

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

APRIL 28, 2020

Ball v DeWine Lawsuit Settled

On Friday afternoon, Judge Argus of the US District for Southern Ohio approved an amended settlement in the lawsuit filed 4 years ago by DRO. The settlement does not include terms to address the claims raised by family/guardian intervenors to the case, as Sargus noted those claims will be addressed at a later time. Terms of the settlement include;

- DODD will offer another round of options counseling that will run through the end of June 2021 to people living in 8+ Bed ICFs. People who refuse the service do not have to be part of the counseling.

- DODD will request additional state funding for 700 new IO waivers over the next 2 years.

- DODD will provide \$24 million in capital housing assistance over the current budget cycle and request at least \$12 million for additional capital housing assistance in the next cycle.

- DODD will also request \$250,000 to fund transformation grants to support transitions to integrated day and employment services.

OPRA is working with our partners at Vorys on a full case summary and analysis, which will be provided to members when complete.

[To read DODD's announcement on the settlement, click here.](#)

SBA Releases Additional PPP Guidance

On April 26th, the US Small Business Administration released a new [Frequently Asked Question document on the Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\).](#)

After initial review, The FAQs do not address the issue many vocational providers are facing, where people served may not be able to return to work at full capacity by June 30, due to the ODH's order to limit capacity at congregate adult and vocational centers. We are still working to get additional clarity on this requirement as this issue could significantly impact the forgiveness amount of the PPP loan. Since the June 30th date is outlined in the CARES Act, changing the date would likely need to be done through additional legislation.

[For more information and additional resources, visit **www.opra.org** here.](#)



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OOD Release New Information on Summer Youth Services

On April 27th, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities announced changes to the 2020 Summer Youth service. OPRA staff and many members of the OPRA Employment Services Committee provided feedback to OOD on how to make the program a success in the light of COVID 19. We are pleased to see many suggestions incorporated into this plan.

From OOD: "Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has received feedback and suggestions for this summer's youth services and how services could be more flexible given the needs of students with disabilities across Ohio and changing circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, April 24th, OOD discussed a proposal for Summer Youth Foundations, a flexible approach to summer youth, with a provider focus group.

Given the input and positive feedback OOD received, we are pleased to be moving forward with detailing the Summer Youth Foundations approach on Friday, May 1st by e-mailing out more information, followed by a training on Monday, May 4th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

This training will be delivered through Microsoft Teams on May 4th. [Click here to join at the time of the meeting \(advance registration not required\)](#). If you are not available to attend the training on May 4th, a recording will later be made available."

[To view notes from the April 24th meeting, click here.](#)

Ohio to Begin Economic Reopening

On Monday, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced the state's plan to begin reopening businesses throughout the month of March. The business reopening will have many impacts and considerations for service delivery as people's care needs may change as caregivers return to work and we begin to look at gradually reopening center-based services. OPRA is working with DODD to ensure thorough guidance is developed on health/safety requirements and how the reopening impacts service delivery. Details of Ohio's reopening plan include;

On May 1- All health procedures that do not require an overnight stay can resume in addition to the various procedures that remained allowable under the March order.

May 4th- Manufacturing, construction, and distribution can open up with safety protocols and capacity restrictions.

May 4th- Offices can open up but are encouraged to work from home as much as possible.

May 12th- Consumer retail and services can reopen.

[To read about Ohio's plan to reopen businesses, click here.](#)

