

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 26, 2021

Appendix K Approved: After several weeks of waiting and advocating with federal partners, we were pleased to be able to announce yesterday that CMS has approved Ohio's request for a relief payment to waiver service providers. The payment, which accounts for a roughly 2-week period of billing between August and September of 2020, can be expected to arrive between April 9th and 13th. We want to thank OACB, DODD, The Ohio Department of Medicaid and Ohio's county boards of DD for making this relief payment possible. [To read DODD's announcement of the approval, click here.](#)

Blueprint-Yesterday The Blueprint workgroup, tasked with recommending changes to the day array of services, met for the first time since going on hiatus in the fall of 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to recap the 15 previous proposals generated by the groups' sub-committees and go over the feedback provided by group members. DODD presented the feedback, along with the proposals that seem to be higher priorities for the group. DODD will be working with OPRA and other workgroup members to develop a phased implementation proposal, which will be presented to the full workgroup in May. [To see the proposal and feedback presentation from this week's Blueprint meeting, click here.](#)

Visitation Guidance: For the past several weeks, DODD has been promising updated guidance for visitation in ICFs, incorporating [recent CMS guidance](#) on 'compassionate care' visits. After weeks of waiting for this guidance, we have heard from members who are disappointed by the lack of direction and specificity of [this guidance, which was published earlier this week](#). The guidance document does go on to say that DODD is still reviewing previous guidance around visitation and will continue to update as Federal guidance changes. Members should continue to utilize the [risk/benefit discussion guide](#) when determining the impact of visits and activities outside the ICF.

HCBS Access Act: Earlier this week Federal legislative language was released to the public called the '[HCBS Access Act](#)'. [This potential legislation](#), sponsored by Senator Brown of Ohio, would require states to ensure certain HCBS are active and available, and comes with a 100% federal FMAP match for HCBS services. The legislative text was released only as a discussion draft for feedback. We will be providing feedback both through our own relationship with Senator Brown's office and through a workgroup set up by ANCOR. We believe the bill would have a steep climb to pass the US Senate and we have several questions about the current language. We will keep members posted as this process moves forward.

Payroll Protection Program: Earlier this week the [US Senate passed a bill extending the application deadline for the PPP](#) from March 31st to May 31st, allowing the SBA until June 30th to process new loan applications. This is especially good news as the American Rescue Plan contained provisions that expanded eligibility to larger non-profits, who may have been left out of the first draw last year. Additionally, the SBA just released new loan application forms for first and second draw PPP borrowers. [Those new forms can be found here.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

DODD Staff Changes: Per announcement from DODD yesterday; "Effective today, Sara Lawson has accepted the position of interim deputy director of the Division of Residential Resources within the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The division oversees the operation of Ohio's eight developmental centers, public and private intermediate care facilities, capital projects, housing, and nurse delegation. Ginnie Whisman has accepted a new policy specialist position reporting to Director Jeff Davis. Ginnie brings her valuable experience in both the public and private sectors to the special projects she will be responsible for in this new role." We look forward to working with Sara and Ginnie in their new roles at DODD!

Ohio Senate Bill 22: Ohio's legislative overrode the veto of Governor DeWine on SB 22, allowing lawmakers to override public health orders and extend or end state of emergency orders. The override came after Governor DeWine vetoed the bill and attempted to come back with a compromise proposal. Bypassing the compromise, both chambers voted to override the veto. Governor DeWine's office has already said they will plan to challenge the law in court before it becomes effective in 90 days. Given the Governor's proposed plan to end the public health orders when Ohio reaches the 500 cases/100,000 people threshold, we will see how those timelines intersect. We will be watching this closely as the law could have impacts beyond the current pandemic. [Click here to read more.](#)



Registration is LIVE for OPRA's 2021 Virtual Spring Conference on May 6th and 7th. We are very excited to announce we will be utilizing a new conference platform through CVENT for a great participant and exhibitor experience. We hope to see you there!

[Click here to REGISTER & VIEW AGENDA](#)

Upcoming Events

[3/31: HIPAA Spring Six Part Training Series - Session 2](#)

News and Resources

["50 cases per 100k tracker: Where Ohio stands on March 25"](#)

["Ohio launches mass vaccination locations as residents 16+ become eligible for shots"](#)

["Townships want clarification on new federal aid"](#)

[OPRA COVID-19 Resources](#)

