

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 31, 2020

Speaker of The House: Following a unanimous vote earlier this week to oust indicted Representative Larry Householder from the Speaker position, Ohio's House of Representatives elected Rep. Bob Cupp to take that mantle. Cupp, who has served the Lima-area district since 2015 previously served as a Justice on Ohio's Supreme Court. Cupp was approved by the house in a 55-38 vote, following a very close GOP vote between Cupp and Rep. Jim Butler. We look forward to working with Speaker Cupp on our priorities heading into the next budget cycle. [To read more, click here.](#)

Simplification and System Reform: Following robust discussion at last Monday's Policy Committee meeting, OPRA's board of directors met this week to review and approve several 'guiding principles' that will guide OPRA's advocacy and approach to simplification and reform. The principles, which are being finalized following board recommendations, center on positive relationships, trust for providers, fair reimbursement and the importance of all the different types of services provided by OPRA members and DD providers. OPRA recommendations on state policy simplification will be organized and guided by these principles. Once finalized, we will be sharing the principles as well as several actions steps and opportunities for reform with members.

Phase 4 Federal Legislation: Earlier this week, The US Senate released their version of the HEROES act called the HEALS Act. Since the bill's introduction, we have seen very little positive movement on reconciling the bills to get a comprehensive relief bill passed. [Click here to read an analysis of the difference between the two bills.](#)

The HEALS Act did not include the HEROES Act provisions to support state's Medicaid program or states' HCBS waiver programs. In response, [Senator Sherrod Brown signed onto this letter](#) to Senate and House of Representatives to strongly encourage negotiations to include the Medicaid and HCBS waiver funding provisions. The provisions in this letter directly reflect the advocacy positions we have asked Senators Brown and Portman to support, showing the importance of our advocacy on this pending legislation.

OPRA encourages you to keep up the advocacy energy as negotiations continue! You can easily have your voice heard by using [ANCOR's Amplifier tool](#) or by using [OPRA's quick advocacy platform.](#)

OPRA Training Workshops: We've recently added several training workshops to our training and events calendar through September. Next week we will be hosting Sara Sherman for two workshops including "Freeing Individuals to Live Their Most Independent Lives" and "Creating a Years Worth Activities", as well as our joint webinar with OACB, "Working Through STEP Billing Codes Together". We will also be holding two webinars later in August presented by Scott Warrick, including "How Intolerance Leads to Business Disaster" and "Harassment & Civility Training After George Floyd: Understanding the EEOC's New Harassment Training Guidelines". These are all virtual workshops and you can [learn more and register for these trainings here.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

HHS Provider Relief Fund: The HHS Provider Relief Fund application closes on August 3. All Medicaid providers that did not receive funds through the Medicare-based release of funds are eligible to apply for the funds. [To see a breakdown of funds currently available to providers, please click here.](#)

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 have been mailed to those who completed the survey.

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD news contained several important topics including new guidance regarding (non-mandatory) COVID testing for people returning to adult day programs, the continuance of Acuity C rates for center-based day services through August, and rule changes to expand virtual medication administration training options. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

CCS Webinar Today: This is not an OPRA sponsored event, but may be a good way to directly hear from some state lawmakers. Per CCS announcement; "The Center for Community Solutions, in partnership with Advocates for Ohio's Future, will host a webinar this Friday at 1 p.m. where state Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights) and state Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) will talk about how COVID-19 has impacted their districts, their work and what they anticipate in the months ahead. Boyd and Kunze also plan to offer tips on how to connect with policymakers in a virtual way." [Click here to sign up for this afternoon's webinar at 1 PM.](#)

Upcoming Events

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

[8/5: OPRA Training Workshop: How to Create a Year's Worth of Meaningful Activities Based on Just a Few Interests](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: 1,733 cases reported, new single-day record"](#)

["Ohio Medicaid rolls climbing toward 3 million again"](#)

[OPRA PPE Resource Page](#)

[NYT: "The Pandemic's Toll on Children With Special Needs and Their Parents"](#)



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Statewide COVID-19 MUI Data: Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director of DODD's MUI Unit, shared with us the latest data report on how COVID-19 is impacting people with disabilities supported by our system

As of July 31, 2020:

- There were 568 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 51 new hospitalizations with COVID testing since the last report, which was issued on Friday, July 24, 2020.
 - A total of 574 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 6 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.
 - There were 63 counties and 3 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs.
 - Cuyahoga had the most people hospitalized and tested with 82 followed by Franklin with 70.
 - Cuyahoga county had the most people who have tested positive with 38 followed by Franklin with 24.
 - A breakdown of testing results of the 574 people follows:
 - 377 (66%) people tested negative
 - 12 (2%) people have pending tests results
 - 185 (32%) people tested positive.
- Twenty additional people tested positive since July 24, 2020.

Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60% of those tested and females 40%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 2 to 91 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common age was 64 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race include:
 - Black or African American-16% (.31 positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (.09 positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (.05 positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 77% (.18 positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- Twenty-four (4.5%) people died of COVID-19 of the 574 reported.
- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (24) and the total people served (98,396) is .024.
- The average age of the person who died was 60 years old.
- A total of 12 counties and 1 DC have reported COVID-19 deaths. The 24 deaths were reported in Belmont (1), Clark (1), Cuyahoga (1) Franklin (3), Hamilton (2), Lucas (4), Mahoning (2), Miami (1), NODC (4), Ottawa (2) Perry (1), Warren (1) and Wayne (1).
- Lucas county and NODC have the highest number of deaths reported with 4 each.

