

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 4, 2021

State Budget: Earlier this week the Ohio Senate released it's substitute version of House Bill 110, the state budget bill (congrats to our trivia raffle winner!). After little to no funding was appropriated for DD services in both the Executive and House versions of the budget, we were very pleased to see that the Senate opted to increase rates for both Waiver and ICF services by 2% for each year of the next biennium. As the process now heads towards conference committee, there will be more opportunities for member engagement and advocacy as we work to maintain the increases adopted by the Senate. We are also working on fixes to the budget language that may have resulted in rollbacks for some ICF providers. We are incredibly grateful for all of you who provided testimony, both written and in-person, our partners at the Success Group and our champions in the Senate as we work to secure these much-needed rate increases. [Click here to download the Senate Sub-Bill Budget Synopsis presented by Christine on this morning's Zoom call.](#)

DODD Guidance: This past Wednesday, June 2, [DODD released the much-anticipated, long-delayed guidance and best practices](#) for providers setting policies and procedures as Ohio's public health orders were lifted that same day. The guidance primarily recommends that providers utilize CDC ["Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019"](#) when developing policies. Regarding DSPs, DODD is recommending that, per CDC guidance, all DSPs continue to wear face coverings when at work. We understand this additional guidance, as well as the delay in its release, causes major challenges to providers who had already set mask/vaccination policies. DODD has ensured that they will not be enforcing or regulating these recommendations. In light of the changing requirements in Ohio, we also wanted to re-share the [most recent COVID guidance from OSHA as you continue to set agency policies.](#) Please feel free to reach out to Scott or Rachel with any questions.

Waiver Workgroup: DODD's workgroup that continually meets on potential improvements and changes to Ohio's waiver system met this week, now being led by Nyoka Craddolph from DODD's Medicaid division. It was shared in this week's meeting that CMS has contacted Ohio to inform that we are no longer able to pay for internet access through Medicaid/waiver services. This presents a major challenge as the state looks to expand capacity for remote services and provide connective supports. We know DODD has been reaching out to providers to better understand the impact of this change.

OOD START UP: Following feedback from providers and job-seekers after the last year of increased virtual supports, OOD recently introduced their new [START UP \(Setup for Technology Access Readiness Training\)](#) service. This service allows providers to help people set up the technology they need to engage in services, such as teaching someone how to use a computer, set up an Apple ID, etc...We have linked the introductory video on the next page of the newsletter. Please reach out to Scott with any questions or feedback.

OOD Provider Rule: OOD is seeking feedback on potential changes to rule Rule 3304-2-53, "Qualifications and Standards for Service Providers and Vendors". [The draft rule is posted here for member review and feedback.](#) OPRA will be providing comments on the draft rule by June 30th.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD memos included info on the fiscal year-end and its impact on payment dates, an OISP testing update, and info on upcoming trainings. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

Workforce Grant: Last week we shared information about a grant opportunity for OPRA members to support recruitment and retention activities. The grant opportunity is open to 21 OPRA members and will support promotional/marketing initiatives to attract potential staff as well as examining the first few months of a DSP's experience on the job to develop promising and best practices for on-boarding new employees. [To learn more about the grant opportunity or to apply, visit the OPRA website here.](#) Please reach out to Pete at Pmoore@opra.org with questions.

Leadership Conference: OPRA is partnering with provider associations from Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan for the 'Great Lakes Leadership Conference' on July 19-24. There are many interesting sessions throughout the week and we will be hosting a 'coffee conversation' on workforce priorities on the Wednesday morning of the conference. [Click here to learn more and/or register.](#) OPRA members get a registration discount of \$50 off by entering the promo code OPRA.



Upcoming Events

[6/8: OPRA HR Committee](#)

[6/10: OPRA Health Care Committee](#)

[6/10: CEO Training Workshop](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio almost at 50 cases per 100k as DeWine sets summer COVID-19 vaccine goal"](#)

["Ohio's COVID health orders lifted; here's what you need to know"](#)

["Biden's Budget Includes Boost To Special Ed, Disability Services"](#)

["Governor signs bill into law providing \\$967 million in pandemic-related relief to Ohio's schools"](#)



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The Department provides the following weekly MUI updates based on COVID-19 related unanticipated hospitalizations and/or deaths entered into the Incident Tracking System. This data is not all inclusive. It does not include information about people who were suspected of having COVID-19 but not hospitalized, those who tested positive but were not hospitalized, people living with their families who were hospitalized when there was no provider present at time of hospitalization and COVID tested. For additional information and guidance, please visit [DODD COVID-19 Resources](#).

As of June 4, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
896	0	1,053	1,949

- 1,053 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 2 additional positives since the 5/27 report.
- 231 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There was 1 additional confirmed death since the 5/27 report.
- There were 1,859 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 5 since the 5/27 report.
- A total of 1,949 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 90 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 85 counties and 8 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, MVDC, SODC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 242 followed by Cuyahoga with 214.
- Franklin had the most people who tested positive at 122 people followed by Cuyahoga with 118.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.14% of those tested and females 39.86%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 55 years. The most common ages are 59, 61, and 63 years.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-15% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (48% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 78% (54% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (231) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.243%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 62 years old.
- A total of 53 counties and 3 DCs (CDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 21.

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count	County or DC with COVID Deaths	Count
Adams	1	Lorain	4
Allen	4	Lucas	16
Ashtabula	3	Mahoning	2
Belmont	1	Marion	1
Butler	6	Miami	1
Carroll	1	Montgomery	10
CDC	1	Muskingum	1
Champaign	1	NODC	4
Clark	6	Ottawa	9
Clermont	4	Perry	4
Clinton	1	Pickaway	2
Coshocton	4	Preble	3
Cuyahoga	15	Richland	5
Darke	1	Ross	1
Delaware	2	Sandusky	6
Fairfield	2	Scioto	2
Franklin	21	Seneca	1
Gallia	3	Stark	15
Geauga	1	Summit	7
Greene	1	TDC	1
Hamilton	13	Trumbull	5
Hardin	1	Tuscarawas	4
Henry	1	Vinton	1
Holmes	1	Warren	6
Jefferson	1	Wayne	4
Lake	6	Williams	1
Lawrence	1	Wood	3
Licking	7	Wyandot	2
Grand Total 231			

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	36
ICF	70
Licensed Waiver	20
Nursing Facility	29
Supported Living	74
Grand Total	231

