

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 29, 2021

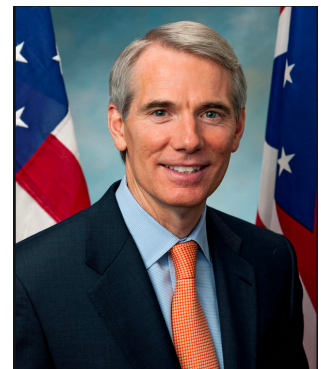
**Provider Certification Rule:** Earlier this week, DODD released their response to public comments made to the proposed provider certification rule. As we have discussed over the past several months, there are a number of pieces in the proposed rule in which OPRA took issue with, including the continued GED requirements, confusing language, and onerous/unclear training expectations. While DODD did delay the implementation date to September and relaxed some initial training requirements, it appears they are still looking to move ahead with the rule primarily as proposed. We are still working with DODD on the rule's implementation and processes around the staff waiver in order to continue advancing our guiding principle of trust for providers in our system. [Click here to read the clearance comments and responses from DODD.](#) We must note that OPRA submitted far more feedback to DODD on this rule than is indicated in the linked document and we are awaiting further response from DODD to our recommendations for the rule.

**State Budget:** We are hoping to see the Governor introduce the state budget within the next few days, which will then clarify our advocacy priorities during this budget season. We have been working with our committees and system partners to develop initial priorities as we prepare for the Governor's budget release. Throughout the budget cycle we will begin to hold "Townhall Tuesdays" to discuss budget details, the direction our advocacy needs to go, and how members can get involved in the advocacy process. We will have much more information to share about the state budget, advocacy strategies and Townhall Tuesdays coming soon! Please contact Christine at [Ctouvelle@opra.org](mailto:Ctouvelle@opra.org) with any questions.

**Day Array:** We are still awaiting confirmation from DODD and the Governor's office regarding the order change to increase cohort sizes in center-based day services from 10 to 12, not including staff. While we hoped confirmation would come this week, it seems there is some delay in signing off on the revision by the Governor's office, although DODD is still very confident the revision will be coming very shortly. There is also still time to submit feedback on the Blueprint proposals to Scott at [smarks@opra.org](mailto:smarks@opra.org). [The proposals can be found here.](#) The Day Array committee will meet next Thursday 2/4/21.

**EVV:** Yesterday Christine sent an email summarizing the ODM EVV Stakeholders call held on 1/27/21. [The Powerpoint from the meeting can be found on the OPRA website here.](#) While there was a lot of information shared, the main highlight is that the 10% reduction claims reductions (as opposed to complete claim denials) are postponed until at least the beginning of 2022.

**Senator Portman:** Earlier this week, Senator Rob Portman announced he will not seek re-election in 2022. Senator Portman and his team have made issues important to Ohioans with DD and the Medicaid services they need a top priority. With the Senator's retirement, we will be losing a strong advocate in DC and it will be hard for whoever replaces him to match the same level of commitment to disability services. With that being said, we look forward to working with whoever takes his seat to make sure they know just how vital our services are to Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** DODD's weekly roundup included the launch of their DSP resource page and vision paper, Info on Dr Sorg's family vaccine panel, and a new toolkit regarding I/DD Psychiatry featuring Dr. Gentile. [To read this week's Memo Monday, click here.](#)

**OOD Participant Survey:** Per an announcement from OOD earlier this week; "OOD is pleased to launch a statewide survey to give Ohioans with disabilities a chance to provide feedback about their employment experiences. Survey responses will help OOD evaluate its effectiveness, make improvements, and enhance outreach efforts. The survey is brief (10-15 minutes) and completely anonymous. Responses to this survey will ultimately help OOD bring positive, lasting change for other individuals with disabilities." [Click here to take the survey.](#)

**Vaccine Info and Plain Language Resources:** Click on Director Davis' video to visit DODD's new vaccine resource page that includes updates, plain language documents, social stories and other best practice resources.



**DD Council State Plan:** Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking comment on their 5- year plan. Per DD Council; "Based on survey results collected about the issues that are important to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, the Ohio DD Council drafted the 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan. Now, the Council is seeking public comment on its Five-Year State Plan." Click the image to learn more and provide feedback.



**Tell us what you think!**

Provide your comments now on the draft of the 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan.  
**Deadline is February 28!**

## Upcoming Events

**2/3: OPRA Training Workshop:  
HIPAA 6-Part Series-Day 4**

**2/4: OPRA Day Array Committee**

## News and Resources

**"Ohio behind most states in completing COVID-19 vaccinations, CDC data shows"**

**"Ohio's curfew to change Thursday"**

**"OnSeen Assembles Expert Advisory Board to  
Provide Oversight and  
Governance for the Ohio Disabilities  
Community Transportation Network"**

**OPRA COVID-19 Resources**

