

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 17, 2021

ARPA Funds/HB 169: Our workforce coalition met earlier this week primarily to discuss/regroup after last week's JMOOC (Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee) hearing, where Director Maureen Corcoran defended Ohio's ARPA spending plan to the oversight committee. As we continue to wait for CMS approval of these funds and Ohio's plan, HB169 has been passed by Ohio's legislature, appropriating the funds outlined in the ARPA bill. HB 169 includes \$60 million in relief funding for ICFs, based on the number certified beds as of 12-1-21. The HCBS funding accounts for a percentage of claims made between 11/1/20 – 10/31/21. It will be important to have claims done ASAP so you can take full advantage of the relief. We are still waiting for the Governor to sign HB 169, for CMS approval and details on how and when the relief will be distributed.

Covid Update: DODD hosted a stakeholder call this week, focusing on updates from Dr. Lora Sorg on the state of the pandemic in Ohio and the Omicron variant. [Omicron has been detected in Central Ohio](#) and there is increasing evidence that this latest surge, especially in Michigan and New York, may actually be Omicron and not Delta as previously thought. Additionally, yesterday the CDC issued a recommendation that the Pfizer and Moderna shots should be given preference over Johnson and Johnson due to the potential for blood clots. The CDC only stated this is a recommendation and are not taking the J&J shot out of circulation.

Mandate News: Earlier this week, [the Fifth Circuit court of appeals said that the nationwide injunction issued against CMS should not have been applied nationwide](#) and partially overturned the injunction to only apply to the 25 states that filed suits, including Ohio. Following the initial injunction weeks ago, CMS put out a QSO stating they would not pursue implementation of the rule while litigation is ongoing. No interim guidance has been issued as of yet. We were scheduled to have a call with CMS earlier this week but were informed that due to the ongoing litigation, the call was cancelled. The mandate cases are expected to eventually be heard by the Supreme Court, who so far have been 'friendly' to vaccine mandates implemented by states for health care workers, so the eventual outcomes are still very unclear. As we've stated, members should continue their policy planning and consulting their legal counsel as necessary.

Provider Relief Fund: [HHS and HRSA announced earlier this week](#) that they would begin releasing deposits from Phase 4 of the Provider Relief Fund. Deposits started hitting bank accounts yesterday and will continue into the near future. HHS and HRSA are still going through some of the applications that showed some outlier data and are doing checks on those applications to ensure they are correct and valid. HRSA and HHS also did release the methodology for phase 4 payment and if you received payment but feel that the calculation was off, there will be a process for you to contest the wrong amount payment and have it rectified. If you have any questions, please reach out to Christine.

Blueprint: DODD canceled the several Blueprint sub-committee meetings that were supposed to be held this week. Meetings of the Rule & Waiver and Training & Communication teams were all postponed, following the announcement of Director Davis's retirement. We have had early discussions that indicate DODD is considering a delay of the Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) service's implementation, but have not officially confirmed this timeline change at this point.



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As of December 17, 2021:

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
1,065	1	1,347	2,413

- 1,347 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. There were **17 additional positives** since the 12/10 report.
- There were **17 additional hospitalizations** since the 12/10 report. This is a total of 2,284 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19.
- A total of **2,413 COVID-19 reportable MUIs** have been filed as 129 individuals were never hospitalized but COVID-19 was suspected or later determined as their cause of death.
- 296 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were **4 additional confirmed deaths** since the 12/10 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 253 followed by Cuyahoga with 240.
- Cuyahoga had the most people tested positive with 141 and Franklin had 130.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 55.82% of those tested and females 40.18%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 1 to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 62.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
- Black or African American-14% (56% positive testing rate)
- Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
- Unknown-5% (52% positive testing rate)
- White/Caucasian 79% (56% positive testing rate)

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DCs with COVID Deaths							
Adams	2	Fulton	2	Marion	1	Seneca	1
Allen	5	Gallia	3	Medina	1	Stark	18
Ashtabula	3	Geauga	1	Meigs	1	Summit	12
Athens	2	Greene	2	Miami	3	TDC	1
Belmont	1	Hamilton	14	Montgomery	12	Trumbull	7
Brown	1	Hancock	1	Morgan	1	Tuscarawas	6
Butler	7	Hardin	1	Morrow	1	Vinton	1
Carroll	1	Henry	1	Muskingum	1	Warren	6
CDC	2	Highland	2	NODC	4	Wayne	4
Champaign	1	Holmes	1	Ottawa	10	Williams	1
Clark	6	Jefferson	1	Perry	4	Wood	4
Clermont	5	Knox	2	Pickaway	2	Wyandot	2
Clinton	1	Lake	6	Pike	1	Grand Total	296
Coshocton	6	Lawrence	2	Portage	1		
Cuyahoga	18	Licking	8	Preble	3		
Darke	2	Logan	1	Richland	7		
Delaware	4	Lorain	4	Ross	1		
Fairfield	3	Lucas	20	Sandusky	6		
Franklin	23	Mahoning	6	Scioto	2		

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (296) and the total people served (98,956) is 0.299%.
- The ages of those who died range from 4-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 60 years old.
- A total of 66 counties and 3 DCs (CDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 23.

