

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 15, 2021

Appendix K: The application for both regulatory and fiscal relief through appendix K has been split into 2 separate processes in order to expedite the requests to CMS. The state of Ohio recently applied with CMS to renew all of the regulatory relief provided through appendix K, including the changes that make STEP services possible. Following CMS approval of that renewal, Ohio will then submit the application for the approximately 2-week payments we have discussed over the last few weeks. Regulatory relief through appendix K will expire 6 months after the national emergency, which ensures these rule relaxations will be in place through at least October 20, 2021. We will let members know as each application is approved by CMS.

Payroll Protection Program 2: Applications for first and second draw PPP loans started being accepted this week by some financial institutions. The US Treasury recently announced that the application for small lenders begins today and for the general public next Tuesday. [The SBA recently updated their website for new and returning PPP borrowers.](#) There is still no guidance about how certain funds received during the pandemic, including PRF, CRF, BWC or Appendix K payments impact an agency's eligibility. We are seeking clarification and hoping for additional guidance from the treasury and/or SBA.

[Click here to learn about first-draw PPP loans.](#)

[Click here for information for returning PPP borrowers.](#)

Blueprint Workgroup: The work-group developing recommendations for adult and vocational services has been on hold since late fall. Earlier this week, the group's facilitator reached out to workgroup members to take preliminary steps to re-engage and continue the work put on hold in the fall. DODD is requesting feedback on the several proposals developed, prior to the workgroup meeting again. We will continue to review the proposals and gather member feedback in our day array committees and smaller focus groups. Please feel free to [review the many discussed proposals here](#) and provide any thoughts, questions or feedback you may have to Scott at smarks@opra.org.

Provider Relief Fund: The reporting period for Provider Relief Funds opened today. If you received money through the program, you should have received an email that included information on how to register to use the reporting portal. The portal is currently only open for registration, not reporting on use of funds. [You can find the portal here.](#) HHS has also released [important new guidance](#) that supersedes previous guidance.

Vaccine Resource Video: Earlier this week, DODD held a webinar featuring Medical Director, Dr. Laura Sorg aimed at addressing "Myths and Facts About the COVID Vaccine. In addition to addressing specific myths, the webinar goes into some detail about the vaccine's development, and includes fact sheets, timelines for vaccine distribution.

[Click here to download the webinar slides.](#)

[Click here to view the recorded webinar.](#)

Ohio | Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Well Aware: Practical Tips for the
Developmental Disability Community
During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Presented by: Dr. Laura Sorg
DODD Medical Director



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: DODD's weekly roundup included provider application updates, information on how to submit comments to DD Council's 5-year plan and the Technology Ambassadors grant project, as well as training announcement on supporting people w/ DD in the justice system. [Click here to read.](#)

EVV Webinars: ODM will be holding a series of webinars on the 'successful use of the EVV system. [To learn more and register for the webinars, click here.](#)

OOD SYWE Update: Earlier this week, OOD released information on this year's upcoming Summer Youth Work Experiences. It appears that OOD will not be offering the foundations model as they did last summer, opting for 2 program options including traditional work experiences, with added flexibility or the option of a PREETS (Pre-Employment Skills Training) program, which could be offered virtually. [To learn more about the upcoming SYWE plans, click here.](#)

[To register for the SYWE Training on 1/26 at 10 AM, click here](#)

[To register for the SYWE Training on 1/26 at 1pm, click here.](#)

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.

Vaccine Roundtable: Last week, the Ohio Dept. of Aging led a series of round-table discussions directed towards long-term care facilities. The discussions featured medical experts and frontline healthcare workers speaking about the vaccine, its development, distribution and addressing common concerns. [The several round-tables, as well as the toolkit for long-term care providers, can be found by clicking here.](#)



Upcoming Events

[1/20: OPRA Training Workshop: HIPAA 6-Part Series-Day 2](#)

[1/20: OPRA ICF Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Friday update: Grim milestone as state surpasses 10,000 deaths"](#)

["Ohio set to begin Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout next week"](#)

[Webinar: Ohio Disability Community Transportation Network](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)

