**OPRA-OAAS-PSG**

**Background and Rationale for Consolidation**

This is a draft document designed to assist our Board discussion this morning on the potential alliance between OPRA, OAAS and PSG. The desired process and next steps is for the creation of a joint executive and member services committee that will thoroughly vet any arrangement to be negotiated between OPRA, OAAS and PSG. This joint committee will bring a recommendation to the whole OPRA Board for consideration.

OAAS-The Ohio Association of Adult Services is a statewide member association primarily consisting of current and ex-county board workshops. Previous and only historical affiliation was with OACB. Members pay nominal annual dues and they have one part time staff member.

PSG-Provider Support Group (previously Privatization Support Group) PSG was created by a small group of already privatized county board workshops who wanted their own entity unique to the experience of having privatized. They are a volunteer association who prides themselves on sharing their experience and expertise with providers who are currently privatizing or about to privatize.

Late 2017 OPRA received a call from Brenda Smith, RVI, an OPRA member and OAAS member to express the potential desire of the OAAS Board for OAAS to become affiliated with or merge with OPRA. The initial call was intended to both express that interest and gauge OPRA interest. This led to the current ongoing discussions.

March-April 2018-As discussions progressed with OAAS representative’s indications emerged that PSG might be interested in joining with OAAS in the discussions about affiliation with OPRA. This was an unexpected and quite pleasant/exciting development as PSG has historically prided themselves on the unique nature of their independence.

WHY JOIN A STATEWIDE MEMBER ASSOCIATION?

-power and influence (a voice and seat at the table)-the ability to influence policy both proactively and reactively

-legislative advocacy-similar to above -peer to peer relationships, networking

-training

-conferences

-other

WHY DID OAAS (AND PSG) REACH OUT TO OPRA FOR AFFILIATION?

-same as above

-realization that their future was not with OACB but with an association of their peers

-OPRA is the acknowledged provider association leader in the DD system (and ultimately in the OOD system)

-common mission, common values

WHY IS THIS BENEFICIAL TO OPRA AND ITS MEMBERS?

Power and Influence (Real and Perceived)

-for statewide trade associations it’s all about power and influence

-there are two signs of strength (or weakness) in a trade association

-membership and paid staff -this could be the single biggest influx of new members in recent history

-diversity-essential in the future

-experience and expertise of new members

-immediately increase influence with OOD

-increasing competition among trade associations-adapt, grow stronger or die

-timing-see below

-the actual announcement of the joining of OPRA, OAAS and PSG will be a powerful statement that will reverberate within the entire system

Timing

-in a DD system immersed in transition with a competitive trade association marketplace the announcement that OAAS and PSG have come to OPRA to join forces is a powerful and symbolic statement of OPRA’s continued growth, strength and place in the system

-perfect timing just before a new Governor and new DD Director

-consistent with 2018-19 Member Service Committee Action Plan’s Focus Areas and Goals (Solicitation of New Members)

Additional Benefits

-committee involvement and work will improve with the additional members and their energy and enthusiasm

-spring and fall conferences will grow in size and scope

-same as above with trainings

Membership and Training

-additional members

-additional dues revenue

-potential of ultimately reducing dues for all members