

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 20, 2021

Hot Spots: One key initiative proposed by OPRA and developed through the Workforce Crisis Task Force was the identification of 'Hot Spot' counties, areas of the state hit most hard by the workforce crisis. A team of representatives including Pete from OPRA, as well as reps from OACB and DODD began visits this week, meeting with providers, county board staff and families in 4 of the 27 identified counties. The purpose of these visits is to listen and understand how the staffing shortages are impacting people supported by and providing services and to hear perspectives on how the crisis could be addressed. These visits will continue over the next several weeks until all of the hot spot regions have been visited. Please contact [Pete](#) with any questions about the WCTF.

Vaccine Mandate: On Wednesday, [President Biden announced that his administration will be mandating COVID vaccination for nursing home staff](#) as a condition of participation in Medicaid/Medicare. The nursing home guidelines will be developed by CMS, who we continue to work through our partners at ANCOR, as we monitor potential mandates for ICF staff. [The mandate presents a staffing challenge to the nursing homes](#) and we have great concern on what impact a potential mandate in our field could have on the crisis providers are already working through. We are hopeful that the high percentage of individuals served through ICFs who are vaccinated may lessen the need for such a mandate. We will continue to monitor the vaccine mandate developments closely and we remain in close contact with our Federal partners, ensuring all are aware of the potential impact such a mandate would have on our workforce. Please contact [Rachel](#) with any questions.

Acuity Return: Earlier this week [DODD issued a communication that the enhanced acuity rates in effect for day & vocational services will return to their normal rates as of 9/1/21](#). This news comes after months of awaiting guidance from CMS as to whether the rate must stay in place until next year to ensure Ohio's ARPA funding. After CMS gave the state clearance that rates could change back to normal without jeopardizing the funding, DODD decided to move ahead with 9/1 date. We are incredibly dismayed and concerned about this change and how it was communicated. Please feel free to reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or further feedback about the return to acuity billing.

ARPA Submission: After collaboration with our coalition partners, we submitted several proposals into ODM's stakeholder portal, identifying ways the enhanced federal funding through ARPA should be utilized. We submitted 2 joint proposals with our coalition partners, requesting \$100M in state matching funds saved through ARPA for lump-sum provider payments and an additional \$50M to support proposals developed through the WCTF. OPRA also independently submitted proposals supporting lump-sum payments for ICFs, retroactive funding for providers serving individuals assessed at Acuity C through the pandemic and funding for a specialized rate for DSPs with longevity and experience who are providing intensive or specialized services. [Click here to read our coalition letter supporting the joint proposals, as well as a document summarizing all of the proposals submitted.](#)

BCI/Background Checks: We have been working with our partners at the Success Group to make contact with the Ohio AG office regarding the delay in BCI/background checks. Please reach out to [Christine](#) if you have any employees who are approaching the 60 day deadline.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included information about the OISP support rollout, new grant opportunities, EVV webinars hosted by ODM and more. [Click here to read.](#)

Provider Certification Live Chats: DODD held both live chats on the new provider certification rules. The sessions are now archived and [you can view the recordings by clicking here.](#) Please reach out to Scott or Christine with any questions or feedback on the live chat session.

OPRA Conference Awards: This is a reminder to submit your nominations for the 2021 OPRA Fall Annual Awards. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the OPRA Fall Conference page to submit your nomination. The purpose of the OPRA Annual Awards is to honor dedicated service professionals, groups and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions in the I/DD Field. We encourage all member agencies to submit nominations to recognize those that have worked hard and dedicated their time to help support the people they serve. All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, September 17th, 2020. You will be contacted no later than Friday, October 1st regarding the status of your nomination. Please don't hesitate to contact [Sonya](#) if you have any questions about this year's nomination process.

OADSP BOGO: The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals is extending a special Buy-One-Get-One-Free ticket offer to OPRA members for our private Launch Gala being held on the evening of Monday, September 13, 2021 from 5 PM - 9 PM at COSI in downtown Columbus. This great networking event takes place on the eve of our annual DSP recognition event and has been designed for administrators, their leadership teams, and other major system stakeholders to learn about the new and exciting ways OADSP has developed to support you and your staff. Tickets for the event are \$50 each, and OPRA members are receiving a special BOGO offer. [Simply enter the code OPRABOGO during registration, and your second ticket is free.](#)



Upcoming Events

[8/31: OPRA District 1 Meeting](#)

[9/2: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: More than 3,400 new cases reported"](#)

["COVID-19 map of Ohio shows community transmission level"](#)

["New TV Series Spotlights Entrepreneurs With Disabilities"](#)

["Biden's No-Jab-No-Job Order Creates Quandary for Nursing Homes"](#)



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As of August 20, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
949	4	1,084	2,037

- 1,084 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. This is an increase of 9 additional positives since the 8/13 report.
- 241 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There was 1 additional confirmed death since the 8/13 report.
- There were 1,943 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19, which resulted in a MUI filing. This is an increase of 14 since the 8/13 report.
- A total of 2,037 COVID-19 reportable MUIs were filed as 94 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 217.
- Franklin and Cuyahoga had the most people tested positive with 122.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.28% of those tested and females 39.72%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 59.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-15% (55% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (54% 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 (241) and the total people served (94,890) is 0.253%.
- 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 56 counties and 3 DCs (CDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 22.

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DC with COVID Deaths							
Adams	1	Fairfield	2	Lucas	17	Sandusky	6
Allen	4	Franklin	22	Mahoning	2	Scioto	2
Ashtabula	3	Fulton	1	Marion	1	Seneca	1
Belmont	1	Gallia	3	Miami	1	Stark	15
Butler	6	Geauga	1	Montgomery	10	Summit	9
Carroll	1	Greene	1	Morrow	1	TDC	1
CDC	2	Hamilton	13	Muskingum	1	Trumbull	5
Champaign	1	Hardin	1	NODC	4	Tuscarawas	4
Clark	6	Henry	1	Ottawa	9	Vinton	1
Clermont	4	Holmes	1	Perry	4	Warren	6
Clinton	1	Jefferson	1	Pickaway	2	Wayne	4
Coshocton	4	Lake	6	Portage	1	Williams	1
Cuyahoga	16	Lawrence	1	Preble	3	Wood	3
Darke	1	Licking	7	Richland	6	Wyandot	2
Delaware	2	Lorain	4	Ross	1	Grand Total	241
Living Arrangement/COVID Deaths				Count			
Correctional Facility				1			
Family				39			
ICF				71			
Licensed Waiver				21			
Nursing Facility				30			
Supported Living				79			
Grand Total				241			

We are continuing to see slight increases in potential hospitalizations and positive tests. Thankfully, the hospitalizations and symptoms associated have not been as significant for those having received the vaccine but we remain concerned and will still follow closely.

Have a great weekend...!!

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](#).



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Fall Conference

November 4 - 5

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