekar 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 2017.

**2.** **ODH and DODD Streamlining**

The budget bill contained language that gives DODD the authority to delegate licensure reviews to ODH. The administration has said they intend to follow this path. It has been reported that ODH has begun doing ICF surveys on behalf of DODD, in some instances. We have been told by DODD and ODH that they will begin phasing this in beginning on January 1, 2017. A DODD webinar held on 12/12 regarding the new licensure process. To date, one member has reported having a joint survey. We are continuing to monitor. A meeting was held on May 19th to update on the status of the project. Here is the fourth quarter CY 2016 citation by standard. There were 57 surveys (2 initial, 6 special and 49 regular reviews).



**3. Provider Certification Process**

OPRA continues to have conversations with DODD on provider and system stakeholder frustrations with the provider certification process. The last meeting was with DODD was at the OACBDD Fall Conference the first week of May. OPRA has an initial draft of legislation to address the lapse of certification issue. DODD is concerned that any substantive attempt to band-aide PCW risks breaking the whole system. A subsequent meeting to discuss the wide difference of opinion in next steps is being scheduled.

**4. Heightened Scrutiny Review Process**

Heightened scrutiny memo was released by DODD prior to stakeholder input/communication. There has been an inconsistent process and outcomes for these reviews by DODD and the Ohio Department of Medicaid. OPRA is working with OACB, DODD and ODM to resolve these concerns. A meeting with DODD to discuss these issues is scheduled for 12/14. The outcome was generally positive and a follow up meeting is scheduled for 2/21. Lisa is providing strategies and tips to meeting the HCBS Setting Rule at the OPRA Day Services Meeting on Monday 1/23, as well as working with Members one on one when requested. Stakeholder meetings are held at DODD on a regular basis. The conversations have been constructive and DODD has modified their process based on these discussions.

***C. Quality, Accountable and Sustainable 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 2016. OPRA had engaged an epidemiologist and consultant to help with the feasibility, funding and start-up of CERIIDD. We are working on our start-up business plan. We explored an Ohio GRF budget ask for CERIIDD funding, but the legislature asked that we continue conversations with the administration and legislature.

Energy continues to grow around the CERIIDD project - On April 11th , Mark Davis and Lisa Mathis traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with leaders of the Administration for Community Living (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.

Dr. Julie Gentile, M.D. and Director of Intellectual Disability Psychiatry at Wright State University is interested in CERIIDD and is the latest member of the CERIIDD leadership team.

CERIIDD applied to the IRS for 501(C)3 status. We hope to hear back by February 2017. CERIIDD held its first board meeting on August 24, 2016. CERIIDD also applied for a DUNS number (Data Universal Numbering System) so that we are able to receive grants from the federal government. We should receive our DUNS number sometime mid-January. CERIIDD received approval of its 501(C)3 status and its DUNS number. We are currently working on registering CERIIDD in the System for Award Management (SAM) so we are edible for federal grants.

The Letter of Intent requesting funding for CERIIDD from Robert Woods Johnson Foundation (RWJ Foundation) has been submitted. OPRA hopes to hear back from RWJ sometime during the first quarter of 2017. In mid-November, the RWJ Foundation notified CERIIDD that our request for funding was denied. The CERIIDD team is currently considering other funding options, including a promising opportunity offered through the Administration for Community Living. We are also considering contracting with a grant writer.

OPRA continues to have discussions with key stakeholders about the startup of CERIIDD. OPRA may ask for state funding for Ohio research. CERIIDD leadership and Illuminators will begin to have joint discussions about CERIIDD and Illuminators will act in an advisory capacity to CERIIDD.

The CERIIDD leadership team led a conference call with the CERIIDD Illuminators on November 29th, 2016. Robert Budd, the CEO of Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. reported that similar research is being done in the state of New York and is being funded by the NY Department of DD Services. Mark met with New York folks who have a state legislated grant to do research on the health of people with IDD. CERIIDD will continue to discuss a possible joint project with these folks on January 24th.

On November 21st, 2016, the CERIIDD team met with Teresa Kobelt and Hope McGonigle from DODD to discussion collaboration between DODD’s epidemiological researchers and CERIIDD. They seem willing to share data and a second meeting is scheduled in January. The second meeting with DODD was positive and we will be continuing our conversion with them concerning data.

On November 30th, 2016, Mark, Christine and Lisa met with Dr. Groshen, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statics and her team. Although the focus of the meeting was around the workforce shortage, we did get a chance to brief them on CERIIDD. We also touched base briefly with staff of Rep. Stivers and Sen. Portman.

The CERIIDD team has reached out to Jini Kim and her start up company Nuna. Ms. Kim has taken complicated and siloed Medicaid data and transformed into highly usable, interactive, and flexible real time data. Ms Kim’s brother has autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

In addition to seeking funding, the CERIIDD team is currently focusing on disseminating the results of CERIIDD’s Healthcare Disparity study in a peer reviewed journal and at conferences.

Mark Davis, Lisa Mathis, Christine Touvelle, and Jeff Davis attended the ANCOR Conference in early May. Lisa and Christine presented on CERIIDD to a group of interested state association representatives and providers. States represented at the presentation included Alaska, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, and Colorado.

CERIIDD is currently analyzing MUI data provided by OPRA members to determine if there is a correlation among MUIs and the full moon. Results will be presented at the May board meeting. Many thanks to members who provided data!

CERIIDD is currently contracting with Vikki Wachino, former director of Medicaid, to assist us in securing funding for CERIIDD. CERIIDD, as a new research business that is not associated with a university, is at a disadvantage when seeking grant funding. In order to get CERIIDD up and running and started on the process of analyzing Medicaid claims data, CERIIDD will be asking the OPRA foundation to consider funding a slimmed-down, minimally staffed, CERIIDD budget for the first year of operation at the cost of $263,090.

**2. Shared Living Services**

We convened a stakeholder meeting on June 17, 2015 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 1, 2015, the consultant delivered the revised marketing plan to OPRA and OACBDD. The plan was 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 and that there are many challenges to realizing DODD’s vision for Shared Living expansion.

The education and implementation phase has begun. DODD is actively doing outreach to county boards, families and providers. OACB and OPRA had sessions at their upcoming conferences on shared living.

On May 8th, DODD published a proposed rule for shared living that combines adult foster care and adult family living.

**3. ICF/IID**

OPRA has not supported moving forward with the reimbursement re-design, as we believe it is not complete. Budget language addressing the new reimbursement system was deleted in the House, leaving the status of this initiative unclear.

DODD has committed to continuing the work on the reimbursement redesign throughout 2017, with the goal of implementing the new system in July of 2018. Both the Reimbursement and Process workgroups have been re-instated.

PGC initial recommendations:

IAF will be replaced with the ODDP. Change capital reimbursement to a FRV (Fair Rental Value) system as is currently used in nursing homes.

13 quality measures developed across 4 domains – Quality of Life (community and participation) and Quality of Care (health/wellness/safety and staffing). Meeting quality measures will result in an add on to funding.

Most of the requested data has been received and reviewed by the accounting firms. There are issues with the scoring of the ODDP and with the FRV component. These issues will be addressed in upcoming workgroup meetings. OPRA established its own Capital workgroup to identify and target issues for further discussion with the DODD workgroup. We met with Josh Anderson on 4/20. WE developed a list of 6 concerns with the FRV component as currently designed. This list was shared with DODD. During a conference call on 4/27, DODD addressed 2 of the concerns and committed to reviewing the remaining issues in upcoming stakeholder meetings.

ICF Employment Pilot: Received funding and is underway. No further updates at this time.

Current ICF Statistics (as of 4/18):

Preadmission Counseling: 313 sessions completed. 255 chose ICF. 58 chose waivers. 34 of the 58 have been enrolled.

Options counseling: 2,668 people have been contacted. 254 declined to participate. 2,414 did participate. 1062 chose to remain in the ICF. 697 indicated they they may be interested in a waiver. 655 chose a waiver over the ICF. 137 have been enrolled.

**5. 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. Relevant, current and correct data will enable OPRA to advocate for sustainable solutions across our Medicaid and Medicare systems. OPRA is researching systems necessary to automate and maximize the value of our data visualization software.

The updates for Tableau have been purchased and we are now waiting for the new IT support to install the new server. Once the new server is installed, we will download the program and Tableau will be up and running!

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

OPRA continues to advocate for a sustainable plan to implement the new CMS HCBS regulations. Ohio’s transition plan received Initial Approval from CMS and is likely to receive final approval too.

DODD has established a workgroup to develop standards and guidelines for the heightened scrutiny process. There is not a common understanding as to the expectations of “integration”.

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

Cuyahoga and Coshocton Counties, along with 5 OPRA members in those counties, designed and implemented a provider information and selection tool pilot. The pilot contains a website that is a “Trip Advisor”-type tool for people to obtain useful information on providers. DODD is aware and supportive of our efforts.

DODD and OACB approved funding and are partnering with OPRA on the new website. January 15, 2016 was the implementation date for the pilot. The website is up and running, with about 1% of individuals in the pilot have submitted reviews.

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 by the end of 2015. Our plan is to expand PG+ to the entire state by the end of next year. The pilot was expanded to all agency providers in Cuyahoga, Coshocton and Knox counties.

We had a meeting of all pilot participants in Mansfield on January 31st. All remain committed to the project and we continue to work on details of the website. We asked Director Martin to give us additional consideration on two issues: *First Issue:*When a ProviderGuide Plus user searches for a provider, they get hundreds of responses – may are duplicates.  This occurs when the providers for whom they are searching operate licensed sites.  All of the sites are returned on the search, instead of simply the “parent” provider.  This results in confusion and is not helpful to the person searching.  If users are interested in learning more about a provider, or contacting that provider, they need to be directed to the “parent” provider page, not to an individual licensed home address.  The “parent” provider is the location of intake to access a provider’s services and to request additional information on that provider (not the individual licensed sites, where intake staff are not located).  We are also concerned about generic search results publishing the specific addresses of homes where individuals with IDD live, possibly putting those folks at risk and, again, for no useful purpose to the users.

Therefore, the planning committee asked that the search results only show “parent” provider information.  If a user wanted to write a review on a specific licensed location, they could still access that location through the “parent” provider’s site and submit a site-specific review.  We are not modifying any data, merely organizing the data to accomplish a more efficacious user interface and enhanced safety for those we serve.

*Second Issue:*  In September 2013, the first conversation of a provider information and selection website pilot was held in Cuyahoga County.  The OPRA, the county board and providers discussed the purpose for the website.  We have not strayed from that initial vision - "To pilot a website that provides accurate, helpful, easy to access, timely and HIPAA-compliant information about providers to individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and others.”  We have worked over the subsequent years, to bring this vision to life through ProviderGuide Plus.  We are concerned that if negative reviews are forwarded to the DODD provider certification/licensure and MUI units, it will create a disincentive for providers to encourage the individuals they serve and family members to use the website.  It would create a “gotcha” culture to the project, contrary to our vision and likely put the future of the project in jeopardy.  The administrator of the website has been trained to identify potential MUI’s and to report those to DODD.  We think this is sufficient and maintains the integrity of our purpose.  We are also concerned about the additional workload on DODD staff and their ability to process these reviews in a timely manner.

DODD staff are considering the above requests, except that the ProviderGuide Plus steering committee agreed on a compromise for Issue One, that the licensed sites be available via the provider’s home page (so users may submit a review of that specific site) only and not via the search tool.

We have continued the pilot in Cuyahoga, Knox and Coshocton counties. We are working out issues to make the site more user-friendly and accessible.

**8. 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.

Lisa Mathis and Jeff Davis continue to bring county boards and providers together to encourage collaboration and build provider capacity.

OPRA members are encouraged to participate in the Employment First/Day program Workgroup that is held monthly.  The workgroup includes presentations by and conversations with DODD, OOD, county boards and other key stakeholders.

In May ODD 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.  Seven OPRA members have put forth the effort to collect data in support of higher OOD fees.  This data is currently being analyzed and will be presented to OOD after release of the new and revised OOD fees

·         OOD should unbundle mileage and report writing

·         OOD should create an enhanced fee schedule for Supportive Employment

In November, ODD sent out yet another proposed fee schedule. OPRA’s response to the proposal included the three points below:

* The necessity of minimizing documentation requirements for providers
* The need for further clarification of who qualifies for Supported Employment
* The need to closely monitor the employment success of individuals with the most severe disabilities to ensure the new fee schedule facilitates employment for this population.

DODD has also publicized new rules and rates for day services and employment. Notable changes include DODD proposal of using 15 minute units for billing, the discontinuation of a combo code and day rate, and the addition of career planning services. Stay tuned for further clarification and guidance from OPRA concerning these proposed rules and rates.

Implementation of the new Waiver Day Array rules has been delayed pending CMS approval. Despite the delay in the implementation of the new rules, DODD has decided to eliminate the combo code on November 1st. OPRA is working with DODD to come to a reasonable solution concerning the elimination of the combo code.

The OPRA team was able to negotiate a reasonable solution for the elimination of the combo code while awaiting implementation of the new rules. Director Martin wrote a letter supporting providers in the use of vocational habilitation or day support billing codes when providing a combination of services. This billing option will be available until the new rules go into effect.

DODD responded to the Request for Additional Information (RAIs) from CMS concerning the day array rules in late November. DODDs responses to CMS have been made available to members upon request. The new rules are still expected to be implemented on April 1, 2017.

Guidance from OOD and DODD has been released concerning the WIOA and providers utilizing a 14(c) certificate. This guidance has been presented at several OPRA meetings and forwarded to members.

The new day array rules and braiding of DODD and OOD funding will be addressed by DODD and OOD employees at the 2016 OPRA Fall Conference.

Based on member input, another session explaining braided funding has been added to the OPRA 2014 Spring Conference. This session will include case studies.

As of 1/19/17, proposed DODD and OOD rules and rates are still anticipated to be implemented on April 1st. The proposed OOD rules are currently being reviewed by CSI and the proposed DODD rules are currently being reviewed by CMS.

On February 7th, Lisa attended a meeting at OOD that was facilitated by the Common Sense Initiative. Based on the tone of the meeting, there is a chance that the new OOD fee structure will not go into effect on the newest proposed date of May 1st.

The new DODD rules and rates for the day array went into effect on April 1, 2017. Based on feedback from OPRA members, OPRA teamed up with OACB and conducted five regional trainings on the new rules. These trainings brought providers and county boards together in the same room to problem solve implementation of the new rules. Further training will be conducted OPRA and OACB during June focusing on the day array. Further training will be conducted OPRA and OACB during June focusing on the day array.

The new OOD fee schedule will go into effect on October 1st, 2017. OPRA is seeing increased membership interest from OOD providers who are not DODD providers. Several new non-DODD providers have signed up as OPRA members in the last 30 days.

**9. Waiver Pilot**

The OPRA Waiver Kitchen Cabinet is recommending that the board and OPRA consider the weekly billing unit proposal by DODD. (Please see A.1 for additional information.)

**10.** **Outcome-Based Payment Systems**

On April 1st, DODD plans to implement the following outcome-based services;

1. Assistive Technology
2. Benefits Educations and Analysis
3. Career Discovery
4. Employment/Self-Employment Planning
5. Situation Observations and Assessment

On May 1st, OOD plans to implement the following new outcome-based services: Supported Employment

**11. MUI Process**

In concert with OPRA’s initiatives on simplification and efficiencies, membership has expressed a strong desire to address the MUI/UI rule and process. The timing for this review is consistent with the 5-year rule review mandate. After an initial meeting with DODD’s Scott Phillips and  County Board representative Eric Metzger to begin discussing parameters, OPRA had its first member meeting on February 13th with the OPRA Rules Focus Group to discuss the rule and process in depth. Results of those discussions were presented to DODD on Tuesday, February 14th. A structure for continued statewide discussions as well as internal OPRA discussions (with a developed strategy for moving forward) are being developed.

**12. OPRA Training and Evaluations**

In January of 2017, OPRA began aggressively developing and scheduling training sessions to bring added value to the membership. OPRA committees have been surveyed for topics of interest/need to them and other sessions have been selected based on OPRA staff input. Some topics will be repeated, based on session evaluations and overall demand. Others, such as Polypharmacy (requested by the Nursing Committee) will be one time offers during the calendar year. This is a work in progress and we expect to learn a lot and further refine our process as we move ahead.