

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 18, 2021

OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard: Late last week, OSHA adopted an Emergency Temporary Standard for Healthcare Workers (ETS), requiring employers who provide 'healthcare services' to continue and/or establish a COVID-19 safety plan. After much review and discussion with counsel, it is still very unclear how/if the ETS applies to our field and disability services, as nothing in it specifically references ID/DD services. Provisions in the ETS regarding home health services lead us to believe that the ETS likely applies to most residential settings, although we are hoping further guidance and clarification may be published as to the applicability of the ETS. Additionally, initial review and discussion lead us to believe that most adult and vocational services would not fall under the ETS, but members should review the definitions in the ETS, along with the type of services provided in those settings to help make those determinations. We understand the timing of this presents a major challenge for providers who adopted new policies since the lifting of state orders on June 2nd. [The ETS and corresponding OSHA guidance can all be found here.](#) Please contact [Scott](#) with any questions about the OSHA ETS.

OPRA R & R Grants: Over the past several weeks, we've discussed a matching grant opportunity for OPRA members to utilize promotional and marketing materials to help attract/recruit DSPs. The original grant proposal would have allowed for 21 providers to participate in this project, which will also include regular partner meetings to develop promising practices for the 'first 90 days' on the job for a DSP. After the application period closed on Friday, we had over 60 members apply. Given the urgent need to address the workforce emergency, Pete has been working with system partners in a hope to be able to fund all members who applied. We will have more information on this opportunity over the coming weeks.

PRF Reporting: Late last week the US Department of Health and Human Services released [new updated reporting requirements for the Provider Relief Fund \(PRF\)](#). There are some important changes around timelines for spending and reporting. Key Updates include;

- The period of availability of funds is based on the date the payment is received (rather than requiring all payments be used by June 30, 2021, regardless of when they were received).
- Recipients are required to report for each Payment Received Period in which they received one or more payments exceeding, in the aggregate, \$10,000 (rather than \$10,000 cumulatively across all PRF payments).
- Recipients will have a 90-day period to complete reporting (rather than a 30-day reporting period).

Reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions about PRF reporting.

OOD Provider Qualification Rule: Thanks to everyone who participated in our review of [OOD's proposed rule yesterday](#). Feedback is due to OOD by 6/30, so if you have not had a chance to review, you can find the draft rule [here](#) and provide feedback directly to [Scott](#).

ARPA/EFMAP: We've learned that Ohio has requested a 30 day extension on the plan to CMS on how the state will utilize the 10% [enhanced FMAP allowed by the American Rescue Plan](#). The plan will now be due on July 10th, likely meaning the funds won't be accessible until Sept./October 2021.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's DODD roundup was packed with myriad memos including info on the new provider call center, OhioRISE, an update on budget overrides for STEP and RESTART codes (very topical from yesterday's day service committee), EVV and upcoming trainings and webinars with Dr. Laura Sorg. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

PUCO Chart: During yesterday's Employment service committee meeting, we discussed the varying regulations from PUCO to certain kind of vehicles. Thanks to Ashley from RTI for sending along [this chart, which breaks down the various regulations](#) regarding different vehicle types and what is expected from PUCO vs our system NMT requirements. Please contact Scott with any questions.

Fall Conference: We are planning to be back in-person for our Fall conference, November 4-5th at The Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the OPRA team about the topics, speakers and sessions you would like to see!

New Partnership: We are excited to announce a new vendor partnership with Health Direct, who are offering OPRA members access to their PRE program.

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Upcoming Events

[6/23-24: OPRA Frontline Supervisor Training Workshop w/ Sara Sherman](#)

[6/24: HIPAA 3 Part Series: Part I](#)

News and Resources

["Gov. Mike DeWine: Ohio to end COVID-19 emergency declaration Friday"](#)

["Under 250 new COVID-19 cases reported in Ohio Thursday"](#)

["Biden signs bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday"](#)

["Ohio House approves bill removing derogatory language from state law"](#)

