

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members
JANUARY 10, 2020

Upcoming Events

1/13: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting

1/15: Single Statewide ISP Workgroup

1/22: DODD Livechat: PASSR Rule



THE WEEK'S TOP 5

Ball V DeWine: In recent weeks, parties had negotiated an initial settlement to the lawsuit initiated by DRO against the state of Ohio. After further testimony from parents and advocates, Judge Sargus has asked the parties to renegotiate the settlement to better ensure ICFs as a viable options for people seeking residential services. OPRA has drafted a letter to Director Davis, outlining OPRA's priorities for ensuring the sustainability and success of ICFs. Please contact Pete for questions or further details at Pmoore@opra.org

Day Array Committee: Thank you to all who participated yesterday in OPRA's day array committee meeting. Guest speakers included Stacy Collins-DODD, Beth Stephens-OOD. Court Sturts-OSCB and Bridget Gargan-OACB. Our guest speakers provided great information and prompted several important discussions on SSA/Provider Relations and opportunities to partner with county boards. Detailed meeting minutes will be posted on Basecamp next week. Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions or for additional information.

Blue Print Group: The first meeting of the 'Blue Print for Adult and Employment services' will be held on January 29-30 and OPRA reps will be visiting adult/employment providers throughout January to prepare. Site visits have been scheduled for Weaver Industries, Wingspan, Boundless, Echoing Connections, PALS and MatCo. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to host a workgroup rep at your agency! For more info, please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org.

OPRA Spring Conference: Speaker proposals are open for OPRA's 2020 spring conference. If you would like to present a session, or have suggestions for topics to be addressed, please let us know. The theme of the Spring conference will be "2020 Vision", visit the speaker proposal page [here](#).

Federal Update: The Isaiah Baker and Margie Harris-Austin Act (HR 5443) was introduced in the House by Rep. Scanlon (D-PA) and Rep. Emmer (R-MN). This bill would enable states to offer reimbursement for DSPs to staff someone while they are in the hospital for a short-term stay. This change would expand that to all 1915 waivers. Sen. Portman is working with Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY) to introduce a companion version in the Senate. Other recent ANCOR/Federal initiatives include franchise fee studies, DSP training for people with disabilities and ICF sustainability.

News and Resources

"Congress Hands Special Ed Hefty Funding Boost" Click to Read...

"Columbus grandmother joins case against State of Ohio on treatment of special ed kids" Click to Read...

"Paramount to drop Medicaid in central, southeast region of Ohio" Click to Read...

"Riverside superintendent to lead state committee" Click to Read...

"Therap Completes Alternative EVV System Demonstration in Ohio" Click to Read...

"Actress With Autism To Debut In New TV Comedy" Click to Read...



In Case You Missed It...

Updates from the OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's DODD publication includes additional information on the HPC rate increase effective Jan. 1, updates on the On-Site/On-Call Assessment and updated technical assistance on PAWS/MSS. To read the memos, click [here](#).

Transportation: DODD hosted a webinar outlining the changes to NMT/HPC Transportation. If you missed the webinar, it will be posted to DODD's website in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the new rules please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org.

Five Years of ABLE: Building STABLE Accounts for the Future

By: Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague

The end of 2019 marked the five-year anniversary of the passage of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. As you may know, ABLE empowers people with disabilities by helping them to take better control of their finances and live more independently. After passage of the federal legislation, Ohio was the first state to jump in, launching the STABLE Account program in 2016. Since then, and notably in the last year, the Treasurer's office has championed the ABLE Act's purpose and provided people living with disabilities with a powerful tool to help them plan their financial future.

STABLE accounts are the premier ABLE program in the country, and more than one in four ABLE accounts are STABLE accounts. Since taking office one year ago, our team has made it a priority to grow the program even further and create innovative partnerships that are establishing STABLE accounts as a mainstream financial tool. (And signing up is easy – just visit www.stableaccount.com.)

The STABLE Account program saw unprecedented growth and success in 2019. Our national presence was cemented in February with the opening of the 10,000th active account. By year's end, we surpassed 14,000 active accounts, effectively growing overall participation by more than 40 percent. This great news continued into November when STABLE reached \$100 million in total participant contributions. As part of our office's mission, we're committed to being bold innovators who improve people's lives.

Our work on STABLE accounts is playing a large part in how we follow through on that mission. New partnerships with the State of Ohio and the City of Cincinnati allow state and city employees to make recurring direct deposits into STABLE accounts. In the coming years, we'll continue to build these types of partnerships both in the public and private sectors to make contributing to STABLE accounts easier than ever before.

With your help and the support of advocates across Ohio, we're going to reach even more individuals and have a greater impact in 2020. While a great deal of progress has been made since the ABLE Act became law, I can assure you we're just getting started. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the new year. Through the STABLE Account program, we are improving and empowering lives, while also helping to alleviate the financial burdens felt by families across the Buckeye State and nationwide. As always, my door is open, so please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and ideas. Together, we're helping to build peace of mind and financial security to those living with disabilities.

