

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 8, 2021

Vaccine Update: As many providers continue to work through phase 1A of the vaccine distribution, Governor DeWine announced the next phase, 1B, which will include people over 65 years old and many people with developmental disabilities. [To read the full eligibility requirements and proposed timelines for phase 1B, click here.](#) The process for distribution of the vaccine has been incredibly localized as we have heard very different experiences from members as they work through their pharmacies, local health departments and county boards. If you are still unsure when the people you support may be scheduled for distribution, we encourage you to reach out to your local health department or county board of DD. [To see Ohio's Vaccination dashboard, click here.](#)

Appendix K: The application to support providers with an approximately 2-week relief payment seems to be on track and is currently being reviewed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid for submission to CMS. The application will distribute approximately \$78M across providers of residential and day array services, including non-medical transportation. The payment will be determined based on average billings of the period between 8/1 and 10/31. [DODD is requesting providers submit billing through October by next Wednesday, 1/13](#) in order to maximize their relief payment. The state is also readying a re-application of regulatory relaxations through appendix K, including items necessary for STEP service delivery. The application period will expire 6 months after the state of emergency is declared over.

PPP2: The most recent federal relief package included provisions for an additional round of the Payroll Protection Program, with new requirements for returning and first-time borrowers. [As further guidance and interim rules were published by the Small Business Administration and Treasury today,](#) the law will allow agencies with 300 or fewer employees that can demonstrate significant losses in 2020, and who have spent all of their original PPP loan will be eligible for an additional round of the forgivable loan program.

OOD Focus Group: This week we attended a focus group, led by OOD, aimed at providing feedback on [Ohio's Workforce Success Measures Dashboard.](#) The WSM is a collaborative effort between OSU and Ohio's Office of Workforce Transformation that measures the outcomes of workforce development programs such as vocational rehabilitation, WIOA and certification programs. The group is looking to improve the dashboard to be more friendly to job-seekers and people participating in those programs. OOD will be sending out a survey that we will share with our Employment Service Committee to gather provider feedback on the dashboard.

Welcome Rachel Hayes!: We are very happy to have Rachel Hayes join our team this week as the Director of Residential Resources. Rachel comes to OPRA with great experience in ICF, Residential waiver, as well as day services. Rachel will be the go-to person for technical assistance and problem-solving for residential providers as well as serve as the liaison for our ICF and residential waiver committees. Feel free to reach out to Rachel at Rhayes@opra.org!



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

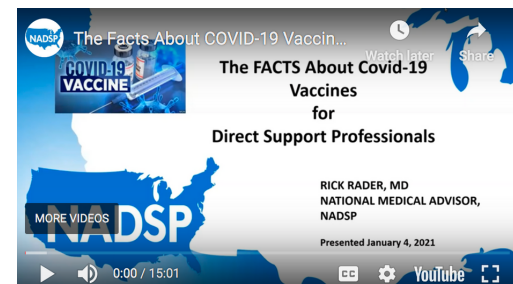
Memo Monday: DODD's weekly newsletter contained links to the new 2021 HPC rates, information on Dr. Laura Sorg's next 'Well Aware' series, and new 'office hours' for DODD's data warehouse team. [Click here to read this week's Memo Monday.](#)

"Well-Informed" Clarification: Earlier this week, a "Well Informed" publication was sent out through the Health and Welfare listserv. The MUI unit at DODD wanted us to clarify with members that there is no requirement for people to be trained on the Well-Informed publications. The MUI Rule only requires training for the Health and Welfare Alerts. The "Well-Informed" is great information but not required training. All Health and Welfare Alerts indicate in the body of the Alert that they are required training. Please let Christine know if you have any questions!

BWC Air Quality Assistance Program: The grant for reimbursing day service providers for eligible applicants to help cover the costs of inspections, assessments, maintenance, and improvements to indoor heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to control the spread of COVID 19 has been extended to March 31, 2021. [You can find more information and apply here](#)- If you are denied and believe you are an eligible provider asking for reimbursement of eligible expenses, please contact Christine at Ctouville@opra.org.

Vorys-"Return to Work": Our partners at Vorys are hosting another VORYS On Call Return to Work Webinar next week- all OPRA Members are welcome to join. [You can register here.](#)

NADSP Vaccine Video: The National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals recently released this video aimed at providing information to DSPs and front-line staff that may address some of the fears, concerns and skepticism related to the vaccine. This 15-minute video, featuring Dr Rick Rader, NADSP's medical adviser, who provides the latest data and information as well as addressing what he calls the '3 Main Concerns' related to the virus.



Upcoming Events

[1/12: DODD Training: Supporting People with DD in the Criminal Justice System Training Offered](#)

[1/13: OPRA Training Workshop: HIPAA 6-Part Series-Day 1](#)

[1/13: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: 10,251 new cases, 94 additional deaths; vaccination details released"](#)

["Tracking the number of COVID-19 vaccinations across Ohio"](#)

["CDC Adds Down Syndrome To COVID-19 'Increased Risk' List"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)



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Board of Directors: The OPRA Board is vital in supporting the OPRA team, setting the association direction, and advancing the overall effort of working on behalf of the membership. In the fall we had Board elections and after a very competitive run-off election in District 5 our incoming class of Board members is finalized. We have 5 brand new Board members joining the team. OPRA would like to congratulate and welcome our new board members:

Ashley Brocious- RT Industries- District 2

Michelle Herndon- S&H Products- District 2

Edgar Barnett- Carroll Hills- District 3

Michelle Madden- Independence of Portage- District 5

Phil Miller- Portage Industries & Masco Inc.- District 5

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Board members for their years of dedicated service. Thank you!

Tom Weaver- Choices in Community Living

Melanie Kasten-Krause- The Society

Justin Blumhorst- Capabilities

Patrick Maynard- Boundless

Michael Malone- Manahan

Lynne Urbanski- Blossom Hill

Jerri Elson- Muskingum Residential

Donna Merrill- Horizons

