

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 24, 2020



Upcoming Events

1/29: DODD Live Chat – ICF Franchise Permit Fees

1/29-1/30: Blue Print for Adult & Employment Services Workgroup

2/5: DODD Live Chat - ICF Cost Reporting

News and Resources

"Disability Rights Ohio Names New Executive Director" Click to Read...

"Intellinetics Achieves EVV Vendor Certification in Ohio" Click to Read...

"Ed Department Urged To Ban Seclusion In Schools" Click to Read...

"DCBDD staff rolls out new strategic plan" Click to Read...

"DeWine picks Carrie Beier for state board" Click to Read...

THE WEEK'S TOP 5

Board of Directors: OPRA's board held their first meeting of 2020, welcoming several newly elected members. The board approved a new reporting process for how OPRA's committees will communicate with and update the board. Following up from the retreat in November, a first draft of OPRA's strategic plan was reviewed, discussed and will continue to be developed by OPRA staff based on feedback from the meeting. Please contact Pete for questions or further details at Pmoore@opra.org

Wage Verification: OPRA and our system partners are reaching a solution for how providers demonstrate the application of the HPC rate increase enacted on January 1st. The process will require providers to document minimal information regarding wages and benefits using a tool that replaces the NCI Staff Stability Survey in 2020. OPRA is looking for small, medium and large size providers to help pilot the tool. To volunteer to pilot the tool, or if you have any questions contact Pete or Anita at AAllen@opra.org.

Training Calendar 2020: After soliciting member feedback, OPRA is preparing to release our 2020 training schedule. We will be coordinating and providing learning opportunities in several areas, including training for middle managers, which has been one of the primary topics requested by membership. We recently announced the first training of the series, "From Paper To An Electronic Document System" on February 27th. To learn more about, or to register for this training, click [here](#).

OPRA Website: We are very excited to announce that OPRA will be launching a new website soon! This new site will allow exclusive member content, resources and areas for committee and workgroup discussion and sharing. We are looking for testers to help "break" the website. If you are interested in helping test the new site, please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org.

BEST Implementation: The sub-committee tasked with implementing Basic Employment Skills Training's extension process met on Wednesday. There are still many uncertainties with the proposal for the vocational service since CMS informed Ohio the proposal could not move forward as originally intended. To learn more about BEST, click [here](#), or contact Scott at smarks@opra.org.



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

We Advocated

- OPRA and its members worked with state legislators and partners, resulting in an historic investment of \$370 million, raising wages for direct support professionals throughout the state.
- OPRA collaborated with system partners to create revised transportation rules leading to more flexible, person-centered options and an investment of \$26 million into Ohio's DD transportation system.
- OPRA advocated successfully for an additional rate to support individuals with behavioral challenges being served in ICFs.
- OPRA advocated successfully for changes to the ICF rate reimbursement, resulting in an average rate increase of 18%.
- OPRA staff represented its members on statewide policy workgroups including ICF Quality, Provider Certification, On-Site/On-Call, Monthly Rate Calculator, PASRR, and the Statewide Single ISP committee.
- OPRA held over 30 meetings with state legislators, as well as meetings with Senators Brown and Portman, and US Representatives Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur and Gonzalez.

We Organized

- OPRA held 2 statewide conferences, hosting an average of 350 attendees as well as fundraisers for for OPRA's Political Action Committee (PAC), and coordination of the Annual DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.
- OPRA coordinated 47 committee meetings, helping members collaborate on the issues most important to the membership.
- OPRA organized 8 statewide trainings, responding to necessary training needs identified by members.
- OPRA coordinated and provided content for 78 'Back to Basics' trainings, collaborating with system partners to bring professional development opportunities across the state.
- OPRA worked with system partners on the 'Provider/County Board Partnership Project, exploring and developing promising practices for local, regional and statewide collaboration.

We Listened

- OPRA staff conducted on-site visits with members, getting to learn in person how member agencies operate and getting a fuller understanding of their needs.
- OPRA responded to the workforce crisis by expanding the DSP Ohio Campaign to bring awareness to the direct service profession and link potential talent to providers.
- OPRA worked to develop the future workforce through the C3PO program, training high school students to work as DSPs through internships and a specialized curriculum.
- OPRA facilitated the development of an an Employee Resource Network, supporting direct service workforce with additional resources to promote well-being as well physical and mental health.
- OPRA conducted several member surveys, gathering crucial member feedback informing advocacy positions on several important policy and organizational topics.

