

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 6, 2021

ARP/EFMAP: Earlier this week [DODD sent an announcement](#) that the Ohio Department of Medicaid had opened a stakeholder portal for input on how Ohio should utilize funding appropriated through the American Rescue Plan. Through the ARP, states can access an additional 10% in Federal matching funds for services and initiatives that 'expand or enhance the HCBS program'. The portal/survey contains in-depth questions about proposal ideas and the funding necessary to support those initiatives. We will be working with our partners from the WCTF and workforce coalition to submit a unified proposal to provide immediate financial relief for providers to help address the staffing crisis in addition to the proposal ideas shared with DODD months ago. [To access the portal/survey, click here.](#)

Delta Variant: We are keeping a close eye on local, state and national trends regarding the spread of the Delta variant as well as the different policies being instituted around masking, distancing and vaccination on all levels. Due to a number of factors, we do not expect to see much in the way of additional guidance or mandates from the state/DODD as it pertains specifically to DD services. [An indoor mask advisory was issued yesterday in Franklin county](#) in response to the growing case numbers. We still believe the [OSHA ETS protocols](#) apply to most residential service providers and can be followed to help prevent infection/spread. We know members are doing everything they can to best ensure health and safety amidst the workforce crisis. Please reach out to Rachel with any questions about current guidance/requirements.

OOD Provider Qualifications Rule: On Monday, OOD released their updated version of the 'Provider Qualifications' rule, after reaction to feedback submitted by OPRA weeks back. As mentioned on the call last week, many of our points of feedback and suggestions were adopted into the new rule draft. We were very pleased to see such responsive actions from OOD to this proposed rule, and we believe much of that is owed to the relationships built and the advocacy work done through the Employment Service Committee. Thanks again to everyone who was a part of submitting feedback and developing advocacy stances on this rule. Please contact Scott with any questions.

[To read the updated rule draft, click here.](#)

[To read the Feedback and Response document, click here.](#)

Scream Room THT: On August 17th, we will be holding a Town Hall Tuesday 'Scream Room' session, designed for members to openly share their experiences of the workforce crisis, and connect with other members around the challenges and potential solutions to the current crisis. We will break out into smaller groups where members can 'Scream, Support, and Solve' with each other. Registrations for Town Hall Tuesday Screen Room will go out early next week.

ICF Rates: In this week's Memo Monday, DODD released the final ICF rates for fiscal year 2022, [which can be viewed here](#). According to the memo "The full rate packages are not available due to a system error". The rates for FY22 were calculated based on a 2% increase to the rate in place on June 30, 2021 for all facilities. Please reach out to Rachel with any questions.

Day Array Recording: [Click here to access the video of yesterday's meeting.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included info on the 'Building Innovative Services' grants, the FY22 ICF rates, RFPs for the Ohio Family Network, suicide prevention social media kits and more. [Click here to read memo Monday.](#)

HRSA Rental Assistance: HRSA sent us information on a [new website for both renters and landlords](#) who don't know where to find relief they can use from the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This website makes it easy to find rental assistance that was part of the American Rescue Plan Act in your area.

FEMA Resource: Previous COVID relief bills contained funeral assistance funding to help pay for funerals of people who have died from COVID that is administered by FEMA. Even if there was a funeral at the early stages of the pandemic, you can still apply for assistance. We share this again as you may have families or staff members who could benefit from the funds. [You can find more information here.](#)

Provider Relief Fund: The reporting period for the HHS Provider Relief Fund is now open for providers who received funding in the first phase. If you need more information on the reporting requirement, [click here to access the HRSA 1-Pager.](#)



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT MELISSA FANNON,
OPRA EVENTS MANAGER @ MFANNON@OPRA.ORG

REGISTER: WWW.OPRA.ORG



Upcoming Events

[8/10: OPRA HR Committee Meeting](#)

[8/12: OPRA Health Care Committee](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Nearly 2,000 new cases reported"](#)

["Here are the Ohio counties with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission rates"](#)

["NASDDDS Issues Position Calling to Repeal Section 14\(c\)"](#)

["Disability Service Providers Face 'Unprecedented' Labor Shortage"](#)



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AUGUST 6, 2021



Fall Conference

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