

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

OCTOBER 1, 2021

Workforce Teams: Several weeks ago, a small OPRA Workforce Committee was formed as a subset of our Policy Committee. This group of members acts as a sounding board and idea generator and meets on a consistent basis, following the bi-weekly WCTF meetings. As we have been navigating the WCTF work, it has become clear that we need to begin to take a look at the workforce situation in a more organized fashion and propose hyper-specific proposals for immediate action by DODD. We broke the workforce issues into the following 4 groups which have begun to meet and develop immediate action steps. The groups are; **1-Supporting the people you serve through the crisis** **2-Understanding and assisting hot spot counties and providers**, **3-Rates and wages** and **4-Long-Term system reform**. We will continue to share and discuss these proposals through our Friday calls and committee meetings. Please contact [Pete](#) with any questions.

MRC: After discussion with several members regarding recent challenges working locally with the MRC, we met this week with a team from DODD, OACB and county board reps to discuss how we can improve MRC to better reflect the current staffing environment. In preparation for the meeting, DODD also shared some troubling claims data regarding how many sites are currently utilizing significantly below the MRC or have not reconciled yet. The group agreed to re-engage training efforts to help get everyone 'back on the same page', exploring what fixes can be made within the MSS/MRC system to better account for the unstable staffing environment. Additionally, the group agreed we need a strategy to address potential liability where sites have not been reconciled and to address further billing reform and simplification to capture the true intent of the MRC. We will keep members apprised of next steps. Please contact [Scott](#) or [Rachel](#) with any questions.

Federal Advocacy: We want to thank everyone that sent messages to our congressional members through ANCOR's amplifier advocacy tool. Ohio was one of the top states for contacts! [While negotiations are still ongoing](#), it is looking less likely that the HCBS initiative will be fully funded as originally proposed as the price tag for the bill has been nearly slashed in half. There is still time to use the advocacy tool if you haven't already ready and you can find it [here](#). Select the top campaign "Tell Congress: When it comes to Funding HCBS..." You can enter your contact information as well as customize the message to best fit your agency. Please contact [Christine](#) with any questions.

Waiver Workgroup: The workgroup that focuses on changes to Ohio's waiver system met this week to continue work on waiver simplification and other upcoming rule tweaks. The group primarily focused on the initiative to combine the SELF and LVL1 waivers, though there was continuing discussion about peoples' evolving service needs and how that impacts this effort. The other initiative being pushed through the group is the introduction of "participant-directed transportation", which would allow people to access alternative transportation options including Uber and other ride-sharing options not currently available and accessed through someone's DDP budget.

Vaccines: We continue to advocate on the potential staffing impact of the 2 anticipated vaccine mandates impacting our field, as we await the rule and ETS to be published by CMS and OSHA. Over the weekend, the [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\) released guidance](#) to Ohio vaccination providers to implement the CDC's Pfizer vaccine booster. [Click here to download ODH's additional FAQ.](#)



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 the expansion of the Ohio Family Network (OFN), a new set of data portals from the InnovateOhio initiative, and information on upcoming events. [Click here to read MM.](#)

Provider Relief Fund: The application for 'phase 4' of the provider relief fund opened on Wednesday, so members can now apply. The application will only be open for four weeks, so time will be of the essence for those looking to apply. There are technical assistance webinars scheduled throughout the month of October to help navigate the process. [You can find information on the opportunities here.](#) Please contact [Christine](#) with any questions.

OOD Portal: The OOD 'AWARE Vendor Portal' launches today in the Northeast region of the state. The rollout will continue, moving clockwise through the state, over the next several weeks. OOD has setup weekly assistance sessions for those transitioning to the new portal every Friday morning at 9am, [which can be accessed by clicking here.](#) We are very interested in members' experience and feedback on the portal as you begin to use it. Please feel free to send any feedback to [Scott.](#)



Upcoming Events

[10/6: HIPAA Fall 2021 Six Part Training Series
Session 4 Essential Compliance Officer/HR
Functions for Privacy & Security](#)

[10/7: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting](#)

News and Resources

["Home health care industry 'in crisis' leaves people scrambling to find help for loved ones"](#)

["Over 6,500 new COVID-19 cases reported in Ohio Thursday"](#)

["People with disabilities have a tougher time getting Covid vaccines, the C.D.C. reports."](#)

["National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021: America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion"](#)



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Sharing our weekly report. Unfortunately, we are reporting 5 additional COVID-19 deaths this week. 4 of the 5 individuals lived at home with family and we do not have confirmation on their vaccination status. 1 individual was served by a provider and had refused the vaccine. Positive test results and unanticipated hospitalizations remained fairly consistent this week averaging 2-3 per day.

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](#).

As of October 1, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
991	2	1,176	2,169

- 1,176 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. There were **16 additional positives** since the 9/24 report.
- There were **20 additional hospitalizations** since the 9/24 report. This is a total of 2,070 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19.
- A total of 2,169 COVID-19 reportable MUIs have been filed as 99 individuals were never hospitalized but COVID-19 was suspected or later determined as their cause of death.
- 249 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were **5 additional confirmed deaths** since the 9/24 report.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 86 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 250 followed by Cuyahoga with 224.
- Franklin had the most people tested positive with 128 and Cuyahoga had 126.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 60.31% of those tested and females 39.69%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 61.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-15% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (50% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 78% (54% positive testing rate)

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (249) and the total people served (98,956) is 0.251%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 61 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 DCs with COVID Deaths					
Adams	1	Geauga	1	Muskingum	1
Allen	4	Greene	2	NODC	4
Ashtabula	3	Hamilton	14	Ottawa	9
Belmont	1	Hardin	1	Perry	4
Butler	6	Henry	1	Pickaway	2
Carroll	1	Holmes	1	Portage	1
CDC	2	Jefferson	1	Preble	3
Champaign	1	Lake	6	Richland	6
Clark	6	Lawrence	1	Ross	1
Clermont	4	Licking	7	Sandusky	6
Clinton	1	Lorain	4	Scioto	2
Coshocton	4	Lucas	17	Seneca	1
Cuyahoga	16	Mahoning	3	Stark	16
Darke	1	Marion	1	Summit	10
Delaware	2	Meigs	1	TDC	1
Fairfield	2	Miami	1	Trumbull	6
Franklin	22	Montgomery	10	Tuscarawas	4
Fulton	1	Morgan	1	Vinton	1
Gallia	3	Morrow	1	Warren	6
				Total	249



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Fall Conference
November 4 - 5

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