

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 28, 2020



Upcoming Events

3/3: DODD Provider Billing Training

3/4: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

3/5: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

News and Resources

[Senate Passes Bill Expanding Access To Respite Care](#)

[Akron Zoo to host Inclusion Day March 2](#)

[Lawrence County DD requests levy after changes to amount, approach](#)

[New group to help crime victims with disabilities](#)

THE WEEK'S TOP 5

OPRA Board of Directors Meeting:

OPRA's board met on Wednesday, Feb. 25, reviewing and approving new OPRA processes and operations. In addition to establishing a short-term Strategic Planning Committee, the board was shown a demonstration of OPRA's new website as well as establishing a new process for staff and committee reporting. Please contact Pete at Pmoore@opra.org with any questions.

Medicaid Waivers for Military Families:

OPRA staff attended testimony in the Senate Finance Sub-Committee on Health and Medicaid in regards to Bill 287, which passed the house in November of 2019. The bill is intended to ensure waiver capacity for family members of active duty military service members stationed in or transferred to Ohio. This issue was identified in testimony as being one of the "Top 10 Key Issues of the Office of Military Community and Family Policy under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense." To read more about the bill, click [here](#) or contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org for more info.

MRC/MSS Workgroup:

The DODD-led workgroup intending to operationalize proposed changes to the Medicaid Service System (MSS) met on Monday, 2/24. The group began the develop processes that will be associated with the 're-write' of MSS including the processes for building a site, adding individuals, and adding providers. the Group has an aggressive timeline and large task ahead, planning to meet twice a month for the next several months. Information about the Kaizen event leading to the workgroup can be found [here](#). Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org for more information.

ODM Integrated Settings Reviews:

The Ohio Dept. of Medicaid will be visiting and reviewing several non-residential sites throughout the state in order to to assess Ohio's progress on the Transition Plan to HCBS Integrated Settings. These reviews will begin next week, and OPRA staff will be present for some of the early 'pilot' reviews. We will keep you informed as we learn more about ODM's review process and the results of the visits. For more info, please contact Scott at Smarks@opra.org.

DD Awareness & Advocacy DAY:

Next Wednesday, March 4th is the 2020 Developmental Disability Awareness & Advocacy Day at The Ohio Statehouse. If you are registered and plan to attend and have any questions about 'day of logistics', please contact Melissa at Mfannon@opra.org. This year's theme is 'Live, Work, Go Where We Want!', and we look forward to seeing you there next week!



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

OPRA Salary Survey: We have extended the deadline to submit OPRA's 2020 Compensation and Benefits Survey to March 23. This survey is a vital part of OPRA's advocacy work, helping us understand staffing trends and patterns over time. The survey has been attached to this email and can be returned to info@barry-online.com when completed. Please contact Anita at AAllen@opra.org with any questions.

OOD CESP Sponsorships: Per OOD Announcement "OOD again is accepting names of provider staff to be sponsored for the April 2020 Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) examination. The CESP certification is required in order for Job Developers to offer Supported Employment Job Development.

For provider staff to be eligible for OOD sponsorship, the organization must be a currently approved VR Provider for OOD. Providers may submit the names and email addresses of the staff they are recommending to crpvendor@ood.ohio.gov and use the subject line APSE04. The request for sponsorship by OOD will be open until 12:00 PM on Friday, March 6, 2020. Names will not be accepted after this date. OOD will then handle submitting names for the April examination to (APSE).

OOD will reach out to confirm participation and additional details, but those requesting sponsorship should note the April examination dates are April 6-17, 2020. OOD has set aside a total 500 sponsorships for FFY 20. There will be two additional opportunities to apply, which will be for the June and August 2020 examinations. OOD will solicit additional names prior to each of the APSE application windows in 2020 as long as sponsorships remain available. Those staff who were previously sponsored are not eligible for additional sponsorship." Please contact Scott at Smarks@opra.org with any questions.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

As you are making preparations to potentially deal with an outbreak of coronavirus, OPRA will continue to monitor and provide resources for members. Please stay safe and let us know if you have any questions.

[Ohio Dept of Health Coronavirus Homepage](#)

[Resources for Local Health Districts](#)

[CDC 'Decision-Making Chart'](#)

["Coronavirus in the US \(updating regularly\)"](#)

["How to Prepare for COVID-19"](#)

