

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

MAY 19, 2020

SBA Release PPP Forgiveness Process

On May 15, the Small Business Administration (SBA) released the Application form and process for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness for borrowers. The Application includes instructions for borrowers on how to calculate their loan forgiveness amounts, as well as updated guidance outlining the alternative payment period, FTE reduction 'safe harbors' and FTE Employee calculations.

[To access the application and instructions, click here.](#)

HEROES Act Passes House

On Friday evening, the US House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, pushing negotiations on the next phase of COVID-19 relief onto the Senate. The bill includes many OPRA priorities including additional HCBS and DSP funding, but faces an uncertain path in the Senate. It is expected the Senate may take up the bill in June. There are essential provisions in the HEROES Act, which we will be organizing advocacy around, as we hope to see them included in when the Senate brings this bill up or introduces new legislation. Per ANCOR, these provisions include;

- A 10% increase in funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), the largest program supporting people with I/DD.
- Identification of direct support professionals as essential workers, thereby making them eligible for increased wages capitalized by the "Heroes Fund."
- Additional funding for the Public Health & Social Services Emergency Fund. To date, Congress has appropriated \$175 billion to this fund, but the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has failed to allocate any of this relief to community disability providers.

There is still a long road for these items to be signed into law. OPRA will continue to work with national partners on priorities available through this upcoming legislation.

[To read more about the bill, click here.](#)

Ohio Department of Medicaid Update Presentation

On May 14th, the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM) Director Corcoran delivered a presentation to Advocates for Ohio's Future and the Medicaid Coalition. She discussed the actions taken by ODM to combat COVID-19 and the Governor and the impact the economy will have on ODM's budget. [You can read more and view the PowerPoint here.](#)



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RSA Releases Section 511 Guidance

Last week RSA issued guidance including updates to the Section 511/WIOA Career Counseling. Members have asked us about this process, so here are a few highlights regarding Section 511 (highlighted sections below):

- Services can be provided remotely and documentation also can be provided through digital means.
- These requirements fall under the jurisdiction of DOL and RSA mentioned that DOL is reviewing and would be communicating directly with the employer.
- VR agencies can provide documentation to employers/employees when services cannot be provided because the individual has no access to technology to complete the service remotely. (Again, we are still waiting for DOL WHD to weigh in).

[To read the announcement and guidance, click here.](#)

OISP Workgroup Meeting Again

After a hiatus since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, DODD has suspended the workgroup to develop a statewide ISP. That workgroup will start back up again tomorrow via a 1 Hr Virtual meeting, reviewing the previous pilot assessment feedback and picking back up on the 'plan' portion of the work. OPRA will be able to provide a summary of the meeting on Friday's call and newsletter.

Remembering Sue Willis

On May 11 Sue Willis, long-time Disability advocate, DD Council member and friend to many in Ohio, sadly passed away. Per DD Council's announcement: "This week, the disability community, family, friends and many others are mourning the loss of one of the most influential advocates for disability rights in Ohio. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council learned on Monday that Sue Willis, a long-time friend and member of Council, passed away. With a career that spanned decades, Sue's efforts always worked to bring people together to advance the cause of people with disabilities.



[To read the full tribute or leave a memory about Sue, click here.](#)

