

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 15, 2020

**HEROES Act:** The US House of Representatives is set to vote this evening on the HEROES Act, the \$3 Trillion dollar bill, intended to jumpstart negotiations on Phase 4 in COVID-19 Relief/stimulus. The bill contains many OPRA priorities including an additional 10% increase that could potentially be used for DSP wages, hazard pay, overtime and PPE costs, as well as changes to the Paycheck Protection program that would allow non-profits of over 500 employees to be eligible for the loan. The bill also includes language clarifying DSPs as essential and additional stimulus checks to individuals and families. Even if passed in the house today, the bill has a tough road ahead in the Senate, and would not see additional action by the Senate until after Memorial day.

[To read the full bill text, click here.](#)

**FDA Guidance on PPE:** As was promised last week, our partners at Vorys have developed a brief for members to use when distributing PPE in accordance with FDA guidelines. This includes FDA language that should be included in disclosure sheets. You can use this general language when drafting your disclosures. If you would like something more specific to your agency, Vorys can assist you in developing those disclosures. They have a short questionnaire that will give them the information needed for customization. As a reminder, you get 2 free hours of Vorys service per year as an OPRA member. You can use this benefit for disclosure customization if you so choose. Contact information for Vorys is included in the memo, [which can be found here.](#)

**Reopening 'Core Committee':** Yesterday, the 'Core Committee' led by DODD met to continue to refine/fix/further develop guidance around reopening day and vocational services, as well as other important topics related to Ohio's economic reopening. DODD will be updating the current guidance to relax the PPE standards when delivering personal care and will be continuing conversation around family visitation next week. The majority of the conversation was devoted to the current transportation guidance and the need for a consistent, safe, and viable transportation model. [The current guidance can be found here,](#) but we expect/hope it to be modified over the coming weeks.

**Policy:** OPRA's policy committee met on Monday to discuss the policy priorities and strategies for OPRA as we move towards a 'recovery phase' from COVID-19. The heart of the discussion was around 'elephants in the room', confronting the many challenges members will face over the coming months and years in order to develop strategies to address them. [The powerpoint and agenda from the meeting can be found here.](#) Thank you to all who attended!

**ANCOR/OPRA CMS Call:** Earlier this week OPRA and ANCOR participated in what will be a regular monthly call with CMS regarding issues regarding ICFIDs. Updates included suspended survey activities during pandemic with exceptions for verified complaints and Targeted Infection Control Inspections. OPRA is developing a self-assessment tool to assist with this process. It was also clarified that ICFs are exempt from weekly COVID-19 incident reporting to CMS.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**DODD Memo Monday:** The weekly communication included information on Monthly Rate Calculator updates, new DODD trainings and updated CPR/First Aid guidance. [To read the memos, click here.](#)

**Legislative Outreach Resource:** There is still time to reach out to your local representative to advocate for the importance of DD services during this time of state budget shortfall. [OPRA has developed this template letter and resource packet](#) to reach out to your local rep. Please contact Christine at Ctouville@Opra.org with any questions.

**OOD FAQ:** As many of you are ramping up to begin Summer Youth Work Experience services under the modified 'Foundations' SYWE Model, [OOD has released this FAQ](#) covering topics such as scheduling and preparation, Safety/PPE, Transportation, Service scheduling and remote services. So far, we've received positive feedback from members preparing to implement 'foundations', but please reach out to Scott at smarks@opra.org with any feedback about this guidance.

**DSP Ohio:** 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

**5/21: OPRA Day Services & Employment Service Committees**

## News and Resources

**After delay, CDC releases new guidance on how states can safely reopen**

**Childcare, day camps can reopen in Ohio on May 31**

**OPRA Updated list of PPE distributors and resources.**



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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.

"In Ohio, we have had 18 deaths reported within our service delivery system. (Lucas County-4 , Miami-1, Hamilton -3, Franklin -2 Wayne-1, Warren-1,Perry-1,Clark-1 and NODC -4 ).

239 people have had Unanticipated Hospitalization MUI's reported and have been tested for COVID-19. (Of the 239 people tested 157 were negative, 70 were positive and 12 are pending).

49% Male and 51% 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 29 people hospitalized, followed by Hamilton County 26 and Franklin 23. These are overall reports of people being tested.... not positive results. Positive results (70) have been reported in 7 counties (Belmont, Butler, Clark, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Miami, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, Portage, Summit, Warren and Wayne.)

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"

