

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 4, 2021

DD Day Wrap-up: A huge thank you to everyone who made this year's [DD Awareness and Advocacy Day](#) such a special day for so many people. Although we were sad to not be able to meet together at the statehouse, the virtual event drew over 900 registrants, leading to over 100 legislative meetings scheduled. So, even though we weren't together in Columbus, we were able to connect hundreds of Ohioans to their elected representatives to share the issues essential in their lives. Thank you to all who attended, presented or volunteered for making the day a success!



State Budget: Another huge "Thank you" to everyone who responded to our request to submit written testimony in support of our budget priorities to the House Finance sub-committee on Health and Human services this week. As we've said, this will be an incredibly competitive budget season and your advocacy is more important than ever! We know it was a quick turnaround and we are so appreciative of your support in advancing OPRA's budget priorities. There will be more opportunities to advocate and/or submit testimony as the process moves ahead and we hope to have even more member engagement next time. Please contact Christine at Ctouvelle@opra.org with any questions.

Wage Verification: Since the last Biennium budget's investment in rates to increase DSP wages, system partners have worked together to develop a tool to demonstrate that rate increases are going towards staff wages. After this week's Department-led webinar, we reached out DODD to request they develop an additional FAQ/informational material that lays out everything providers need to know about this process. Please contact Pete or Rachel with any follow-up questions.

On-site/On-call: DODD is looking to roll out the team assessment tool for OSOC by April 15th. The tool is intended to help teams determine the use of OSOC given the particular service situation. OPRA will be setting up a small focus group to look at the tool and make any recommendations needed for the tool's rollout and training. It is important to us that this OSOC tool supports and enhances the team process, and is not used by sole team members to approve/deny OSOC authorizations. Please contact Rachel at Rhayes@opra.org with any questions you may have.

Vaccine Mandate?: We mentioned on our call last week how we have heard of discussions going on at the county board level about whether or not Day service providers can mandate the COVID-19 Vaccine for individuals returning to services. Although we are not aware of any providers currently mandating the vaccine for individuals, DODD provided their analysis, opining that providers should likely not be mandating the vaccine, as vaccines approved under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) cannot be mandated for employees or individuals. This is certainly a very nuanced opinion/situation, but [we wanted to provide members with DODD's analysis here.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

DODD Pipeline: This week, DODD released their monthly 'Pipeline' publication, featuring links to many different topics including Governor DeWine's DD Day Intro, Vaccine and Mental health resources, Dr. Laura's Medical moments, Learning Aid Ohio and the expanded BWC Air Quality grants discussed on this morning's call. [Click here to read the DODD Pipeline.](#)

Appendix K- As of yet, CMS has still not approved the 2-week payment applied for by Ohio through the Appendix K several weeks ago. This past week, Ohio got verbal confirmation of CMS' approval of the increase requested in SELF waivers, also applied for as part of the appendix K package. We see this as good news as it seems some of the logjam at CMS is starting to lift and approvals are starting to be made. DODD remains optimistic that the payment will get approved by CMS.

Risk/Benefit Discussion Guide: DODD recently updated the risk/benefit tool that teams can use to help determine the safety and benefits of someone returning to activities, including day services. The new discussion guide incorporates whether a person has been fully vaccinated when weighing someone's health risks. [The updated discussion guide can be found here.](#)

COVID-19 Risk/Benefit Discussion Guide for Activities Outside the Home or Facility

This guide should be used within the person-centered planning process to assist team members with understanding and considering risks and benefits specific to activities outside the home or facility that include, but not limited to, work, school, day programs, visits with families or friends, or other activities in the community. The decision to have support staff accompany a person on activities outside their home or facility, such as a family visit or trip, should be determined by the team.

This guide should not be used to qualify or exclude a person from any activity outside the home or facility. The purpose of the guide is for the person and their team to make informed choices. Please consult with the person's primary healthcare professionals for more individual-specific health considerations.

In addition to this guide, [Training the Team Process](#) offers recommendations for teams that are engaging in these discussions that include resources, scenarios, as well as team considerations and resolutions to explore.

Name of Person: _____

Situational Risks	Check if Present
The person is not able to follow the social distancing protocol with 6 feet of distance with minimal prompting/assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person is not able to use PPE for extended periods of time with minimal prompting/assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has HIV or other paid support personnel at home.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person requires physical prompting/assistance to complete ADLs, such as toileting, eating, or mobility. (Requires close contact with DSP)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Health-Related Risks	Check if Present
If the person is not fully vaccinated for COVID-19:	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person is Morbidly Obese (BMI > 35)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person is 65 years or older	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has known respiratory issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has known cardiac disease, including hypertension	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has immunocompromising conditions (ie HIV, cancer, Post-Transplant, Prednisone treatment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has known renal disease (such as Chronic Kidney Disease)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The person has any other underlying health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>

Home Related Risks	Check if Present
Risks to others who live with the person (family, caregivers, roommates) who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with Obesity	<input type="checkbox"/>
People over 65 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with respiratory issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who have known cardiac disease (including hypertension)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who have any immunocompromising conditions (ie HIV, cancer, post-transplant, prednisone treatment, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with renal disease	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with any other underlying health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>

Benefits to Person	Check if Present
Socialization is important to the person	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of socialization has known serious risks to known mental health conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A sense of normalcy/routine is important to the person	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of routine has known serious risks to known mental health conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daily activity outside the home is likely to reduce the frequency of behavioral issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income	<input type="checkbox"/>
Persons are employed, and supervision is needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
No other supervision is available	<input type="checkbox"/>
Needs the medical support of ADSP/VN (i.e., med admin, medical check-in)	<input type="checkbox"/>
If not in a structured program, the person may be wandering in the community or engaging in risky, non-social distancing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Benefit:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Considerations: _____

If the circumstances are too high risk for any particular out-of-home activity, the team should evaluate what alternative services or activities are available, including virtual or other in-home services, and re-evaluate the situation routinely.

Discuss with the person's healthcare professional regarding risk mitigation. Considerations may also include if a person has been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or if they have recently recovered from COVID-19.

Completed By: _____ Date: _____

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 [Additionally, the responses to the live-polling questions from the past day/employment committee meeting are posted here.](#)

Upcoming Events

[3/9: OPRA District 3 Meeting](#)

[3/10: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["50 cases per 100,000 people: Here is how Ohio gets to Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 goal"](#)

["KFF: COVID-19 Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities"](#)

["Ohio University study looks at who in state wants vaccine, who doesn't"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)

