

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

**OPRA Budget Testimony:** On Tuesday, the House Finance sub-committee on Health and Human Services heard testimony from Director Jeff Davis, as well as a panel of DD stakeholders, including Pete Moore, OPRA's President/CEO. The panel also included Bridget Gargan of OACB, Pete Van Runkle of OHCA and Gary Tonks of The Arc of Ohio. OPRA's testimony included budget 'asks' of 5% yearly increases in HCBS waiver service rates, including residential, day and transportation services, as well as increased funding for ICFs and support of an investment and redesign of the Multi-System Youth program, including the addition of regional respite centers. The primary theme of our testimony was 'workforce, workforce, workforce', where we also requested the development of a Task-force to address the workforce crisis in Ohio as part of this biennium budget cycle. [Click here to read OPRA's full budget testimony from the Health and Human Services Sub-Committee.](#) Next week the House Finance HHS Subcommittee will continue to hear budget testimony on the various budgets. We are in the process of following up with members of the subcommittee and working on a process for members to submit written testimony.

**DRO Exit Waiver Visits:** We've been made aware that DRO has been visiting some ICF providers across the state, apparently inquiring around exit waivers. After conversations with DODD and counsel, it appears there is little that can be done to limit the visits at this point. These visits have been performed virtually, where DRO is looking to interview individuals served in ICFs for approximately 15-20 minutes, sometimes with or without guardian approval. We will update members as we learn more, but please reach out to OPRA and contact Pete and/or Rachel if you have had a similar visit.

**Federal Bill/Minimum Wage:** Over the past few weeks, we have been discussing the COVID relief bill currently working through the US congress, which had included a push to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 over the next 5 years. Last night, the Senate Parliamentarian advised that this provision should not be included in the budget reconciliation process to pass the COVID relief plan, as the measure does not have a direct budget impact. So, although it appears at this moment that this provision will not be part of this legislative package, we know this is a priority for Democratic leaders and we will continue to work with our Federal partners on the impacts of such legislation without corresponding Medicaid rate increases. [Click here to read more about the ruling.](#)

**US Dept. of Labor:** Yesterday the Department of Labor released guidance to states to expand who is eligible for unemployment benefits. This includes a retroactive expansion of "individuals who refuse to return to work that is unsafe or accept an offer of new work that is unsafe." We are still reading and analyzing the information but we have big concerns about how this guidance could impact day array and other reimbursing UI employers. We will be following up as we understand the impact of guidance more thoroughly. [Read the full guidance here.](#)

**Vaccine:** As the current demand outpaces vaccine availability, we continue to advocate for the inclusion of day service staff as we work with system partners to ensure that newly hired and placed staff and individuals eligible for phase 1A and B also have Vaccine access. [Click here to read more.](#)



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** DODD's weekly roundup included information on Part 3 of the Ohio ISP training available on MyLearning, a series of COVID vaccine town halls that will continue into next week, and DODD's upcoming transformation series, and registration information for the DSP compensation verification tool. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

**PPP:** We sent out information earlier this week on a change to the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). The Biden administration has temporarily paused PPP loan applications for businesses with more than 20 employees. This began on Wednesday 2/24 and will last for two weeks. If you are still planning to apply for the second round and have not done so, please be advised of this change. [You can read more information here.](#)

**Day Services Co-Chair:** The Day Services committee is looking for a co-chair! If you are interested in becoming a chair for the day services committee, which for the past year has been meeting jointly with the employment committee, you can access the short application on [OPRA's website here.](#) If you'd like to apply, please just complete the application and send back to Scott at [smarks@opra.org](mailto:smarks@opra.org). [Additionally, the responses to the live-polling questions from the past day/employment committee meeting are posted here.](#)

**DD Day!** As we enter into the month of March next week, we will kick off Developmental Disabilities Awareness month with the annual "DD Awareness and Advocacy Day". We are proud and honored to host this event for the 5th year in a row, connecting Ohioans with disabilities to their elected officials to share the issues most important to them! We are expecting almost 900 attendees and are scheduling over 100 legislative visits! We hope to see you there! The event can also be viewed on the official [DD Day facebook page.](#)



## Upcoming Events

[3/2: DD Awareness and Advocacy Day](#)

[3/4: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting](#)

## News and Resources

["Gov. Mike DeWine: Ohio will soon relax COVID-19 restrictions on sports, banquet halls and more"](#)

["\(Toledo\) Mayor Kapszukiewicz will create new Office on Disabilities"](#)

["Four counties improve on Ohio's color-coded COVID-19 map"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)



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The Department provides the following weekly MUI updates based on COVID-19 related unanticipated hospitalizations and/or deaths entered into the Incident Tracking System. This data is not all inclusive. It does not include information about people who were suspected of having COVID-19 but not hospitalized, those who tested positive but were not hospitalized, people living with their families who were hospitalized when there was no provider present at time of hospitalization and COVID tested. For additional information and guidance, please visit [DODD COVID-19 Resources](#).

This report was revised on August 21, 2020 so that each person is only counted one time. If a person was hospitalized and tested multiple times, there would only be one entry for that person, and it would be updated to reflect the most current information. As a result of removing any additional testing results for the same person, there was a slight decrease in the overall number of test results.

### As of February 26, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
783	23	990	1,796

- 990 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 6 additional positives since the 2/19 report.
- 209 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 10 additional confirmed deaths since the 2/19 report.
- There were 1,718 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 11 since the 2/19 report.
- A total of 1,796 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 78 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

### Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 85 counties and 8 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, MVDC, SODC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 226 followed by Cuyahoga with 203.
- Franklin had the most people who tested positive at 115 people followed by Cuyahoga with 109.

### Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.02% of those tested and females 39.98%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 55 years. The most common age was 63 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
  - Black or African American-16% (57% positive testing rate)
  - Other Race -2% (58% positive testing rate)
  - Unknown-4% (51% positive testing rate)
  - White/Caucasian 78% (55% positive testing rate)

### COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (209) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.220%.
- The ages of those who passed away range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 61 years old.
- A total of 51 counties and 3 DCs have reported COVID-19 deaths.

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	28
ICF	66
Licensed Waiver	20
Nursing Facility	27
Supported Living	67
Grand Total	209

County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count	County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count
Allen	4	Lucas	15
Ashtabula	3	Mahoning	2
Belmont	1	Marion	1
Butler	6	Miami	1
Carroll	1	Montgomery	10
CDC	1	Muskingum	1
Champaign	1	NODC	4
Clark	6	Ottawa	9
Clermont	3	Perry	3
Clinton	1	Pickaway	2
Coshocton	4	Preble	2
Cuyahoga	12	Richland	4
Darke	1	Ross	1
Delaware	2	Sandusky	6
Fairfield	2	Scioto	2
Franklin	18	Seneca	1
Gallia	2	Stark	12
Geauga	1	Summit	6
Greene	1	TDC	1
Hamilton	12	Trumbull	4
Hardin	1	Tuscarawas	3
Henry	1	Vinton	1
Holmes	1	Warren	6
Lake	6	Wayne	4
Lawrence	1	Williams	1
Licking	7	Wood	3
Lorain	3	Wyandot	2
Grand Total 209			

