

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 24, 2020

CARES Act Funding: On July 13th, the Ohio Controlling Board approved funds appropriated to healthcare providers through the CARES act to support certain Ohio healthcare agencies with costs associated with care during COVID-19. ICFs were included in this first appropriation and we believe further funding for ICF providers will be approved at this Monday's upcoming controlling board meeting. OPRA will be launching an advocacy effort to help ensure that waiver providers are included in further appropriations, with a goal of seeing HCBS providers included in the controlling board's August meeting.

An FAQ for ICF providers applying for the funds approved on July 13th can be found here.

There will be a webinar outlining the process to apply through the portal this coming Monday, July 27th at 1:30. **You can register here.**

HEROES Act/Federal Legislation: Until recently, we were anticipating to see a comprehensive Phase 4 bill that would attempt to address many different aspects of COVID-related relief. As Republicans and Democrats seem gridlocked on several issues, in order to triage the most pressing ones, there will likely be multiple smaller bills that are narrower in scope. Unemployment, eviction security, and school funding may be priorities as they have strict timelines, with funding and emergency rules ending this month. We are still looking to see provisions included in the HEROES Act, passed last month, in upcoming legislation and we will be soon be sharing three different ways you can start advocating with our Senators and Federal representatives. Please contact Christine at Ctouville@opra.org with any questions or to learn more about advocating for Phase 4 COVID relief.

EVV: The Department of Medicaid held their first stakeholder meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. They shared updates about a variety of topics, including outreach Sandata has done to Phase 3 providers, changes that will be made to the training process for phase 3 services, and the small changes alternate vendors will need for phase 3 services. ODM also mentioned that though no official date has been set, they anticipate that turning on EVV denials next summer for relevant services in all three phases.

OOD Stakeholder Meeting: On Wednesday, July 22, OOD held a quarterly stakeholder meeting, sharing budget updates as well as some interesting closure and case service funding data over the past several months. They also debuted features of their new Provider Management Portal, as well as outlined several of the policies they are looking to turn to administrative rule.

To see the presentation from the stakeholder meeting click here.

STEP Webinar: OPRA and OACB will be co-hosting a webinar 'Working Through STEP Services Together'. Scott will be joined by Lisa Comes of OACB, as well as several providers and SSAs to talk about their processes, successes and positive outcomes of STEP-style services for people they support. **The FREE webinar can be registered for here.** We have a capacity limit of 500 attendees, but will be recording the webinar in the case we hit capacity.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Salary Survey: The 2020 OPRA Compensation and Benefits Survey is now available! It was a record year and we want to thank the 73 member organizations who participated in this survey! The data provided will inform DD stakeholders about current compensation trends in Ohio and will assist us with our advocacy efforts. For OPRA Members, the cost to obtain your copy of the 2020 OPRA Compensation and Benefits Survey Report is \$175. An additional copy of the report is \$100/each. The cost for Non-Members is \$750. [You can click here to be directed to our website to order your copy now.](#) Copies are currently being mailed to those who filled out the survey.

HHS Webinar: If you are an eligible provider and still have questions about applying for the HHS Provider Relief Fund (created through the CARES Act), there will be another webinar on July 27th. You are an eligible provider if bill Medicaid and did not receive any funds through the first round of relief tied to Medicare billing. The deadline to start your application is August 3rd. [Click here to register for the upcoming webinar.](#)

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD news contained the APSE survey for employment providers (previously shared by OPRA), updated guidance on behavioral supports, and the news that OSSAS will be returning to regulatory work through virtual reviews, starting with agencies whose reviews were not finished at the onset of COVID. We are working with DODD to better understand what these reviews will entail. OSSAS will not be resuming in-person reviews for the "foreseeable future". [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

Provider Assurance Forms: As mentioned on this morning's member call, DODD has published a revised provider assurance form for adult and vocational service centers when adding service groups. This new form takes into effect the [updated guidance released last Tuesday](#), updating sections that have now been moved from mandatory to best practices as well as asking providers to supply building capacity numbers. We are working with DODD in the event those items are not readily available. [Download the updated Provider Assurance Form here.](#)

Upcoming Events

[7/28: Foundations for Success: The Future of Meaningful Adult Day Support](#)

[7/30: Achieving the Promise of the ADA: Virtual Celebration](#)

[8/3: OPRA Training Workshop: Freeing Individuals to Live Their Most Independent Lives](#)

News and Resources

[Read The ODH's Order Requiring Face Coverings Throughout Ohio](#)

["Telehealth services expanded in Ohio by new executive order"](#)

[OPRA PPE Resource Page](#)

[Disability Scoop: "Biden Calls For End To Waiting Lists For Medicaid Waivers"](#)

