

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 6, 2020

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

#DDawareness2020

Upcoming Events

[3/10: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting](#)

[3/12: OPRA Training: Frontline
Supervisor Training Techniques](#)

[3/11: DODD Family Advisory
Council Meeting](#)

News and Resources

[Developmental Disabilities Awareness
Month kicks off with Day at Capitol](#)

[March designated as Developmental
Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

[An engineering student is helping
envision a self-driving future for
people with disabilities](#)

[FDA Bans Devices Used To Shock
Those With Developmental
Disabilities](#)

THE WEEK'S TOP 5

Coronavirus Update:

Like many of you, OPRA is concerned about the potential spread of Covid-19 to Ohio. We have been working closely with ANCOR, as well as state partners to compile and distribute resources to help prepare. ANCOR has been generous to create and share this [resource page](#), featuring many helpful articles, fact sheets, links, as well as a recording of their national briefing. Please contact Anita at AAllen@opra.org if you have additional questions or concerns.

DD Awareness Month & Advocacy Day

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month, which kicked off in Ohio with DD Awareness & Advocacy day. OPRA is proud to help facilitate this important event which connected almost hundreds of advocates with disabilities with the several state Representatives and Senators. To learn more about DD Awareness Month, click [here](#). If you or your community are doing anything special to highlight DD awareness, please let Melissa know at Mfannon@opra.org, so that we can spotlight your efforts!

S.3369 - Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act

This week saw the introduction of a bi-partisan bill aimed at revising the standard occupational classification (SOC) to include a new code for Direct Support Professionals (DSP), specifically for disability-service professionals. This bill, if enacted, would potentially help establish necessary data to help communicate the workforce crisis. The text of the bill can be read [here](#). Please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org with any questions.

Ohio Medicaid Integrated Settings Reviews:

On Wednesday, ODM conducted their first 'pilot' review, evaluating Ohio's progress towards 'integrated settings'. The review, held at Arc Industries, was led by ODM staff as well as compliance staff from DODD. The review, lasted a total of about 2 hours, including a presentation by ARC staff on their future plans, data analytics, and 'day to day activities', followed by an agency tour and several questions from ODM staff. We will be working to compile the 'tool' used by ODM based on our notes from the day. If your agency is due for a review and you have any questions, please contact Scott at Smarks@opra.org.

Day Array Committee:

Thanks to everyone who attended Thursday's Day Array Committee meeting. Our guests included Stacy Collins-DODD, Beth Stephens-ODD, and Court Sturts-Superintendent Association. Topics included NMT implementation, recent legislation, Spring Conference tracks and many more. Detailed Minutes will be posted to Basecamp early next week.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

BEST Survey: As part of the transition to Basic Employment Skills Training, DODD, along with BEST Communication Sub-Committee developed a stakeholder survey to help identify needed areas for the service's implementation. Per DODD "In March 2020, DODD is conducting a survey to help communicate these updates and develop resources about the transition from the Vocational Habilitation service to the new Basic Employment Skills Training service in December 2020." You can take the survey, which closes March 30, [here](#).

NMT FAQ: DODD released [this FAQ](#) regarding several questions that have arisen during the implementation of the new NMT rules. While this document does address several important topics, we know there are still several issues occurring regarding the authorization of the new services. If you are still having specific issues around the implementation of NMT, please let Scott know at smarks@opra.org.

DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

