

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 21, 2021

Workforce Crisis: We have spoken with several members this past week about the growing crises related to the workforce shortage. Recent policy changes and initiatives including Ohio's ending of enhanced Unemployment benefits, the development of the Workforce Task Force (meeting next week), and a recently established collaborative workgroup of Ohio's HHS Cabinet Directors, including Director Davis, are all aimed at addressing the crisis. As we work to address the multiple fronts of the crisis, we have secured a grant that will support 20 OPRA members to implement marketing and recruitment initiatives to attract staff as well as collaborate on best practices for retention of new direct support staff. As our budget advocacy centered on the workforce crisis continues, we have developed [this video, titled 'A Day Without DSPs'](#) to help shed light on the crisis. Please share this video on your social media and any other platforms you have to spread the word about the DSP workforce crisis. Thanks to the Licking County Board of DD, Independence of Portage County Inc and Consumer Support Services (CSS) for their help in producing this video!

CMS ICF Rule: Last week, we sent out notification that the new CMS rule regarding vaccination / education / reporting of individuals and staff is open for comment. [Please review the rule](#) and provide any feedback regarding concerns by June 4th, 2021 to [Rachel at Rhayes@opra.org](mailto:Rachel@opra.org). As a reminder, this rule is intended to improve vaccine access for individuals who reside in an ICF and staff who work in an ICF. The new rule will require that all staff and residents are educated and offered the vaccine. Policies and procedures must be developed and implemented that include offering the vaccine as well as offering education regarding the risks/benefits/potential side effects of the vaccine. Additionally, the rule encourages but does not require ICF's to report vaccinations to the CDC

Orders Lifting: As Ohio prepares to lift most public health orders issued through ODH on June 2nd, we are working with DODD and system partners to ensure our system has the guidance needed to set agency policies around masking, distancing and other COVID-related policies. We do not believe DODD will be continuing regulations for adult and vocational services around cohorting and distancing once the orders are lifted on June 2nd. [We want to thank the members who have shared sample policies](#) with us around vaccination, masking and distancing as we look to develop a best practice resource library for the membership. [ODH has issued an interim public health order](#), aligning with CDC vaccination/mask recommendations that will be in effect until June 2nd.

Blueprint: The Blueprint committee met this week for the final time as a full committee to take a vote on whether there was consensus to move forward with the [implementation timeline](#) on proposed changes to the day, vocational and employment services. The group voted overwhelmingly to move forward with the implementation proposal, although we at OPRA still have several concerns about the timelines proposed by DODD. We remain supportive of many of the proposed changes, but will continue to advocate for changes that build provider and service capacity in day and employment supports. Please contact Scott at smarks@opra.org with any questions.

Provider Network Management: The Ohio Department of Medicaid has announced their upcoming phase-ins of the new Provider Network Management System and Centralized Credentialing System which will replace the current MITS provider enrollment subsystem and the current MITS provider portal. [Click here for more information on the PNM system.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Provider Cert.: Most importantly, this week's Memo Monday, included a message and new guidance around the implementation of the new Provider Certification rules. We have received many member questions around several aspects of these upcoming rule changes, and will be holding a 'members-only' Town Hall Tuesday on June 1st, to allow time to fully walk through all of the details of the rules and address member questions and concerns. [You can register for the June 1st Town Hall Tuesday by clicking Here!](#)

EVV: As we reported weeks back, the Ohio Department of Medicaid will be switching to a new platform for provider/customer support on EVV-related issues. There are currently a few different ways you can get help, and this transition should help streamline these multiple outlets. There will be webinars on the changes starting next week. [You can find more information here.](#)



NEW TRAININGS! SUMMER SESSIONS

CEO TRAINING: JUNE 10

HIPAA SERIES: JUNE 24, JULY 8, JULY 15

FRONTLINE SUPERVISORS JUNE 23 - 24

REGISTER TODAY!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Upcoming Events

[5/27: Blitz Creative Workshop: DSP Magnet Retention & Culture](#)

[6/2: Blitz Creative Workshop: DSP Magnet Recruiting & Ghosting](#)

[5/31: Memorial Day](#)

[6/1: OPRA Townhall Tuesday: Provider Certification Rules](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio COVID-19 maps: More orange, yellow counties, fewer red; statewide case number continues to drop"](#)

["Ohio hits highest vaccination rate in weeks after offering \\$1m lottery prize"](#)

["Apple announces new accessibility tools for watches and iPads to help people with disabilities"](#)

["CDC: When You've Been Fully Vaccinated"](#)

