

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 9, 2020

Budget/Legislative Advocacy: In anticipation of [the budget cuts announced earlier this week](#), OPRA developed [this template advocacy letter](#) and instructions on how to reach out to your elected officials, shared with members by Christine yesterday. We worked closely with our partners at The Success Group to craft an effective message, taking a broad swing to lay an advocacy foundation as we move into some tough times. We tried to boil down all the feedback we have heard from everyone over the past now two months into 3 to 4 key initial “asks.” There are still many advocacy priorities for OPRA beyond what is outlined in the letter, including issues such as reimbursing employers for unemployment, lack of support for providers with more than 500 employees, lack of immunity from liability, and the potential need for additional funding for any new service models that may need to be developed in the future. As we move through the next few months, we will have more opportunities to advocate with your legislator.

Please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org for more information.

Civil Immunity: This week we saw Senator Matt Huffman introduce a bill into the Ohio General Assembly to protect businesses, non-profits and health care workers from lawsuits related to COVID 19. We are hearing this bill will be fast tracked through the GA. In the worker protection part of the bill, DSPs aren’t explicitly called out except for those that work in an ICF. We are working with our partners at Vorys on draft language to better clarify the application to our field we hope can be incorporated into bill language.

Phase 4 Legislation-The US Senate was back in session this week. We are hearing that House Democrats could drop their version of a fourth COVID bill as early as today but likely not until next week. The bill could cost upwards of \$2 trillion Including funds for state and local governments, more direct payments, rent and more paycheck protections. [You can read about it here-](#)

Day Array: OPRA's Day Array Committee met yesterday, hosting guests Bridget Gargan-OACB and Stacy Collins-DODD. The primary focus of the conversation was on the DODD-led' reopening core' committee and the work being done by DODD to establish a team process for people looking to return to day services. The guidance includes a 'Provider Assurance' process as well as 'Risk/Benefit' process to help guide team conversations. [That guidance was released last night and can be found here](#), with the 'core committee' planning to meet Monday to discuss further issues such as transportation.

HHS Funds: Last week the HHS (Health and Human Services) submitted an information request to states regarding Medicaid spending during the pandemic. This request for information is related to provisions in the CARES Act, which established funds for health care providers. While we are still uncertain exactly how this information will be used, we know DODD and ODM are compiling it and we are hopeful this may lead to funds being allocated to providers who have incurred additional expenses throughout the crisis.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

DODD Memo Monday: The weekly communication included information for 'SSA Check-ins', DODD IT Systems and ABLE Accounts in HUD-assisted properties. [To read the memos, click here.](#)

DODD Transformation Summit: Per DODD announcement: In the interest of safety to our attendees and staff, we have made the decision to host this event virtually. We will continue to monitor reports and guidance provided by the WHO and CDC to ensure we are in full compliance. During the COVID-19 crisis, everyone involved in the Ohio Developmental Disabilities system has had to improvise and reimagine how supports are being delivered, their meaning and purpose. Terms like “congregate settings” and “essential services” are now freighted with new and disarming meanings. In the past “transformation” was about developing a plan to move toward more community-based supports. Now, “transformation” takes on an even deeper significance: how do we as a system move forward after such an unprecedented event?

*Day one: June 23, 2020 *Day two: September 22, 2020 *Continued conversation

[To learn more about the event 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 almost 14,000 visits to the website since 4/13. Since May 1st, the campaign has generated over 304k 'impressions and over 3,600 visits to the DSP Ohio Website. Please remember to let Anita know if you have hired anyone through the site.



Upcoming Events

5/11: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting

News and Resources

[Perseverance, luck key to finding face masks amid coronavirus pandemic \(feat. quote from Pete Moore\).](#)

[Ohio governor: Restaurants, bars to fully reopen on May 21](#)

[Ohio tax revenues plummeted in April during first full month of coronavirus closures](#)

[Coronavirus crisis exacts toll on people 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 14 deaths reported within our service delivery system. (Lucas County-4 , Miami-1, Hamilton -2, Franklin -1 Wayne-1, Perry-1 and NODC -4).

204 people have had Unanticipated Hospitalization MUI's reported and have been tested for COVID-19. (Of the 204 people tested 138 were negative, 60 were positive and 6 are pending).

62% Male and 38% female.

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

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

Cuyahoga County leads our MUI reports with 25 people hospitalized, followed by Hamilton County 20 and Franklin 18. These are overall reports of people being tested.... not positive results. Positive results (60) have been reported in 7 counties (Belmont, Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Miami, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, 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"

