

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Provider Certification: Earlier this week, DODD released the proposed rules on provider certification for agency and independent providers for clearance. The proposed rules contain several elements that were new or different than the proposals developed through the years-long workgroup on these rules. In addition to some of the training and board reporting requirements, we are most concerned about the inclusion of the need for a GED or HS diploma for direct support staff. We are requesting further written feedback from DODD as to why this requirement remains in the proposed rules after clear agreement from stakeholders that its elimination is necessary to help alleviate the workforce crisis. Please provide any feedback to Pete or Christine as we continue to advocate and provide public comment on these rules. [Click here to read the proposed rules and crosswalks.](#)

ICF Rapid Testing: Later this afternoon, we expect DODD will be releasing information on their plan to distribute BinaxNOW rapid Antigen tests to Ohio's ICFs. These tests are intended for people presenting with symptoms of Covid-19. Per the upcoming announcement from DODD; "The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), in collaboration with our state partners, is currently able to secure 5,000 BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Tests per week for distribution to Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs) whose residents may be the most vulnerable to contacting COVID-19. This is only committed through December 31, 2020." In order to utilize the tests, providers will need a 'CLIA' certificate from CMS. While we expect the full announcement later today, [we have linked the draft announcement here](#) to help understand the initiative and process for application.

Blueprint Committee: The full Blueprint committee for day & employment services will meet next week on Tuesday 11/17. Since last month's committee meeting, the several sub-committees looking at work, non-work, transportation, financing and quality & governance have continued to meet to refine their proposals, following feedback from the full committee. There are some very promising recommendations in the draft proposals, but many questions remain about the viability of the proposals given the budget issues, staffing concerns and COVID-related challenges adult & vocational providers continue to work through. We want to thank the OPRA representatives and other provider reps who have provided great advocacy and feedback as these proposals were being developed. [Click here to review Blueprint presentations and draft recommendations.](#) Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions or feedback.

Single Plan Update: The Ohio single ISP seems to be on track for implementation in the Spring of 2021. Earlier this week, DODD released the overview and required trainings for SSAs and QIDPs who will be using the new single plan. Those videos can be found on Youtube (click image to the right) or through DODD's MyLearning platform. Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions or feedback.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of memos contained important updates including an RFI for DSP recruitment through the 'Bridge to Success' program, ICF Quality measures webinars, Ohio Single Plan updates and several training announcements.

[To read Memo Monday, click here.](#)

PPP Update: The Small Business Administration recently published new required documents for businesses that received a loan of over \$2M through the Payroll Protection Program. These new 'loan necessity questionnaires' are intended to prove that loan applications were made in good faith in order to continue operations through the challenges of Covid-19. We are not sure how many members received a loan of that size or greater, but if so, these questionnaires will be an important factor in loan forgiveness considerations. To access the documents, click here for the [non-profit questionnaire](#) and here for the [for-profit questionnaire](#).

HPC Rate Table: The Department recently released the new rate table for HPC services, incorporating the rate increase going into effect in 2021. [To access the new rate table, click here.](#)

OOD Stakeholder Meeting: Last week, OOD held their quarterly stakeholder information to share information and gather feedback from vendor/provider partners. [Click here to see the presentation](#), which outlines the service trends over the last several months, in comparison to the past 2 years. The presentation also includes survey feedback from participants and providers on virtual service provision, as well as updates from the recent National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) hiring events. We will be hosting guests from OOD next week at our joint Day & Employment Service committee meetings, so please feel free to review the presentation and prepare/provide any questions for OOD prior the meeting

OPRA Training Announcement: See info below and [Click here to learn more and register](#) for the 3-day Training Workshop "THREE DAY ISP/CPT/MRC Training ~ How to be an Effective Member of an ISP Meeting" with Gary Brown and Melessa Behymer of BradyWare!

Upcoming Events

11/17: DODD Foundations for Success: Quality Service Indicators

11/19: OPRA Day & Employment Service Committees Meeting

News and Resources

"Gov. Mike DeWine reissuing statewide mask order with new sanctions, says he may close restaurants, bars and gyms"

"NYT: Developmental Disabilities Heighten Risk of Covid Death"

"DS: Disability Groups Worried As Supreme Court Weighs Affordable Care Act"

[OPRA COVID-19 Toolkit](#)

