

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 16, 2021

**Budget Substitute Bill:** As we shared in an email earlier this week, the Ohio House released their substitute budget bill on Tuesday afternoon. We have known this would be a difficult budget season, and at this point, our requests for additional funding for disability services were not included in the sub-bill, with the exception of a \$5M investment to increase adult day service rates. Although we are disappointed in this sub-bill, the process moves on, and we will continue to advocate for our budget priorities.



Yesterday, Pete Moore testified in front of the House Finance committee, reiterating the need for additional support for disability service providers in this state budget. We continue to work on strategy with our coalition partners as the process moves on to the Senate, where we hope to get more support on our budget requests. We believe the expectation of federal dollars, as well as the investment in K-12 Education and a 2% tax cut seems to have significantly limited the house's ability to fund many additional initiatives. We have begun conversations in the Senate as we hope to have our priorities included in the budget there. [Click here to view the budget sub-bill and comparison document.](#) Please reach out to Pete or Christine with any questions.

**HCBS Access Act:** We have talked for the past several weeks about the HCBS Access Act, a draft discussion bill which, as drafted, would require that states offer HCBS services and would be paid for entirely by the Federal government. Following recent discussions, it does not appear that the bill will be included in the upcoming infrastructure act, at least as currently drafted. The sponsors, who include Senator Brown, are still seeking feedback on the bill and we are happy to be hosting Abby Duggan of Senator Brown's office for our Townhall Tuesday next week for a discussion on the bill. [Click here for details and registration information for next week's Townhall Tuesday.](#)

**Core Committee:** Earlier this week, DODD's 'core committee' met to begin discussions on what the next phase for adult services will be in regards to public health orders, service requirements, rates and future program structures. The primary result of the meeting will be the development of a survey for both individuals and families and for providers on the factors that are limiting the return to day/voc services. OPRA will work to develop the provider survey, which should be out by the end of April. These surveys will help the committee determine next steps in the 'unwinding' of the current day service structure. The group also agreed to begin work on keeping pieces of the 'STEP' service in place after the Appendix K expires. Please contact Scott with any questions.

**Provider Certification:** A few weeks ago we discussed and shared comments we submitted to DODD on the Provider Certification rule during the public hearing for the rule changes. Based on the feedback released late last week and several conversations with DODD, we know they are very intent to move forward with this rule as proposed. We will continue to work with DODD and system partners on the rule's implementation. [Click here to read the public comments and DODD's feedback.](#)



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** This week's Memo Monday from DODD included reminder information about the rollout of the upcoming Provider Network Management Module (PNM), as well as information on [Assistive Technology Day](#), which was celebrated on Wednesday. The MM also featured links to several upcoming trainings and events including [the Ohio APSE Conference](#) and the upcoming [Tech Summit](#). [Click here to read memo Monday.](#)

**EVV Workgroup:** Recently, Christine has been co-facilitating a small focus group with the Department of Medicaid on how to improve the experience of complying with EVV requirements when using the Sandata system. The group developed several recommendations, from short to long-term that will be presented to ODM at next week's quarterly EVV statewide stakeholder meeting. [You can register to listen to the quarterly stakeholder meeting here:](#)

**Inclusive Employer Toolkit:** This week, Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced the Inclusive Employer Toolkit, designed by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to help employers recruit, hire, and retain employees with disabilities and foster an inclusive workplace.



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

## Upcoming Events

[4/21: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee](#)

[4/21: OPRA ICF Committee](#)

[4/21: HIPAA Six Part Training Series](#)

[4/22: OPRA Day & Employment Services Committees](#)

## News and Resources

["Ohio reports 2,164 new COVID-19 cases as Franklin County returns to 'Alert Level Purple'"](#)

["Ohio paused Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines. What do I need to know?"](#)

["Ohio names 6 insurers to manage state's \\$20B Medicaid contracts"](#)

["Pandemic Loneliness Bites Hard; Particularly For Disabled People"](#)

