***OPRA Board Consent Agenda***

***May 23, 2018***

***NOTE: Some of the information is carried over from the update given at the February 2018 Board meeting. Updates are in red 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. DODD is scheduling a meeting of waiver pilot participant providers and county boards to discuss the pros and cons of moving forward statewide. There has been reported that both county boards and providers have expressed reticence about moving forward. Concerns include providers profiting from not providing services and assumption of financial risk by providers.

DODD asked Mark to facilitate a meeting of stakeholders to design recommendations for a new reimbursement system. This workgroup has met twice. Than Johnson (CRSI) and Carol Ansel (Madison County Board of DD) agreed to co-chair the workgroup. The workgroup’s stretch goal is to have recommendations to DODD by April 2018. The workgroup is working on guiding principles for the next generation of waiver reimbursement system reform. DODD applied for CMS technical assistance with implementing value based purchasing in IDD HCBS waivers. If awarded, this technical assistance will run from April 2018 to February 2019. The small group working on the short term waiver reimbursement revisions, based on the current system, continues to work on a potential solution to be presented by the end of March 2018.

(Note: Waiver Pilots will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting.)

**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 a new DOL OT threshold rule that increases the threshold to the mid-$30’s. The DOL has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for employers to provide comments on the OT rule. This is typically a pre-rule filing strategy.

**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). The county board association has agreed to work with OPRA on defining quality/outcomes and payment systems to incentivize those outcomes. The waiver pilot workgroup may undertake this work.

**5. DSP Pilot - Community Connections, Career Partnerships-Ohio**

C3P(O) has had increased national attention. We presented in New York, New Mexico (national conference), Illinois and New Jersey and authored an article for the University of Minnesota’s IMPACT newsletter.

On April 17, sophomores at Medina High School who are interested in joining the program this fall shadowed the students who are currently in the program.  They went to two of the internship sites and had a Q&A session at lunch with school personnel, current students and providers.  Everyone said it was a great day!

On April 20, the C3P(O) team interviewed ten prospective students at Franklin Heights High School.

On April 24, Janicde met with with the Principal and Transition to Work Coordinator at New Lexington High School.  They seemed very interested in starting a C3P(O) program.

On April 25, Janice attended the Provider meeting at Sandusky County Board of DD.  Rosemary Krieger with Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center was also there and they both talked about the program starting at Vanguard-Sentinel in the fall.  We will be meeting again with Rosemary next Wednesday (5/23/18) at the OPRA office.

C3P(O) graduations were held or to be held in May. These ceremonies are well attended and seem to have a positive impact on all involved in C3P(O).

In the last month, there were quite a few inquiries about the C3P(O) program and Janice has followed-up with all of them.  These inquiries came from County Boards of DD, providers and schools.

The providers who will be working with CEVEC met last week to decide who will be in charge of teaching each module.  (There are two providers, New Avenues to Independence and HomeWatch CareGivers who will be "co-hosts".)

A small group of C3P(O) students, school personnel, DSPaths staff and OPRA staff will meet with CMS central office staff on June 4, 2018 to share their experiences with the program.

Anyone interested in C3P(O) is encouraged to contact Janice at [jhall@opra.org](mailto: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) ProviderGuide Plus will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting.

**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 was released in July. In addition to retention statistics, data set includes numbers of staff who accessed ERN services, the type of services accessed, status of referrals and number of loans to employees/dollar amount/status. As of July 30, 134 staff (of 8 agencies) accessed the ERN for services including auto repair, career counseling, financial literacy and health/insurance. In addition, several staff have received Employer Sponsored Small Dollar loans from the local credit union. To date, there have been no defaults. The grant project was completed December 31, of 2017. We are waiting on the final report.

Bridges out of Poverty training is a major component of the grant. Members have been requesting the training. The LCFCFC will be working with us on BOP trainings for 2018.

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.

On January 18, Lisa Reed, Anita and Stephen MacDonald attended a Workforce Seminar put on by the OACBDD. There is interest in replicating some of the grant components and we will be working with Nancy Neely to identify locations. The components deemed the most successful from the grant project are the BOP trainings, the establishment of an ERN and the Employer Sponsored Small Dollar Loans.

There was a joint meeting of the Program Directors and Workforce Committees on February 15th. Lynn Wolters, Executive Director of WestCon was in attendance. Stephen MacDonald gave an overview of the grant project and its results. The Lucas County Family First Council is available to help with the development and implementation of ERN’s and other grant components. Interested parties were encouraged to contact Stephen or Anita. As of today, WestCon and a provider in Cuyahoga have expressed interest. Next step is to schedule the initial planning sessions.

Late last year, 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. On April 11, 2018, Anita and Stephen MacDonald attended the WestCON Board meeting. Nancy Neely from OACB was also in attendance. Nancy is working with DODD to secure funding for grant replication projects. Three of the ten counties were originally interested in pursuing ERN’s and BOP trainings. At the end of May, we were informed that all 10 counties want to participate!

On April 24, Anita attended the Provider/County Board Partnership meeting. Several local projects were highlighted. There was a presentation on the Healthier Buckeye Grant from a participating provider in Lucas County. Several counties expressed an interest in ERN/BOP initiatives. The goal is to have 10 additional projects going by the end of the year. OPRA will be providing Provider education and support throughout the process.

On May 8, there was a joint meeting of the HR and Workforce committees. A joint workgroup is being established to identify and educate the membership on best practices in recruitment/retention and organizational culture change. A work plan will be developed at the next meeting on June 19.

**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**

We are in the process of opening registration for the 2018 Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy event at the Statehouse. Once registration is full, we will begin to set up meetings with elected officials for attendees who expressed interest. The planning committee is still in the process of confirming speakers for the event.

***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. 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.

The DODD led Provider Compliance Workgroup as established in the last state budget bill has indicated a willingness to open up the provider certification rule and discuss DSP eligibility requirements and provider eligibility standards. This allows system stakeholders to comprehensively review the entire rule for revision. First discussions will take place at our combined OPRA Policy and Program Director’s meeting on May 21st.

***C. Quality, Accountable and Sustainable System Reform Focus Area***

**1. Healthcare Integration Workgroup**

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.

The CERIIDD team is currently having conversations with the Kaiser Family Foundation about using OHIO data to create infographics demonstrating the importance of Medicaid to people with IDD.

CERIIDD has received funding from the OPRA foundation for one year of operation beginning on October 1, 2017. We are currently collecting applications for a Director of Research and will be interviewing for the position soon. We are also working on creating a CERIIDD website, getting job descriptions in place, and getting business cards created.

During the past month, CERIIDD created a series of Data Briefs that were based on empirical research. These Data Briefs were designed to inform policy makers of the possible impact of policy decisions and included: *Direct Support Professionals and Overtime, Healthcare Political Reporting and Individuals with IDD, Ohioans with IDD Impacted by Federal Medicaid Reform, Fiscal Efforts for IDD Services Pre and Post Medicaid Expansion,* and *Medicaid, SSI, AND Children with Disabilities.* One of CERIIDD’s briefs was referenced in a report to the US Senate by Senator Sherrod Brown.

Additionally, Dr. Maryse Amin is assisting us to apply for a $50,000 funding opportunity through the Ohio DD Council. If we receive this award, we will research the relationship between IDD, race and ethnicity, and health outcomes. We may also investigate the impact of marriage on the programs and services of individuals with IDD.

The CERIIDD team participated in the HCBS conference during the week of August 28th. The conference offered a chance to network with potential funding and research partners. During the conference, we were able to connect with representatives from the Long Term Quality Alliance (LTQA), the Administration of Community Living (ACL), the ANCOR board, the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), CareSource, TennCare, and many others.

CERIIDD is currently working on a proposal to CareSource for funding. We are also completing the application process for the Ohio DD Council grant.

CERIIDD did a presentation to the ANCOR board in DC on September 17th. ANCOR and CERRIDD will consider a research and funding partnership. The next ANCOR board meeting is on November 3rd, and this may be on that agenda.

A CERIIDD retreat is scheduled for September 27th and 28th. During the retreat, the CERIIDD team will develop a focused strategic plan, develop research policies, and identify efficient staffing patterns.

CERIIDD is still awaiting final approval for IRB status in relation to the grant funded by the Ohio DD Council. The team has met with members of the COOL group of OSDA and the Board members of People First of Ohio to request support in the manner of providing constructive engagement in guiding the dissemination of outcomes at conclusion of the study.

On 2/1/18 CERIIDD submitted a letter of interest to the Center for Large Data Research and Data Sharing in Rehabilitation to fund research project, the proposals must have a mentor assigned per the CLDR regulations. Dr. Philippa J. Clarke at the Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan agreed to serve as our mentor/collaborator of the project. On 2/16/18 CERIIDD was invited to submit a full proposal and budget due 4/13/18.

ANCOR has offered $50k to CERIIDD for the development of three data briefs within the next year. The agreement needs discussion at the CERIIDD board meeting.

CERIIDD has been awarded a $7k grant from the CareSource Foundation. Karen Dawson from CareSource will be at OPRA’s office 1152 Goodale Blvd., to present a check to the team on March 5, 2018 at 11:00a.m.

On March 20, 2018 CERIIDD will join a panel of experts to speak at the Epilepsy Foundations’ Skill Building Institute. The event will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square. This year’s SBI theme is *Meeting the Challenge – Effective Strategies for Reaching Neglected Populations*. The Foundation seeks to expose its network to other health services/agencies/specialties, etc. that could build skills in making appropriate connections for people living with epilepsy, particularly among neglected populations

In Q1 of 2018 CERIIDD received $35k from ANCOR to develop two data briefs over the 2018-2019 year. In addition, CERIIDD applied and received $7k from the CareSource Foundation to support the development of a population health profile for individuals with IDD.

In Q2 CERIIDD officially created its research focused Board of Directors. On April 19th, CERIIDD welcomed the following Board members: Barbara Merrill from ANCOR, Gary Jessee from Sellers Dorsey, Julie Ward from The ARC, Robert Fletcher Founder of NADD, Charlie Lakin from the University of Minnesota and Henry Claypool from Claypool Consulting. We thank the previous Board of Directors for their insight and guidance. Remaining on the CERIIDD board from OPRA are: Jamie Steele (Chair), Diane Beastrom (Vice-Chair), Jerri Elson, Roy Cherry, John Swanson, Patricia Otter, and Dennis Grant. CERIIDD continues to benefit from the expertise of a combined Board or Directors. CERIIDD’s goal is to have a fully operational research focused Board of Directors by end of 2018, and will continue to provide monthly updates through this medium.

April 13th, CERIIDD under the mentorship of Dr. Philippa J. Clarke at the Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan submitted a proposal to the Center for Large Data Research and Data Sharing in Rehabilitation (CLDR) for funding to support the research in developing a population health profile.

CERIIDD presented at the ANCOR conference April 17th; we converged our expertise in data analyses on the Big Easy and those in attendance. CERIIDD gained opportunities to establish meaning relationships with national experts in the field and those within our state.

April 23rd, CERIIDD met with Dr. Jaeger and Dawn Carlson from NIDILRR to share the impact and importance of the work CERIIDD is doing to improve health outcomes, inform practice and policy to better understand cost of care needs over the life span for individuals with IDD receiving Medicaid and at least one LTSS service.

CERIIDD’s focus for the month of May is to continue presentations and cultivating relationships with peers, partners and potential collaborators: the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD), Developmental Disabilities-Practice Based Research Network (DD-PBRN), and Virginia Commonwealth (VCU).

CERIIDD has started the efforts to complete a data brief focused on the Workforce Development Crisis in Ohio, more specifically an analysis of the Turnover Rates of Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) implications to quality of care for individuals with (IDD). Anticipated publish date June 2018.

**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**

In January of 2018, and agreement was reached by the stakeholders on the structure of a new reimbursement system. Legislative language is being drafted and DODD hopes to have the new system effective July 1. DODD will be infusing an additional $25,000,000 into ICF reimbursement, which will provide some level stability for the next few years. We have stated our objection to the distribution of dollars, as public entities are the main benefactors of the new system. This is an issue we will address with the next administration.

System Components:

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. DODD initiated a Quality work group, which is establishing criteria for each of the measures and working on implementation issues. Anita and Gina Kerman (Rose-Mary Center) are participating in the Quality work group.

No changes to Protected or Indirect.

ICF Employment Pilot: Received funding and is underway. No further updates at this time. The OPRA Employment Committee has expressed an interest in developing an ICF employment project.

**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 the Tableau Server has been installed. The OPRA staff now have access to all of the dashboards Christine has created. Christine will provide support to the staff so that they feel comfortable using the dashboards created.

**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”.

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.

Have heard recently that DODD may begin issuing citations, which has not been discussed with the stakeholder group. Will work with OACB to clarify processes and advocate for training and TA as has been discussed in the workgroup.

Lisa, along with Scott Marks from OACB, continue to train providers and County Boards on strategies and tips to meet the HCBS Settings Rule. During June, the following regional trainings on the HCBS Setting Rule were/will be completed: **June 14 -**Northeast Region (Kent), **June 15 -**Northwest Region (Bowling Green), **June 19 -**Southwest Region (Dayton), **June 29 -**Southeast Region (Athens).

CMS is planning on releasing additional sub regulatory guidance on heightened scrutiny soon.

**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.

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.

We have started preliminary conversations about OACB and OPRA continuing to fund ProviderGuide Plus after May 31, 2018 (end of current 3-year agreement).

The planning committee met in Medina on September 22nd. The discussion included the statewide rollout, after it is assured that all providers are listed on the website. DODD is checking to see if they will consent to using billing data to sort search results for users. This would address the issue of providers showing up early in the search results that do not provide services in that county (and do not plan on doing so). County boards will not be reviewed as providers, as they are divesting themselves from direct service provision. The group discussed a modification to how potential MUI’s are handled.

The statewide rollout meeting with IDD leadership was held on February 5th. The planning committee is considering feedback from the IDD leadership group and will alter the rollout plan accordingly. DODD and the Provider Search team continue to work on ensuring proper display of ICF data in the tool.

(ProviderGuide Plus will be discussed at the May 23, 2018 OPRA board meeting.)

**8. Employment First/Day Services**

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.

Lisa, along with Scott Marks from OACB, continue to train providers and County Boards on strategies and tips to meet the HCBS Settings Rule during day programming. During June, the following regional trainings on the HCBS Setting Rule were/will be completed: **June 14 -**Northeast Region (Kent), **June 15 -**Northwest Region (Bowling Green), **June 19 -**Southwest Region (Dayton), **June 29 -**Southeast Region (Athens).

OOD recently rolled out some of the provider forms that will be put into effect on October 1st, 2017. These forms can be found under the provider tab on the OOD website. Additionally, OOD is offering training on the new fee schedule and forms beginning August 23rd.

Stacy Collins will be speaking to the OPRA Employment First and OPRA Day Services workgroups on August 28th about what the last 5 years of data indicates concerning employment and day services in Ohio.

On 9/25/17, OPRA will hold an Employment First Meeting from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. OPRA members Kristina Lambert from Benchmark Human Services and Justin Blumhorst from Capabilities will present on the templates they have created for their organizations to meet the documentation requirements of the components of Career Planning.

Later that day, OPRA will hold a Day Services Meeting from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. OPRA member Kristina Lambert from Benchmark Human Services will present on the strategies Benchmark Human Services uses to make community integration enjoyable to those with significant sensory/behavioral disorders.

On October 1, 2017, OOD implemented a new performance-based Supported Employment program and increased the usage of performance-based Job Development. Payments are based on a three tier system:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job Development | Supported Employment |
| * Tier I - $1,167.50 * Tier II - $1,110.25 * Tier III - $ 1,580.50 * Tier III Rapid - $1,980.50 * Tier III SGA- $1,980.50 * Tier III Rapid & SGA $2,380.50 * Subsequent Placement $339.50 | * Tier I - $1,459.25 * Tier II - $1387.75 * Tier III - $1,975.50 * Tier III Rapid - $2,375.50 * Tier III SGA- $2,375.50 * Tier III Rapid & SGA $2,775.50 * Subsequent Placement $424.25 |

The OPRA team continues to develop relationships with OOD to enhance the relationship/communication between OOD and providers, encourage OOD to be transparent with employment data, and increase the influence of OPRA members.

On 1/29/18, OPRA will hold an Employment First Meeting from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Lisa Mathis will present on the similarities and differences among performance-based supported employment and job development. Tips on successfully implementing the services will also be presented. CESP continuing education hours will be offered to participants.

Later that day, OPRA will hold a Day Services Meeting from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. OPRA member Laryssa Ingebo and her team from Toward Independence will present on their experiences/successes in working with One Bistro as a community partner.

A subcommittee of the OPRA Employment First work group is being formed to create a free curriculum for OPRA members to use to “fast track” staff for the CESP examine. Once a draft curriculum is developed, it will be sent to APSE for approval.

A subcommittee of the OPRA NMT group has been working on a transportation proposal. The members of the subcommittee include Gary Brown, Gary Loach, Scott DeLong, Brenda Smith, and Matt White. Once drafted, this proposal will be taken to the OPRA NMT group for input, and then to the state NMT group for consideration.

On February 9th, OPRA, with input from OPRA members, submitted public comments to OOD concerning OOD’s modification to the Combined State Plan. The submitted comments focused OOD’s relationship with providers as partners, increasing training for VR staff concerning the identification of individuals with the most significant disabilities, and transparency of employment data.

On Monday, February 26th, an OPRA Employment Frist meeting will be held with guest speaker Julie Hance from OOD, discussion a curriculum for individuals planning to sit for the CESP exam, and introduction to Basecamp.

On April 24th, Stacy Collins from DODD stated that DODD will be sending out guidance on when it is not appropriate for providers to pay the individuals they support. This guidance will be based on federal law and will target Guarantee Pay ( for example, a provider who guarantees at least 2 hours of pay a day to individuals, even if they don’t have any work that day), Conditional Pay (for example, a provider who pays individuals a stipend if the individuals choose that provider for both ADS and NMT services), and Gift/ Incentives (gifts given by providers to individuals served on Medicaid cannot have a retail value more than $15 per item or $75 aggregate per person on an annual basis). An exact date for when this guidance will be disseminated was not given. DODD is also looking to develop guidance around payments that may be perceived as passed-through to users of supported employment services. Lisa Mathis and Scott Marks (OACB) have been asked to assist DODD in developing this guidance. We do not the Medicaid pass-through guidance to impact OPRA members much, if at all.

On May 15, a meeting was held for all OPRA members to discuss the transportation proposal that DODD is reviewing. This proposal has been shared in several OPRA committee meetings and will be shared again at the next OPRA policy meeting (5/21). This proposal changes the NMT per trip rates by financially incentivizing the transport of individuals in groups of 4 or less, allows for flexibility in vehicle type, and includes an add on for individuals who need a modified vehicle. The proposal also includes a per mile rate for day and HPC providers. The proposed per mile rate is higher than the current HPC per mile rate, can be used by day providers to take individual into the community during day programming (currently an unfunded mandate), and has a higher rate for individuals who need a modified van, as well as for others riding in the van with that e individual (See proposed rates below). This proposal, if accepted by DODD, will bring approximately 17 million new dollars to providers. OACB reports that the majority of county boards are committed to the proposal. **It is important that all OPRA members that provide Day Services and/or HPC use the proposed number to calculate how their organizations would be impacted.** So far, we have identified one member that will be significantly and negatively impacted by the proposal. This proposal, if accepted by DODD, would go into effect no sooner than March 1, 2019. The OPRA membership may need to vote on this issue in the future.

**Proposed Per Trip Rates:**

* Modified Vehicle Add On for those that require a modified/lift van (as determined by ISP team, or if disagreement among team, by an Occupational Therapist
* Used to “to and from” a day service, community employment, and/or volunteer opportunity
* Flexibility in vehicle type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COBD** | **1-4 Passengers** | **5 + Passengers** |
| 1 | $21.07 | $16.03 |
| 2 | $21.13 | $16.06 |
| 3 | $21.18 | $16.08 |
| 4 | $21.24 | $16.11 |
| 5 | $21.30 | $16.14 |
| 6 | $21.36 | $16.17 |
| 7 | $21.42 | $16.22 |
| 8 | $21.48 | $16.22 |
|  |  |  |
| **Modified Vehicle Add-on** | **$10.19 / Person** | **$10.19/Person** |

**Proposed Per Mile Rates:**

* The Modified vehicle rate of $.94/mile can be used on any trip when at least 1 passenger on the trip requires a modified/lift vehicle (as determined by ISP team, or if team disagrees, by an occupational therapist)
* This rate applies to both NMT Per-Mile AND HPC transportation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1 Passenger** | **2-3 Passengers** | **4+ Passengers** |
| **Standard Mileage** | $.54 | $.27 | $.20 |
| **Modified Vehicle Mileage** | $.94 | $.47 | $.35 |

**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. (See A.4 for additional information.)

**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.

DODD released the revised version of the MUI rule based on discussions from the stakeholder workgroup convened in early 2017. The rule is now out for public comment. A number of significant changes have been made in the rule in response to OPRA member comment.

**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. The 2018 training schedule is well underway. We will be repeating popular sessions from last year and adding a CEO track. Watch your email for our 2018 offerings.