

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 18, 2020

**Vaccine Update:** We were happy to welcome Kristen Henry, Executive Director of APSI, to our morning call today to discuss APSI's approach to the vaccine. Kristen indicated it is her plan to provide consent for the vaccine 'for as many people as possible', but that they will need to ensure appropriate informed consent related to the risk/benefit for the specific vaccine. In addition to welcoming Kristen, we walked through the 3 approaches for vaccine distribution in Ohio including the 1)Federal Pharmacy program, 2)Becoming a Vaccine Provider and 3)Distribution through local Department of Health. We believe most of our members will be using approach 3, working with the local health department, and ODH and DODD have been working closely to identify points of contact for everyone we support who are in group vaccine group 1A. [The CDC also recently issued guidance on 'Post-Vaccine Considerations' for health care staff](#), offering suggestions on policies/procedures in the case of reactions/symptoms in staff resulting from the vaccine. This guidance has been shared with our partners at Vorys for further review and recommendations.

[Click here to read DODD's latest vaccine guidance.](#)

[Click here to learn about becoming a vaccine provider.](#)

**Operation "Pump The Breaks":** With the ever-increasing challenges related to navigating the pandemic, OPRA is working with system partners to identify the many upcoming DODD initiatives and how to prioritize and advance them without adding additional burdens to the field at this time. In addition to our request to delay the implementation of the Provider Certification rule, DODD has already 'paused' the Blueprint workgroup until more members are able to participate and things have stabilized for day array providers. We are also working with partners to explore revised timelines for the Ohio Single Plan, the BEST Implementation and ICF Quality Indicators.

**Federal Relief Talks:** Although Federal legislators seem close to a new relief bill, things are still bottlenecked by congressional leadership. The contents of the bill seem to change daily, but at last reporting we are looking at a bill costing approximately \$900B, nowhere near the amounts we saw in the CARES Act. It appears there will be funding for small businesses again, building on the PPP, an enhanced unemployment system (an extra \$300 instead of \$600), funding for schools, vaccine distribution, as well as another round of stimulus checks, believed to begin at \$600, depending on income level. [To read more about the Federal relief talks, click here.](#)

**Provider Relief Fund:** Phase 3 payments were released this week and we've already heard from some members who received payments and were pleasantly surprised but them. If you applied to phase 2 and still have not received that funding, we can hopefully get you connected to some resources that can speed up the process. Please email Christine at [Ctouvelle@opra.org](mailto:Ctouvelle@opra.org) if you have not received either payment.

**Member Meeting:** Thank you to everyone who attended today's yearly Member Meeting. We are glad to say that updates to OPRA's code of regulations were voted on and approved unanimously by members at this morning's meeting. We also want to thank the many members who participated and contributed to our many committee meetings this week. Our committees have been a vital way for us to stay in touch, share ideas and advance OPRA's priorities and we are greatly appreciative of everyone's contributions this week and this year.



# In Case You Missed It...

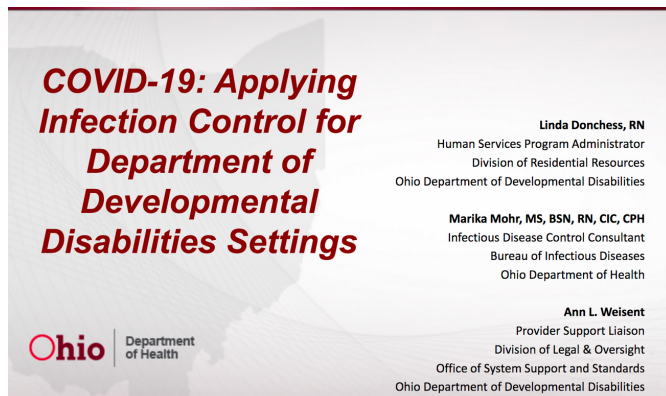
Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** DODD's weekly newsletter was packed with updates this week including information on grants awarded by the Community Life Engagement team, extended reporting periods for the Outcome Tracking System (OTS), bed hold day requests and the 'Well Aware' series with Dr. Laura Sorg of DODD. [Click here to read this week's Memo Monday.](#)

**CRF:** Just another reminder that ICFs who applied for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) through OBM, those funds must be spent by the end of the year or will need to be sent back.

**FFCRA Leave-** The mandated leave established through the FFCRA (with some exceptions) ends at the end of the year. As far as we know, there is not a provision in the current relief talks to extend leave, although we know there are parties advocating for it to continue. More information will be available if/when the next relief bill is passed.

**NADSP Covid Study:** The National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) recently released a study on the impact of Covid-19 on the front-line workforce. This study includes important data on wages, additional hours worked and access to PPE, as well as providing recommendations for future policies to better support DSPs during this crisis and beyond. [To read the study, click here.](#)



Click the image to the left to view the recorded 'Applying Infection Control' webinar and/or download the slides from last week's presentation.

## Upcoming Events

**12/22: OPRA Morning Member 8:30 Call**

**12/25: Merry Christmas!**

## News and Resources

**"DeWine says Thanksgiving-time case bump not as bad as anticipated"**

**"Coronavirus: Ohio nursing homes join federal vaccine program starting tomorrow"**

**"Governor DeWine appoints new members to statewide disabilities council"**

**OPRA COVID-19 Resources**

