

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

**Board Retreat:** This week, OPRA's Board of Directors held an annual retreat featuring presentations from system partners from OACB, DODD, Vorys, The Success Group and the Superintendent's Association, as well as hearing from [Cathy Allen, the Board Doctor](#). The board also approved plans to move ahead with holding our fall conference in-person, with virtual options for viewing the sessions. Finally, the board elected a new team of officers who will begin their terms on January 1st, 2022. Congratulations to our new executive team!

Adam Guinther- Board Chair

Roger Fortener- Vice-Chair

Liz Owens- Treasurer

Laura LaGodney- Secretary

Thank you to Jamie Steele, Diane Beastron, Adam Guinther and Lisa Reed for their leadership as board officers over the past 4 years.

**WCTF Meeting:** The Workforce Crisis Task Force met earlier this week, reviewing a group of new proposals presented by task force members. The proposals included an initiative from Bethany Toledo of OADSP to focus on the recruitment of immigrants to work direct care positions, a topic we know some members are very interested in. Next, Willie Jones of OACB proposed that DODD engage Ohio Means Jobs to ensure that 'DSP' is listed as 'in-demand, critical' job on their occupational platform. The 4% rate increase going into effect in January would bring the state average wage above \$14.10, which is necessary to be listed as a critical, in-demand job. Lastly, the group discussed a proposal to expand and promote Ohio Shared Living as an alternative service model to increase capacity and alleviate some workforce needs. Additionally last week, our workforce coalition [finalized a letter to families](#), intending to explain the workforce crisis and its impact on providers' ability to deliver services many may have had before or have come to expect. Feel free to share the letter with the people and families you serve as you see appropriate.

**Med Admin:** The small sub group working on the med administration certification rule met this past week. This small group is looking through all the tasks currently under the rule and determining which tasks we can move into one of different categories. The group discussed various options for grouping the material that is excluded from the Fundamentals and determined that the Cat II and Cat III should be of equal length and will be 3.5 hours minimum each. It was noted that neither Cat II nor III will be mandatory. They will be optional add-on certifications to the Category I Fundamentals certification. Glucagon should be moved to the Insulin Administration Course (Cat V) as it requires nurse delegation and is primarily used by people who use insulin. Cat II and III proposed content should attempt to be grouped in ways that address health needs of people with related diagnoses. Contact [Rachel](#) with any questions.

**Vaccine/THT:** Thanks to everyone who attended our Town Hall with Vorys regarding the vaccine mandates. We had almost 300 members attend and we hope the information was helpful, even though we still have more questions than answers until the rules are published by CMS and OSHA. We will continue to advocate on the staffing impact of the proposed mandates.



# 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 grant opportunities for supportive technology SMEs as well as an RFP for a trainer to lead DODD's training efforts for the rollout of the Blueprint work. MM also contains information on DODD's recent action to waive GED/Diploma and age requirements for certain direct support roles. [Click here to read MM.](#)

**Tech 1st Task Force:** The Technology First Task Force met this week to finalize recommendations to the Tech 1st Advisory Council, who will work to operationalize these recommendations. [Click here to read the Task Force recommendations.](#)

**Provider Relief Fund: PRF-** Last week we mentioned upcoming webinars on the phase 4 of the provider relief fund. [The registration links for those webinars have been published and you can find them here.](#) Contact Christine with any questions.

**Federal Advocacy:** Thank you to all the members who responded to our federal advocacy push to hang onto an investment in home and community based services in what is being called the 'human infrastructure plan' that congress is working on. [You can read the letters here.](#)



## Upcoming Events

[9/29: HIPAA Fall 2021 Six Part Training Series Session 3: Essentials for Overseeing of IT Security.](#)

[9/20-9/29: DODD OISP Regional Support Events](#)

## News and Resources

["Ohio reports 7,095 new COVID-19 cases Friday"](#)

["Low Wages and Pandemic Gut Staffing Support for Those With Disabilities"](#)

["Study: Among Vaccinated, Those With Down Syndrome Face Highest Risk From COVID-19"](#)

["FDA Authorizes Booster Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Certain Populations"](#)



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Fall Conference  
November 4 - 5

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