

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 22, 2020

DODD Core Committee: The group working on guidance for the reopening of day and vocational services as well as other issues related to Ohio's economic reopening met on Thursday. The primary focus of the conversation continued to be the need for changes to the current transportation guidance. OPRA continues to advocate for guidance that is consistent with other state guidelines that help local teams determine the safest way for someone to return to services. OPRA will be working with a small sub-committee in an attempt to find consensus on solutions to this issue. Discussions also included updates to the provider assurance forms, where the need for solid walls is expected to be replaced by 6ft partitions in order to separate groups, as well as relaxations on the PPE requirements to wear gowns when delivering personal care. [The current guidance can still be found here](#), and we are expecting to see it updated shortly.

If you have feedback or recommendations on how you plan to provide transportation and how the guidance could/should be updated, please email Scott at smarks@opra.org with your ideas.

Day & Employment Meeting: Yesterday marked the 3rd joint remote meeting of the day and employment service committees. The Day Service Committee focused on a walkthrough of the current reopening guidance, with members sharing their recent experiences working through the guidance with county and DODD partners. We were joined during the Employment Services Committee by Beth Stephens, Shannon Komisarek and Jay Burns from OOD to discuss the Summer Youth Foundations framework and answer questions from members. [The presentation from the meeting can be found here.](#)

OISP Workgroup: On Wednesday, the single plan workgroup met for the first time since the COVID-19 crisis began. The group picked back reviewing feedback from the pilot groups who tested the assessment as well as reviewed 2 templates for the standardized ISP. [To review the templates, click here.](#) Feedback on the Plan template can be provided to Anita at Aallen@opra.org.

HB 287: On Wednesday, the Ohio Senate passed HB 287, a bill that allocates medicaid waivers to military families who are stationed in Ohio. OPRA has been tracking this bill since it was introduced and submitted testimony in support last year. We are pleased to see this bill pass the Senate and are hopeful to see it signed into law by Governor DeWine. [To read more about the bill, click here.](#)

PPP FAQ: Thanks to our partners at Vorys who have provided us an additional FAQ document related to the updated loan forgiveness process released by for the Payroll Protection Program. The document answers a number of member questions from Tuesday's member call, including clarifications on the purchase PPE (not allowable) and answers regarding participants in vocational habilitation. [To read the FAQ, click here.](#) Please contact Scott at Smarks@opra.org with any additional questions.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

DODD Memo Monday: The weekly communication included a link to 'Employment Services & COVID 19' a webinar training from last month, an update on the suspended regulatory work and guidance on 'economic impact payments in residential facilities'. [To read the memos, click here.](#)

Policy Committee: We've uploaded the documents from the last OPRA Policy Committee meeting. To see the powerpoint and other materials from the May meeting, [click here.](#)

CMS Nursing Home Guidance: On May 18, [CMS released new guidance](#) to ensure nursing homes have a plan in place to begin allowing visitation while minimizing the risk of spread of the coronavirus. Per the press release; "the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced new guidance for state and local officials to ensure the safe reopening of nursing homes across the country. The guidance released today is part of President Trump's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. It details critical steps nursing homes and communities should take prior to relaxing restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), including rigorous infection prevention and control, adequate testing, and surveillance."

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). Since May 1st, the campaign has generated over 1.3 Million 'impressions and 13,000 visits to the DSP Ohio Website, with over 11,000 being unique users. Please remember to let Anita know if you have hired anyone through the site.



Upcoming Events

[5/29: ODM EVV Open Q&A Session](#)

News and Resources

[Governor Announces New Health Orders Signed](#)

[Pandemic proves extra difficult for those with developmental disabilities](#)

[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 19 deaths reported within our service delivery system. (Lucas County-4 , Miami-1, Mahoning-1 Hamilton -3, Franklin -2Wayne-1, Warren-1,Perry-1,Clark-1 and NODC-4)

274 people have had Unanticipated Hospitalization MUI's reported and have been tested for COVID-19. (Of the 274 people tested 172 were negative, 82 were positive and 20 are pending).

49% Male and 51% female.

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

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

Cuyahoga County and Hamilton lead our MUI reports with 32 people hospitalized. These are overall reports of people being tested.... not positive results. Positive results (82) have been reported in 16 counties (Belmont, Butler, Clark, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, 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"

