

Dear OPRA members,

It has certainly been my honor to be in the OPRA Board Chair position for the past four years, and what a four years it has been! Right off the bat I want to thank my leadership team of Diane Beaström (Vice-Chair), Adam Guinther (Treasurer) and Lisa Reed (Secretary) for all of their hard work, dedication and expert advice over the past two terms. No non-profit organization can be successful without a great board leadership team and I certainly had one.

Our first year, we were surprisingly informed that our long-term President, CEO was leaving us for a position in Pennsylvania. Thank goodness we had someone on staff that would naturally move into the position. He had worked for the organization for years, was well known in our system and displayed the qualities of a leader we knew would be beneficial to the OPRA community. Then a few months later, he was appointed Director of DODD by the Governor. A board search committee was quickly formed and after a rigorous interviewing process, we found our person. Hiring Pete Moore as President, CEO of OPRA was the best decision our team made during our term.

Additionally, here are few other accomplishments that Diane, Adam, Lisa and myself had over the past four years:

- Revised the OPRA Employee Handbook.
- Developed and instituted all new Job Descriptions.
- Reconciled the OPRA PAC finances & governance documents.
- Instituted a OPRA Board Due's Committee and reduced dues.
- Disbanded CERIDD.
- Revised Committee Structure including adding the Governance Committee & the Waiver Committee. Policy Committee took on a greater significance within the decision structure and is headed by the Vice-Chair of the Board.
- Heightened the profile of OPRA in general and alignment with quality, credibility, trustworthiness.
- Focused OPRA's efforts on collaboration with our County Board partners and DODD.
- Kept focused, active and attentive to member's concerns during a once in a lifetime global-pandemic.
- Ramped up advocacy within our system and within in the legislative process to help meet the needs caused by the biggest workforce crises in our system's history.
- Saw a historic 6% increase in HPC our first term and a soon to be increase of 4% at the end of our second term.

Just a few accomplishments😊

Special shout out to the OPRA staff for all of their support and hard work and to the employees of Diane, Adam, Lisa and myself for understanding our OPRA efforts over the past four years.

As I turn over the responsibilities of Board Chair to Adam Guinther on January 1st, I want to thank all the current and past Board Members, OPRA Members and system partners for their support and encouragement. Adam will do an excellent job leading the OPRA Board and I expect that he will receive the same support as I received.

My friends, I am confident that providers will get through this crazy journey we have been on together the past year and half. However, I wish I could tell you that I feel certain that the future of our system will be smooth and predictable going forward, I can't. We have so many challenges now and ahead of us. I do believe the answers to some of our most challenging issues involve our partnership with our County Board partners. More than ever, the two entities cannot go it alone. I believe we need each other and until we both realize that and work cooperatively with respect and support; the system will continue to spin in multiple directions, a fact that does not benefit our mutual clients or the taxpayer. My challenge to all of you, is to put strong partnerships with your county boards at the top of your 2022 organizational goals. Partnership goes both ways for sure, but someone has to start the relationship. Professional trust should be the ultimate goal. Without it, HOPE is distant and hard to see for our clients, staff, families, our system and those that have the public trust in all of us. We have no choice. The myth that either side is more important than the other is just that, a myth. The time for cooperation is now. Columbus will follow our unified lead.

I trust and admire all of you. We just have to remain focused on our mission and keep our clients at the center of all business decisions we make, no matter how difficult and hard those decisions are.

In the words of Simon Sinek, "People don't care what you do, they care WHY you do it".

Jamie