

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 28, 2020

**Blueprint:** DODD's workgroup to make recommendations on the Adult Day Array met as a group this week, as well as held sub-committees on the various aspects of the service array that are being addressed through this work. On Tuesday, DODD presented a single plan update to the workgroup, as well as holding meetings of the employment/work, transportation, finance and governance sub-committees. We will discuss the group's progress as well as OPRA's advocacy approaches at next week's Day Array Committee meeting. Please contact Scott at [smarks@opra.org](mailto:smarks@opra.org) with any questions.



**HHS Provider Relief:** HHS has again delayed the deadline for applying for the Provider Relief Fund. The new deadline is now **September 13th**. The deadline also includes providers who received a small amount of money through the Medicare release of funds and are hoping to make up the difference of what they could have received under the Medicaid release. You can see the new date at [the top of this web page](#). Please contact Christine at [Ctouvelle@opra.org](mailto:Ctouvelle@opra.org) with any questions.

**OSHA Resource/Requirement Guide:** Over the last several weeks we have discussed the requirements from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for keeping staff safe when working with people who have tested positive for COVID. We shared several resources for navigating these OSHA requirements, especially around [N95 Respirators in a past Friday 5](#). In addition to these resources, we encourage members to review [OSHA's 'Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19'](#) to better understand these expectations.

**OPRA Fall Conference:** OPRA's Fall conference is going virtual this year to keep everyone safe! Registration goes live on our website September 1st! Attendees can earn CEU's for attending the sessions, visit virtually with our great vendors, attend the annual award ceremony and since we can't have our conference party in-person, we have planned a really cool virtual happy hour that you won't want to miss! Please visit our [training & events page](#) where you'll find the conference agenda, sponsors and calls for Award Nominations. [We want to honor the DSPs, groups & volunteers, especially during this unprecedented time](#). So, please complete the form on our website ASAP as submissions will close Monday 8/31. Please contact Melissa at [Mfannon@opra.org](mailto:Mfannon@opra.org) with any questions.

**Appendix K Billing Deadline:** Ohio has requested relief funding for HPC, OSOC and shared living providers through an Appendix K application with CMS. These payments will be made to providers based on a percentage of billing claims from March-July 2020. Pending CMS approval, DODD is hoping to push these funds out quickly, [asking providers to complete July billing by next 12 PM Wednesday 9/2](#) to finalize payment calculation for maximum provider disbursement.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** This week's roundup of DODD news contained updates regarding XML uploads for providers using the Monthly Rate Calculator (MRC), new MSS fields for participant-directed services, information on [Clearwater COG's TechFest](#) and the update that acuity C rates for center-based day services has been extended through September. [To read Memo Monday, click here.](#)

**OOD Virtual Services Survey:** On 8/25, OOD released a survey to providers who have utilized virtual services during the pandemic. Per OOD; "Now that remote services have been implemented for more than five months, and providers have adapted to these delivery methods, OOD would like to connect with our provider community again to understand how to continue to support the delivery of remote services at this time. [The Remote Services Survey is now available online by clicking here.](#) Please complete the survey by Tuesday, September 1. Your input, feedback, and suggestions are greatly appreciated."

OOD also released information that the additional allowance of 100 UOS/month of Job Seeking Skills Training for OOD participants will be ending next week as utilization of the emergency service has declined over the past few months. Please contact Scott at [smarks@opra.org](mailto:smarks@opra.org) with any questions.

**Research Study:** Our friends at the Nisonger Center have asked we share this opportunity; "Researchers" or "staff" at The Ohio State University (OSU) Nisonger Center want to talk to adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) to learn how they feel about their health and health care. Nisonger staff would also like to interview support persons, family, friends, and care providers who know the adult with ID well. Interviews can be done by video chat (Zoom) or in-person. Both people will get a gift card for their time (up to \$75 each). Sample questions about health include: (1) Are you happy with the health care you receive? (2) In the last two weeks, did your health make it hard to do things? and, (3) Do you feel sad a lot of the time, or do you feel sad only a little of the time?" Click Picture on right for more info!

**HELP US HEAR YOUR VOICE!**  
Research study on the health of adults with Intellectual Disability (ID)

For this research, we want to listen to adults with ID

We want to know how you feel about YOUR health

**What will you do?**  
- You and your support person will answer questions about your health in two interviews.  
- The interviews can be completed from the safety of your home (online, by phone, and/or in-person).

**How long will this take?**  
- 2-4 hours per interview.

**Who is a support person?**  
- A family member, friend, or caregiver that knows you well.  
- They will be your study partner.

Follow #RRTCalsonger for updates  
[go.osu.edu/RRTC](https://go.osu.edu/RRTC)

**Want to know more?**  
Call us: 833-678-7782  
Email us: [rrtcnisonger@osumc.edu](mailto:rrtcnisonger@osumc.edu)

In the 1st interview, you and your support person will each earn a \$25 gift card.  
In the 2nd interview, you and your support person will each earn a \$50 gift card.

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## Upcoming Events

9/3: OPRA Day Array Committee-  
9:30 AM

9/9: OPRA Virtual Training  
Workshop: Stressed? Learn Tapping

9/10: OPRA Virtual Training  
Workshop: How To Advocate Your  
Needs With County Boards

## News and Resources

"Just six of 88 counties are red on latest Ohio  
coronavirus advisory map"

"People with intellectual disabilities need to be  
prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine | Expert  
Opinion"

OPRA Updated COVID-19 Toolkit

"Citing COVID-19, Advocates Want Medicaid  
Caregiver Check-In Mandate Delayed"



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**DODD COVID-19 MUI Updates:** This week, Scott Phillips provided us with another update on the impact of COVID-19 on people in the Ohio DD service system, based on reported MUIs.

As of August 28, 2020:

- There were 666 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 25 since the 8/22/2020 report.
- A total of 677 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 11 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.
- 231 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 12 positives since the 8/22 report.
- 41 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There is an increase of 5 confirmed deaths (confirmation by death certificate/ODH Vital Statistics) since the 8/22 report.

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs*			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
443	3	231	677

- There were 65 counties and 3 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs.
- Cuyahoga had the most people hospitalized and tested with 100 followed by Franklin with 90.
- Cuyahoga county had the most people who tested positive with 47 followed by Franklin with 33.

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 61 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race include:
  - Black or African American-16% (41% positive testing rate)
  - Other Race -2% (60% positive testing rate)
  - Unknown-5% (50% positive testing rate)
  - White/Caucasian 76% (31% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- Forty-one (6%) people died of COVID-19 of the 677 reported. This is an increase of 5 more confirmed deaths since last week's report.
- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (41) and the total people served (94,980) is .043.
- The average age of the person who died was 64 years old.
- A total of 20 counties and 1 DC have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- A breakdown of deaths by county boards and developmental centers follows:

Arrangement	Count
Correctional Facility	1
ICF	14
Licensed Waiver	8
Nursing Facility	6
Supported Living	12
Grand Total	41

County or DC	Count
Allen	1
Belmont	1
Butler	1
Clark	1
Cuyahoga	6
Franklin	4
Hamilton	3
Lake	1
Lucas	6
Mahoning	1
Miami	1
Montgomery	1
NODC	4
Ottawa	2
Perry	1
Scioto	1
Stark	1
Summit	1
Tuscarawas	1
Warren	1
Wayne	2
Grand Total (20 Counties and 1 DC)	41

