

OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

JULY 15, 2020

CARES Act Funding

On Monday, Ohio's controlling board approved funds made available for agencies struggling with COVID-related expenses through the CARES Act. The appropriations include approximately \$200 million for higher education institutions and \$100 million for primary and secondary schools as well as funding for skilled nursing facilities, rural hospitals and long-term care facilities, including ICFs. Information for applying for the funds will be forthcoming, and we believe further appropriations of CARES act funding for HCBS providers will be brought before the controlling board in the coming weeks. [To read more about Monday's controlling board vote, click here.](#)

Updated Day, Vocational & Transportation Guidance Released

Yesterday afternoon DODD released updated guidance on day & vocational services as well as a new transportation best practice guide developed by the Ohio Public Transit Association. This is the guidance we have discussed on the last several member calls, relaxing key requirements for providing day, vocational and transportation services.

Most notably, the ADS/Vocational guidance loosens the requirement that each distinct service pod have its own entrances and restrooms, substituting language that when this is not possible, entrances and restrooms will have staggered usage for sanitization and to minimize contact between groups. The guidance document also separates previous state guidance into mandatory and best practice categories.

Also linked is the transportation guide developed by The Ohio Public Transit Association in conjunction with the Ohio Dept of Transportation. By DODD releasing this guidance, along with the updated day/voc guidance, we believe it is the expectation that all transportation services adhere to this guidance. Most importantly this guidance does not include a 6 ft distance requirement, but strongly encourages passengers to wear face coverings and for operators to use signage in the vehicle to encourage distancing. [The two new guidance documents can be found here.](#) Please let me know what questions you have.

Employment Provider Survey

A few weeks ago, we shared a survey developed by APSE (The Association of People Supporting Employment First) for providers of Employment services. The survey was intended to gather information about employment services and the needs of community employment providers during Covid-19. While APSE has shared preliminary findings, the survey is still open and employment providers who have not completed it still have an opportunity to share their experiences. [Click here to complete the APSE survey.](#)



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Provider Relief Fund Application

The July 20 application date for providers to begin applying for funds through the Provider Relief Fund is quickly approaching. We want to ensure members have the time and information needed to successfully apply for the funds made available to Medicaid and CHIP providers through the CARES act. [A fact sheet for potential applicants is linked here](#), and please feel free to reach out to OPRA staff with any questions you may have.

OPRA Training Workshops:

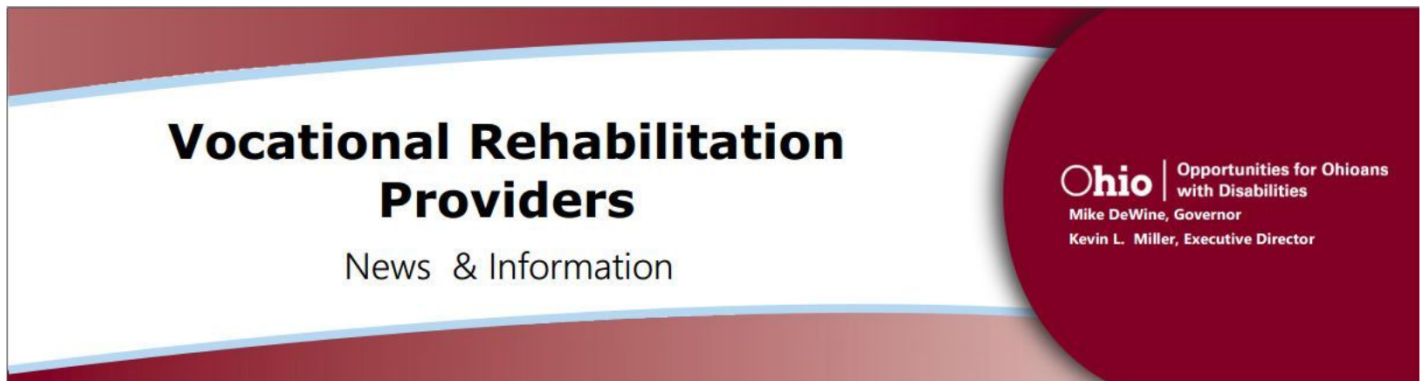
OPRA is offering two online training opportunities in the coming weeks.

-[Click here to learn more about and register](#) for 'Healthy Meal Planning for DSPs and the People They Support' on July 20 from 9 am to 12 pm facilitated by Sara Sherman.

-[Click here to learn more about and register](#) for 'Creating an Internal Compliance System' on July 23, 2020 from 9 am to 12pm.

Memo Monday:

The Department's weekly roundup of memos included information on DODD's new 'Growing Family Resilience' Module, Nisonger Center's survey for adults with disabilities, and an FAQ on stimulus payments and STABLE Accounts. [To Read memo monday, click here.](#)



The time has finally come! Our transition from the current PMP system begins tomorrow, Thursday, July 16. Both PMP systems will be unavailable for one week as we transfer information. During this time you won't be able to update your profile or submit new applications.

As a reminder:

- The new PMP will have a whole new look and feel with better flow and user-friendly features—and it will be mobile-ready!
- You'll be able to more easily manage aspects of your provider account and upload documents right from the portal.
- You'll access the new PMP from the same link on our OOD website—and logging in will be streamlined.
- Your current accounts will automatically be moved to the new system without you needing to re-register.

You don't need to take any action right now. Although we think you'll find the new PMP to be very intuitive, user guides will be made available to you when the system goes live next week.

In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to us at pcmu@ood.ohio.gov if you have any questions or immediate needs within the Provider Management Program.

