

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

MARCH 20, 2020

DODD Announces 2-Week Payment for Day Array Services

With the expectation that the state of Ohio will soon mandate the closure of adult day and vocational habilitation service centers, DODD announced Wednesday evening that they will be releasing 2 weeks worth of average waiver billing payments to providers of adult day support, vocational habilitation, group and integrated employment and NMT. We hope this payment will give providers some time and flexibility to plan for the coming weeks and months. OPRA continues to work with DODD and system partners to plan for beyond those 2 weeks and for additional support/relief for all providers during this time.

To read the memo outlining this payment, click [here](#). Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions.

Audits Suspended

After being alerted by members of continuing audits during this time, OPRA was able to work with DODD and state auditors to suspend and/or extend deadlines for current audits. According to a message from DODD "Auditor of State's audits of ICF-IID Cost reports being suspended immediately and until further notice. DODD has suspended all waiver audits but will continue those already started but extend any deadlines as needed." We appreciate DODD and the State of Ohio suspending and extending these processes during this time.

DODD Updates:

With so many changes and memos coming from DODD this week, we have attempted to compile all of the week's updates here below. Contained are information about relaxed processes, billing concessions and other steps taken by DODD to support the system.

[OSSAS Suspends Scheduled Compliance Reviews, Regulatory Work](#)

[Guidance: Home Waiver Settings](#)

[Guidance: Day Support Service Options](#)

[DODD's Statewide Support Teams Available for COVID-19 Response](#)

[Guidance: Providers of Waiver-Funded Services](#)

[Guidance for ICFs Regarding COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19: Updates for ICFs](#)

[Guidance: Rule Relief for Medication Administration Certification Renewals](#)

[Latest DODD Guidance and Resources](#)



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Federal Legislation-

With the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the US Congress is getting to work on their third COVID-19 (Coronavirus) relief package. We have seen a few different proposals that could be passed into law. Below are the bills we are tracking-

S.3548 CARES Act — The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act- This bill would provide \$1,200 tax rebates to individuals, with additional \$500 payments per qualifying child, provide fee-free loans for businesses with fewer than 500 employees, suspend payments on federal student loans, allow the FDA to expedite the review of testing mechanisms and drugs to treat COVID 19, and pay for the testing of COVID 19.

S.3544 - A bill to assist older Americans and people with disabilities affected by COVID-19- assist low-income seniors with Medicare Part-B payments, increase funding for nursing home surveys to focus on infection control, provide funding for grants to Medicaid HCBS providers that could be used for things like DSP wages, overtime, and hazard pay, and ensure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to food during the public health emergency.

Ohio Legislation-

Next week, the Ohio General Assembly will convene to tackle a variety of legislative issues that have arisen from the various Governor DeWine Executive Orders and Ohio Department of Health Director Acton's Director's Orders. Some of the Orders enacted by Governor DeWine and Director Acton require action by the Ohio General Assembly, they include

- The postponement of the primary election
- The likely K-12 school closure for the remainder of the academic year
- Policy changes around the administration and delivery of Medicaid
- Changes to laws regulating the Bureau of Motor Vehicles

In addition to this list, we may also see some proposals for price gauging regulations and accessing the state's rainy day fund to continue state operations proposed and passed in the very near future.

Please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org with any questions about passed and pending legislation



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OPRA Day Service & Employment Services Committee

OPRA held a virtual joint meeting of both the day service and employment services committee. In our new, socially distant world, it was great to see and talk to everyone 'brady bunch' style. The day services committee discussed all the ways they are supporting people as center-based and group services are closing down to the virus. Strategies included sharing staff, helping people connect through remote technology, providing recreational activities and employment remotely, sending activities to people's homes and providing small group activities when safe and appropriate. It was great to hear all of the creative ideas and ingenuity in this very difficult period.

The Employment Services committee primarily focused on the provider calls held by OOD earlier on Thursday, focusing on how our vocational rehabilitation system will support job seekers with disabilities amid the business closures and public health worries. OOD will be exploring the expansion of remote services, as well as increasing capacity for pre-employment transition services. After discussions with providers, OOD announced this morning they would be allowing the authorization of 10 hours of job seeking skills training per month for individuals in active job development. While this is a helpful start for job seekers and providers, we will continue to work with OOD to find solutions to the pressing issues caused by Covid-19

Ohio Approved for Small Business and Non-Profit Loan Assistance

Per the state's announcement; "Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved the Ohio Development Services Agency's request to allow small businesses and nonprofits in Ohio to apply for low-interest, long-term loans of up to \$2 million through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. The Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used by Ohio small business owners and nonprofits to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for nonprofits is 2.75 percent. To keep payments affordable, the loans are long term, with up to 30 years for repayment. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based on each borrower's ability to repay."

To learn more, click [here](#).

