

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 27, 2021

Hot Spots/WCTF: A team of reps from OPRA, OACB and DODD continued their 'hot spot' visits this week, with Pete being in Mahoning county today, speaking with providers, families and county board staff. The visits so far have been extremely valuable in giving system partners perspective of how the workforce crisis impacts people every day. Additionally, the Workforce Crisis Task Force met this week to discuss proposals and interventions aimed at helping the situation. Director Davis noted that DODD would be reviewing policies around GED/HS Diploma and age requirements in order to grow the potential candidate pool, as well as re-exploring technology initiatives. There has been an ongoing discussion in the WCTF around a temporary freeze of new agency provider certifications while Ohio assesses its current provider environment. Director Davis made clear that if this proposal would move forward, it would require CMS approval, have to be implemented regionally and would not apply to independent providers. Please reach out to [Pete](#) with any questions.

Background Checks: After weeks of discussion on this issue, DODD will be sending out a communication to the field sometime over the next few days regarding the delays in receiving background checks from BCI. OSSAS is aware of the issue and is taking into consideration these delays when conducting reviews. We will be sure to forward to members as soon as it is published. Please reach out to [Christine](#) if you have anyone nearing the 60-day deadline.

CMS ICF QSO: This past Monday [CMS issued the QSO for their interim rule](#) regarding vaccination and education within the ICF facility. The QSO provides information and insight into how to educate staff and residents regarding the COVID vaccine. This rule includes new requirements to increase vaccination access for individuals with disabilities and staff. Per the rule:

- Requires that staff and residents be educated about vaccination against COVID (benefits, risks, potential side effects) AND to offer vaccines either directly through the ICF itself or through an arrangement with another entity such as a pharmacy partner/local health department.
- The rule encourages but does not require ICF's to report vaccinations and therapeutic treatment information to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
- Documentation must be maintained including records indicating staff and individuals were educated regarding benefits, risks, side effects AND if the individual/staff accepted or declined the vaccine (medical contraindication, prior vaccination, refusal). The facility must document the vaccination status of each staff member (i.e., immunized or not) including whether fully immunized (i.e., completed the series of multi-dose vaccines).

Please contact [Rachel](#) with any questions.

Provider Cert Rules: The new rules for agency and independent provider certification will be in effect next week on September 1st. However, most of the rule requirements will not be in effect until January 1st, 2022, including the new training requirements, which will also be live on that same date. [Click here to see the timeline for implementation of the rule.](#)

Blueprint Proposal: Click the video to the right to watch Director Davis outline many of the changes DODD is seeking to make to day and employment services through recommendations from the Blueprint Committee. Contact [Scott](#) with questions or feedback.



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 on the EVV alternate vendor changes discussed on this morning's call and much more! [Click here to read.](#)

HR Committee Co-Chair: The OPRA HR committee recently selected Rachel Murphy from RHDD as the new co-chair of the committee! We are thrilled to welcome her to this role and are excited for this next chapter in the committee! Congrats Rachel!

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.

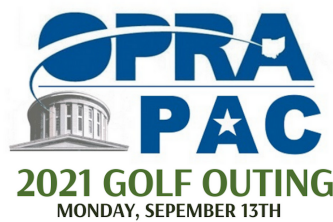


OPRA PAC
Tailgate Party

Have some game-day grub!
Door Prizes!
and....a SPECIAL GUEST!

Oct. 9, 2021 | 12:00 PM | Brick House Blue in Dublin, OH

SAVE THE DATE



OPRA PAC
2021 GOLF OUTING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

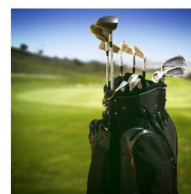
URBANA COUNTRY CLUB 4761 US-36, URBANA, OH

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

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



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9/15 Organizing an Evaluation of Privacy &
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9/29 Essentials for Overseeing of IT
Security

10/6 Essential Compliance Officer/HR
Functions for Privacy & Security

10/13 Managing Privacy Rights

10/20 Managing to Privacy & Security to
TOP 10 Benchmarks

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MELISSA @ MFANNON@OPRA.ORG

Upcoming Events

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

[9/8: HIPAA Fall 2021 Six Part Training Series -
Session 1: Effective Leadership & Oversight of
Privacy & Cybersecurity](#)

News and Resources

["CDC: COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to
Severely Immunocompromised People"](#)

["COVID-19: Ohio cases hit 7-month
high; health leaders sound alarm for
action"](#)

["House Democrats pass \\$3.5 trillion budget
resolution"](#)

["Hopes Run High For SSI Overhaul"](#)



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AUGUST 27, 2021



Fall Conference
November 4 - 5

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