

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

OCTOBER 16, 2020



**OPRA Fall Conference:** Registration is live for OPRA's Virtual Fall Conference, which will be held on October 28th and 29th. We are excited to bring you the sessions, vendors and good times you expect from an OPRA conference in this safe, online environment. Please visit our [Training & Events page](#) to learn more and register for the fall conference! Please contact Melissa at [Mfannon@opra.org](mailto:Mfannon@opra.org) with any questions you may have.

**Policy Committee:** OPRA's Policy Committee met on Monday to continue developing advocacy and policy priorities based on OPRA's guiding principles for system reform. Following a presentation of our September AIR (Advocacy, Information, Resources) report, the committee, Chaired by Diane Beastron and Scott DeLong, began in-depth discussions on the workforce crisis, and the several approaches needed to improve the crisis, which has been greatly exacerbated by COVID-19. OPRA has developed a 4-quadrant approach to the crisis, developing solutions to recruitment, culture/retention, wages and system barriers. The Policy committee will continue to focus on system reform priorities, with workforce issues being the major focus as we move into next year's state budget cycle. For more information, please contact Pete at [Pmoore@opra.org](mailto:Pmoore@opra.org).

**Day & Employment Service Committees:** On Thursday, OPRA held another joint meeting of our Day & Employment service committees. We want to thank everyone who attended and participated in the meeting where the committee discussed topics such as best practices for virtual services, the future of STEP services, and strategies for providing day services for individuals residing in ICFs. The committee also discussed the several proposals developed in the Blueprint workgroup, which meets again next Friday, October 23rd. Additionally, the committee developed further recommendations for day services in 2021, after the statewide Acuity C payment structure is discontinued. [To view the recording and presentation from this week's meeting, click here.](#)

**MRC Changes:** In a memo sent to the field earlier this week, DODD indicated that the MRC (Monthly rate calculator) would no longer be automatically adjusting up the daily billing unit when a provider exceeds the 103% service threshold. This practice, which has been in effect since March, allowed flexibility during a time when it was likely people would be needing additional residential supports due to lock-down and other factors. [Click here to read the memo](#), and please provide any feedback you have to Scott at [smarks@opra.org](mailto:smarks@opra.org).

**Appendix K:** Talks have begun among our state agency partners regarding Ohio's re-application for Appendix K relief and rule relaxations. The current application, which allows states to apply for emergency changes to their Medicaid programs, expires at the end of January. This application will be necessary to maintain many of the current Covid-related rule relaxations, as well as allowing for STEP-style virtual and in-home day services. This is also an opportunity to pursue further fiscal relief, especially in the case of an outbreak or resurgence of the virus. We will keep members updated on the application process as it moves forward.



# 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 DODD's strategic planning scorecard, the rollout of the Provider Network Module (PNM) and the previously mentioned changes to MRC. [To read memo monday, click here.](#)

**ICF Quality Indicator Timeline:** Minutes ago, DODD published a memo indicating that due to the delay in rule implementation, the timeline for the ICF quality incentive program has also been delayed. ICF Providers will now need to have their written policies in place by 3/31/20 for the indicators they want to participate in. [To read the memo, click here.](#)

**ODEP NDEAM Event:** "The U.S. Department of Labor will host a virtual celebration of the 75th annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "Building a Future that Works" will be held on October 20 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET. The event will explore the crucial role of accessible technology in this year's NDEAM theme of "Increasing Access and Opportunity" for people with disabilities and the Labor Department's work to ensure that emerging technologies are accessible to all in the workplace." [Click here to register for 'Building a Future That Works'](#)

**WE STEP UP at Echoing Hills:** We want to thank all of the members who continue to send in such great 'We Step Up' Videos. This week's video comes from Echoing Hills, telling the agency's story and how they have adapted services to meet the needs of the people they support while promoting health and safety from Covid-19. These videos are a great resource as OPRA advocates for the needs of the membership in the upcoming state budget and beyond. Click here to learn how to make your own "We Step Up" Video.



## Upcoming Events

**10/12: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee**

**10/12: OPRA ICF Committee**

**10/28 & 29: OPRA Virtual Fall Conference**

## News and Resources

**"For second day in a row, Ohio hits new record of COVID-19 cases"**

**"IRS finalizes regulations for ABLE accounts"**

**"October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month"**

**OPRA COVID-19 Toolkit**

