

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 1, 2020

Senator Brown Signs Phase 4 Coalition Letter

Earlier this week, Senator Sherrod Brown, along with several Democratic senators signed a letter to congressional leaders, outlining provisions to support people with disabilities they hope to see included in upcoming COVID-19 legislation. The requested provisions in the letter include;

- A 12% increase in FMAP to support Medicaid services for people with developmental disabilities.
- A \$50 Billion investment into HCBS services.
- Assurance of civil rights for people with DD in health/hospital care.
- Additional clarity that stimulus payments do not impact benefits.
- Methods to ensure people with disabilities have access to food and medication.
- The enactment of the Defense Production Act to create more PPE.

We are grateful to Senator Brown for his involvement in this effort and his support for people with developmental disabilities. [To read the letter, click here.](#)

DOL Releases Guidance on Reimbursing Employers

Earlier this week, the US Department of Labor released guidance for reimbursing or self-insuring employers, which was described by the National Council of Non-Profits as "breathtakingly cruel" as it guided states to begin billing those non-profits at 100% of paid benefits. We know this is a major issue for many members and is an advocacy priority for us as we look to additional relief for reimbursing non-profits in phase 4 federal legislation. [To read NCNP's Release, click here.](#)

Guidance on Day Array Expected Today

As the economy begins to reopen, we know there are many people looking to begin day services again, and that there has been conflicting guidance coming from county boards on authorizing those services. DODD is developing guidance to clearly outline requirements to safely provide services and ensure continuity of approach throughout the state. The previous requirement of '10 people or less' remains in effect. A small workgroup is also being formed to discuss how Ohio's day array providers will continue to reopen and serve more people in healthy, safe environments.

3 of 6 County Board Levies Passed

On Tuesday's primary election, Ohio voters approved board levies in Hancock, Holmes and Scioto county. Levies in Lawrence, Marion and Morrow counties failed to get the voter support needed.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

EVV Phase 3 User Acceptance Testing: ODM will begin online user acceptance testing for Phase 3 EVV services, including home health therapy and participant directed services. If you are interested in participating in the testing, please email Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org

Updated FAQ on Employee Retention Program: Earlier this week, the IRS published additional FAQs on the Employee Retention tax Credit program. This is a program where employers impacted by a mandated shutdown can claim a credit for up to 50% of qualified payroll costs. [To read the updated guidance, click here.](#)

OOD SYWE Webinar: OOD will be issuing guidance today on the Summer Youth Foundations model developed to provide work, training and career education to transition youth. A webinar will be hosted this Monday, May 4th at 1pm and [can be accessed at that time, by using this link.](#)

Ohio Rolls out 'Responsible Restart' Plan: On Wednesday, the DeWine administration presented a webinar and plans for the Responsible Restart Ohio Initiative which is "about protecting the health of employees, customers, and their families; supporting community efforts to control the spread of the virus; and, leading in responsibly getting Ohio back to work." [To learn more about the plan, click here.](#)

DSPOhio: DSP Ohio has launched a time limited campaign to draw applicants to the field during the COVID-19 crisis. This is a social media campaign and will be targeted to people who are actively job searching (have clicked on Indeed or Monster, for example). The campaign has already led to over 12,000 visits to the website since 4/13. 4,430 people clicked thru to a county to conduct a job search. Please let Anita know if you've hired anyone through the site!



Upcoming Events

5/4 at 1PM: OOD Webinar: SYWE Foundations

5/7: OPRA Day Array Committee

News and Resources

Federal judge signs off on long-running lawsuit over housing for disabled

Opinion: COVID-19 is making caregiver crisis worse

Coronavirus crisis poses challenges for those with autism, intellectual disabilities; tips and resources

Stimulus Payments May Be Extended To Dependents With Disabilities



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COVID-19 MUI Data from Ohio's DD System:

Scott Phillips of DODD shared with us the latest data as it concerns the impact of Covid-19 on people supported in Ohio's disability service system.

"Providing updated MUI COVID-19 data. In Ohio, we have had 10 deaths reported within our service delivery system. (Lucas County-3 , Miami-1, Hamilton -1, Franklin -1 Wayne-1, and NODC -3).

171 people have had Unanticipated Hospitalization MUI's reported and have been tested for COVID-19. (Of the 171 people tested 121 were negative, 48 were positive and 2 are pending).

61% Male and 39% female.

The average age is 55.....With the oldest person 88 and the youngest 2.

44 of the 88 counties have reported hospitalizations involving COVID-19.

Cuyahoga County leads our MUI reports with 25 people hospitalized, followed by Lucas County 15 and Franklin 15. These are overall reports of people being tested.... not positive results. Positive results (48) have been reported in 7 counties (Belmont, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Miami, Ottawa, Perry, Portage and Wayne.)

NODC is our only Developmental Center with positive cases at this time.

If you have questions or need any additional information please let me know.

Thanks for all you do.....!!

Take care.....and be safe.....!!

Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Major Unusual Incident and Registry Unit
Division of Legal and Oversight
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities"



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AIR Report

Strategic Action For COVID-19 and Beyond

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Advocacy - OPRA will work with local, state and federal partners as well as engaging members in advocacy initiatives to secure support and relief to manage COVID-19.

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Information - Through member calls and newsletters, OPRA will keep members apprised of the latest updates on state agencies, pending legislation and local news coverage.

R

Resources - OPRA will provide develop, compile and share tools and templates for members to navigate the crisis and recovery including tools for political advocacy, a database of PPE distributors and toolkits for local media outreach.

