

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 30, 2021

State Budget: It's been a very busy state budget week. Starting with a coalition meeting on Monday, we collectively decided to continue with our amendment/ask from the House, looking to enhance our testimony with more provider experience on the impact of the workforce crisis. Pete, along with the rest of the coalition, presented testimony to the Senate Health Committee yesterday, demonstrating the need for further support from the legislature to address the workforce crisis and ensure quality services. Next week there will be additional testimony in the Senate Health Committee with some opportunity for public testimony. We have been working on a slightly revised template for members to participate in the process that we hope to have out later today with instructions on submission.



We believe the Health Committee is committed to our issues and the more they hear from you in this particular forum, the better. [You can find a copy of Pete's testimony here.](#) Click on the picture above to watch the Senate Health Committee hearing. Director Davis begins about 10 minutes in, with Pete's testimony beginning around the 42 minute mark.

HCBS Access Act- Following last week's Town hall Tuesday, we did submit feedback on the draft discussion bill earlier this week. Given the conversations and feedback from the membership, our response focused on the need to address the workforce crisis if any expansion of services is going to be successful. Using feedback from our several committees around workforce priorities, our feedback was directed at strategies to address the workforce crisis. Given our unique service system in Ohio, we also need to better understand how the HCBS Access Act would impact the spectrum of services OPRA members provide. [You can read the response here.](#)

Blueprint- Last week DODD presented us with their first draft of an implementation plan for the many proposals developed in the Blueprint workgroup. There are several phases to the implementation plan, which rolls out over multiple years. DODD is seeking feedback from OPRA and other stakeholders on this draft plan by May 7th. Given the fast turnaround and the conference being next week, we recorded a brief (22 minutes) video, walking through the draft plan and highlighting the areas where we may have concerns or questions. [You can view the video here](#) and provide any feedback to Scott at smarks@opra.org.

Visitation Guidance: Earlier in the week, Governor DeWine rescinded the guidance regarding outdoor and indoor visitation pertaining to ICFs. Subsequently, [DODD released this memo](#), outlining that providers should now be following the guidance published by CMS as it comes to visitation. Please contact Rachel at Rhayes@opra.org with any questions or feedback.

Conference: The OPRA Spring Conference is next week and we are so excited to see you all (virtually) for what will be a great few days of sessions, activities, and virtual networking! There is still time to register, so if you haven't yet, click on the links to the right to learn more. We hope to see you next Thursday!!!



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



In Case You Missed It...

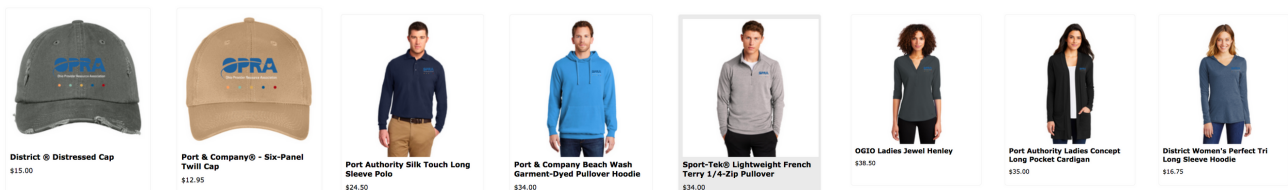
Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's Memo Monday from DODD included several important updates, including the extension of the Public Health Emergency, an extension of the OTS data submission, cost report deadlines for ICFs, and very importantly, the links to the new agency waiver for employing those with out a GED or High School Diploma. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

OOD Transportation Guidance: As we move towards this year's Summer Youth programming, OOD shared 2 transportation guidance links with its network of providers. The guidance from ODOT/OPTA (Ohio Public Transit Association) is the same guidance that DODD has been using for the past several months when considering safety protocols in transporting individuals. The ODH guidance is more specific to public carriers, but is primarily consistent with the OPTA/ODOT document. After a member question this morning, I spoke with OOD reps, who confirmed these are the guidance documents they would like providers to use when coordinating transportation. [Click here to view the ODOT/OPTA Guidance document.](#)
[Click here to view the ODH Public Carrier Guidance document.](#)

Correction/Retraction: The member bulletin message sent on Monday morning regarding Sedgwick MCO and Open Enrollment included language intended for May 3. OPRA's workers' compensation program is a valuable member benefit, but exploration of MCO options is restricted to the Open Enrollment period from May 3-28.

OPRA Shop: Looking to get some OPRA swag for yourself or a special someone in your life? Well, the [OPRA shop](#) is officially open! The winner of [today's raffle](#) earns one free item!



Upcoming Events

[5/6-5/7: OPRA Virtual Spring Conference](#)

[5/12: OPRA Policy Committee](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio COVID-19 maps: Statewide case rate falls again, but still not enough to end mask mandate"](#)

["Here's what's in Biden's \\$1.8 trillion American Families Plan"](#)

["Quarantine no longer required for fully vaccinated Ohioans after COVID-19 exposure, DeWine says in update"](#)

