

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 23, 2021

Workforce: A sub-group of the Workforce Crisis Task Force (WCTF) met this week to develop a 'DSP Package' of benefits, bonuses and incentives to retain staff in their early days and as they have shown commitment to work with an agency. The sub-group is looking to potentially use funding available through the Enhanced FMAP/ARPA to fund these incentives. Additionally, members of the WCTF will meet to develop a plan for teams consisting of DODD, OPRA, OACB and CB reps to meet in-person with providers who are struggling with workforce in those identified 'hot spots' regions. ([Click here for the 'hot spots' data presentation from DODD](#)) We hope these visits will help DODD and system partners better understand the crisis and its impact in these communities. Please contact [Pete](#) with any questions about the WCTF.

STEP Rules: Following our submission of public comment to DODD and the Governor's Common Sense Initiative (CSI), several stakeholder meetings were held this week to attempt to reach consensus on the drafted rules for 'permanent STEP services'. After several discussions, we were able to secure a daily rate for small-group community services at the Acuity C rate, allowing for groups to 'drop-in' to a center or facility to address needs while engaging in community activities. When the rules are made permanent, group sizes will reduce back to 4 people, as opposed to 5, which is currently allowed under STEP/Appendix K. We were able to work with partners to ensure that group sizes could remain at 5 through 2021 and we expect to see updated rule language and guidance to reflect that soon. Please contact [Scott](#) with any questions.

Better Care Better Jobs Advocacy: On the past several calls we have discussed this \$400B proposed legislation to invest in HCBS services through a permanent 10% increase to the matching dollars paid by the federal government towards Medicaid services (FMAP). Our partners at ANCOR are hearing that it is possible that the \$400B price tag could be lowered to \$150B and are working on advocating with congressional leaders to maintain the originally proposed investment. ANCOR has drafted a sign-on letter for any provider who may want their organization listed on the letter. Earlier today, Christine sent an email containing several options on how you can advocate in support of the HCBS investment. [You can find more information on how to advocate here.](#) Please reach out to Christine with any questions about the BCBJA or how you can advocate in support.

ARPA Funds: The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) recently released its plan on how to spend the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA required states to submit a proposal on how they will use the money to the CMS prior to having access to the extra funds. Though the plan lacks in many specifics, we were pleased to see "immediate relief for providers" as the top priority. [To read more about Ohio's ARPA plan, click here.](#)

Provider Cert Training: Last Friday, DODD released the curriculum and presentations for what will be the required training correlating with the new provider certification rules going into effect on September 1st. These trainings will not be required until January 1, 2022. [You can find and review the training materials here.](#) Please reach out to [Scott](#) or [Christine](#) with questions or feedback.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: There were a number of updates in this week's MM, including the new data dashboard and ICF quality Incentives program Rachel spoke about on the member call this morning.

[To read Memo Monday, click here.](#)

EVV Stakeholder Call: ODM held an EVV stakeholder meeting on Wednesday. The majority of the meeting consisted of an update from the Attorney General's office and how they use EVV data in some investigations. [You can read Christine's write up of the meeting here.](#)

OADSP Events: "As OADSP approaches our 12th Annual DSP Recognition Event, we are humbled and delighted by how far we've come, and how our own growth and success parallels the increased level of professional respect and regard aimed at Ohio's Direct Support Professionals and Frontline Supervisors. This year's Event is live, on Tuesday, September 14, and we are thrilled to be hosted by COSI, in downtown Columbus, on the banks of the Scioto River. This dynamic setting is the perfect location for our 2021 theme, "LIVE A GREAT STORY," and the entire day is dedicated to enriching the stories of every DSP and Frontline Supervisor: For anyone unable to be present, we'll be broadcasting portions of the program throughout the day. You can learn more about this great event, including how to sponsor and [register attendees by clicking HERE!](#)

Additionally, On the evening of Monday, September 13, we'll be hosting a private gathering at COSI to celebrate the official launch of OADSP TV+! for administrators and their leadership teams. This party includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverage tickets and a cash bar, live music, and the premiere of a documentary exclusive to OADSP TV+, screened in one of COSI's state-of-the-art theaters. [Learn more about this great pre-event party HERE!"](#)



Upcoming Events

[7/29: Workshop: Tolerance for your CEO & Organization Webinar](#)

[8/5: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Cases jump above 800 reported"](#)

["Ohio pediatricians urge parents get vaccinated as COVID-19 cases rise in younger population"](#)

["Walmart failed to accommodate employee with Down syndrome, jury finds and awards more than \\$125M in damages"](#)

["U.S. Dept. of Education to Give Nearly \\$3 Billion to Support Disability Services"](#)



OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JULY 23, 2021

As of July 23, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
931	1	1,060	1,992

- 1,060 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 1 additional positive since the 7/16 report.
- 236 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 0 additional confirmed death since the 7/16 report.
- There were 1,900 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 5 since the 7/16 report.
- A total of 1,992 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 92 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 243 followed by Cuyahoga with 216.
- Franklin had the most people who tested positive at 122 people followed by Cuyahoga with 120.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.34% of those tested and females 39.66%.
- 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% (55% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (47% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 78% (53% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (236) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.248%.
- 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	Lucas	16
Allen	4	Mahoning	2
Ashtabula	3	Marion	1
Belmont	1	Miami	1
Butler	6	Montgomery	10
Carroll	1	Muskingum	1
CDC	2	NODC	4
Champaign	1	Ottawa	9
Clark	6	Perry	4
Clermont	4	Pickaway	2
Clinton	1	Portage	1
Coshocton	4	Preble	3
Cuyahoga	15	Richland	6
Darke	1	Ross	1
Delaware	2	Sandusky	6
Fairfield	2	Scioto	2
Franklin	21	Seneca	1
Gallia	3	Stark	15
Geauga	1	Summit	9
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
Lorain	4		
Grand Total- 236			

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	37
ICF	71
Licensed Waiver	20
Nursing Facility	30
Supported Living	77
Grand Total	236

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](#).

