

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 2, 2020

HB 606: On Tuesday, June 30th, the Ohio Senate passed House Bill 606, known as the 'good samaritan expansion bill.' This bill would protect healthcare and other essential workers from civil liability issues caused by COVID-19. Because of amendments made by the Senate, the bill now will return to the Ohio House of Representatives where those changes will be reconciled with the original bill passed through the house. This bill and issue has been a priority for OPRA, so we are happy to see it passed through the Senate and hope for a quick resolution in the house so the bill can head to Governor DeWine for signing. [To read more about HB 606, click here.](#) Please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org with any questions.

Town Halls: We are excited to host Senator Sherrod Brown for our 4th tele-town hall with Ohio's federal delegation this afternoon. We want to thank all of the members who have presented and attended these Federal tele-town halls. It is important that OPRA engages and build strong relationships at the federal level, especially as we continue to advocate for DD providers during this period of recovery. These town halls have provided a great opportunity to inform our federal partners of the challenges still being faced by providers and a chance to explore possible solutions.



Day Array Committee: Thanks to all who attended the Day Array Committee meeting this morning. We were also joined by Court Sturts of the Superintendent Association, Bridget Gargan of OACB and Stacy Collins of DODD to share their respective agency updates. The bulk of the the committee's discussion centered on OPRA's advocacy efforts for the Blueprint for Adult & Employment Service workgroup that will begin meeting again Next Tuesday, July 7th. That workgroup, which only previously met once in January and has not met since the onset of the pandemic, is charged with proposing improvements to the Adult & Employment service array to Director Davis. Please contact Scott with any questions about the day array committee or Blueprint workgroup at smarks@opra.org.

Transportation Guidance: Earlier this week, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) published guidance on their website developed by the Ohio Public Transit Association. The guidance, which was proposed on June 22nd, is broken into 4 categories for Vehicle Operators, Passengers, Vehicle sanitization and facilities sanitization. This guidance presents a step forward for how Ohio can gauge the safety of transportation options, without a strict requirement of 6 foot distancing for passengers. At this point, it is still unclear how this newly published guidance interacts with the established ODH and CDC best practices, but we hope this guidance document will soon be adopted for application in our system. [To read OPTA/ODOT's guidance, click here.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: The Department's weekly roundup of memos included information on a new proposal for how 180 day Developmental Center days are funded, plus the updated guidance for ICFs that we previously shared in last week's newsletter. [To Read memo monday, click here.](#)

Foundations for Success: "Foundations for Success, formerly called Back to Basics, is a collaborative training series that aims to provide essential information regarding Adult Day Support in relation to community engagement with valued social roles, as well as resources to assist providers in developing/enhancing successful service delivery systems. The sessions offered July 14 and July 16 are sold out so two additional training sessions are being offered on July 28th and 30th."

[To register for the July 28th training, click here.](#)

[To register for the July 30th training, click here.](#)

DODD Podcast: The Department's most recent podcast featured an interview conducted by Director Jeff Davis with Dr. Mary Applegate, Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Director Davis and Dr. Applegate discuss the impacts of COVID-19, how Ohio has confronted the pandemic and how Ohioans can stay healthy and safe. Click the links below to listen to the conversation.



Upcoming Events

7/3: OPRA Office Closed

7/4: Happy 4th of July!

News and Resources

"Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Gov. DeWine holds briefing, announces plans for schools"

"Joys and challenges of resuming community life for intellectually disabled individuals"

[OPRA PPE Resource Page](#)

"New App Makes Mass Transit Accessible to People with Cognitive Disabilities"

