

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 13, 2021

WCTF: The Workforce Crisis Task Force met earlier this week, and will likely look to re-calibrate with a focus on the immediate priority proposals developed over the last several weeks. The meeting included a presentation from ODJFS on their [SharedWork Ohio program](#), as well as a presentation from OhioMeansJobs on the different resources they have for job-seekers and employers. Members of the WCTF, including OPRA, will be starting visits with 'Hot Spot' areas next week. Visits include Seneca & Marion counties on August 19, Perry & Licking counties on August 20, Mahoning & Portage on August 27, and Warren & Montgomery on September 1.

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. [Members can register for the Scream Room here.](#)



Delta Variant/COVID: Late last night the [FDA approved a third booster shot](#) for those who are immunocompromised, with approval from the CDC expected shortly. This approval is significant, as many people you support may have health issues which would make them eligible for the booster. It is believed that sometime in the next month or so, the FDA will grant full use authorization for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Nationally we know many localities and other entities are beginning vaccine mandates, most giving someone a chance to get vaccinated or undergo weekly testing. We will continue to pay close attention to the spread of COVID and corresponding mandates. We understand this is a complicated issue, and there are both positive and negative aspects of a potential mandate, especially given the staffing situation. DODD and CMS have also been having discussions and recognize the potential impact to providers and implications this may have. We will also be discussing this at both of our residential meetings next week (see calendar on next page for details). Please reach out to Rachel with any questions or feedback.

PHE/Appendix K: Earlier this week, [Sec. Becerra of the HHS extended the Federal Public Health Emergency\(PHE\)](#), which was set to expire, to October 18th, 2021. DODD communications around this topic indicated the '6 month wind down' from when the PHE expires to transition out of Appendix K flexibility. At this point, this extension does not impact the work being done in Ohio to make the 'STEP' era service structure permanent, with rules being implemented in October to make virtual services, as well as small-group community rates permanent past the emergency period. Please contact Scott with any questions.

BCI/Background Checks: Many members have alerted us that background checks from BCI are taking an exceedingly long-time, sometimes coming right up to, or in some cases over the 60 day limit. DODD flexibility is limited as the 60-day rule is established in statute and cannot be easily waived by state authorities. If you are experiencing extended delays, especially approaching 60 days, please let us know. We are collecting resources and contacts for providers who are experiencing those delays.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included a number of important updates, many of which we discussed on the member call this morning. Specifically, we mentioned the section on 'resuming on-boarding compliance', which mostly centers around the GED/Diploma waiver needing to be in place by 9/1 for those employing staff who do not yet have those degrees. The MM also includes updated reporting information for the Outcome Tracking System, K-12 Education guidance and upcoming OISP support sessions. [Click here to read Memo Monday.](#)

Provider Certification Live Chats: DODD held their first live chat discussing the implementation of the new provider certification rules. They will be holding another session next week, [which you can register for here.](#) Please reach out to Scott or Christine with any feedback on the live chat session.

ARPA Submission Portal: Last week, DODD released information about how people and agencies can submit proposals to the Ohio Department of Medicaid on how the state can utilize the 10% of additional federal matching funds allocated in the American Rescue Plan. Submissions to the portal are due next week on August 19th. OPRA has further developed a number of proposals designed to get immediate funding relief to providers and expand and enhance specialized service rates during the EFMAP period. We will be sharing these proposals with our coalition and will have the final proposals ready for submission next week.



URBANA COUNTRY CLUB

4761 US-36, URBANA, OH

OUTING COST: \$150 PER PLAYER
REGISTRATION BEGINS: 8:30 AM
SHOTGUN START: 10:00 AM

TITLE SPONSOR

SafeDose Pharmacy

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

REGISTER: WWW.OPRA.ORG



Upcoming Events

8/18: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee

8/18: OPRA ICF Committee

8/19: OPRA Day & Employment Services Committee

News and Resources

"Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: New cases remain over 3,200"

"Biden administration nixes Ohio's Medicaid work requirements"

"Senate Democrats approve \$3.5 trillion budget resolution in key step toward passing major economic package without GOP votes"



OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 13, 2021

As of August 13, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs

Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
944	3	1,075	2,022

- 1,075 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 6 additional positives since the 8/6 report.
- 240 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were 3 additional confirmed deaths since the 8/6 report.
- There were 1,929 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 7 since the 8/6 report.
- A total of 2,022 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 93 individuals were never hospitalized but it was later determined their cause of death was COVID-19.

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DC with COVID Deaths

Adams	1	Fairfield	2	Fulton	1	Scioto	2
Allen	4	Franklin	22	Mahoning	2	Seneca	1
Ashtabula	3	Gallia	3	Marion	1	Stark	15
Belmont	1	Geauga	1	Miami	1	Summit	9
Butler	6	Greene	1	Montgomery	10	TDC	1
Carroll	1	Hamilton	13	Muskingum	1	Trumbull	5
CDC	2	Hardin	1	NODC	4	Tuscarawas	4
Champaign	1	Henry	1	Ottawa	9	Vinton	1
Clark	6	Holmes	1	Perry	4	Warren	6
Clermont	4	Jefferson	1	Pickaway	2	Wayne	4
Clinton	1	Lake	6	Portage	1	Williams	1
Coshocton	4	Lawrence	1	Preble	3	Wood	3
Cuyahoga	16	Licking	7	Richland	6	Wyandot	2
<u>Darke</u>	1	Lorain	4	Ross	1	Total	240
Delaware	2	Lucas	17	Sandusky	6		

Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths	Count
Correctional Facility	1
Family	38
ICF	71
Licensed Waiver	21
Nursing Facility	30
Supported Living	79
Grand Total	240

Sharing the latest COVID-19 MUI Updates. We are continuing to see a slight increase in hospitalizations and positive test cases here in Ohio. A review of regional team follow up notes that many of those testing positive have refused the vaccines either themselves or through the guardian. There have been a few break through cases (occurring after being vaccinated) but the majority of these have shown lesser symptoms and more short term hospitalizations.



OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 13, 2021



Fall Conference
November 4 - 5

SPONSORS

HEADLINER

HEALTHDIRECT
PHARMACY SERVICES

Personalized care. Direct to you.

Platinum



Gold



INSocial
Risk Advisors

Power-Up



Silver



Bronze



Visit www.opra.org to sign up today!

