

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Membership Month: In an effort to expand the OPRA Community of Providers, we have developed a new OPRA Member/Guest Project for the month of March. We know many of you network with other non-OPRA member providers in their communities and regions. With your help, this project is designed to introduce these providers to OPRA and give them a chance to interact with our community of members and the OPRA Team. If you know a provider that would find value in being a member of OPRA, we invite them participate in the OPRA Member/Guest Project. If the guest provider subsequently joins OPRA, your agency will receive a special rebate on your membership dues. How it works - If you know a provider who is interested in a free limited membership trial during the month of March, please email the provider's contact information (the person to contact) to [Sonya Summers](#). She will reach out to them with more information about how they can participate. Click [here](#) for more details about March's Membership Month.

Mandate Reminder: The date of Phase 1 implementation of the CMS Vaccine Mandate is Monday February 14th. If you have not begun preparations for implementation of the CMS IFR, you will need to do so immediately. As a reminder, we did receive confirmation from CMS that day service providers who contract with ICF's are not included as part of the mandate. We encourage any provider who participates in a survey in the next few months to make sure they reach out to the OPRA team to let us know how they survey your facility as we want to make sure we get any feedback, positive or negative, to CMS. Please contact [Rachel](#) with any questions.

CMS QSO: CMS recently released QSO-21-08-NLTC which has been revised. You may remember that this QSO focused on an infection control survey tool. Some initial takeaways from the QSO:

1. The QSO moves the requirements back to the provider's discretion on how to best protect individuals and staff.
2. Infection Control Policies and Procedures must be up to date to ensure the risk of transmission is mitigated. Additional resources are at the bottom of the QSO. These include resources from CMS and the CDC.
3. Providers should continue to train staff in universal precautions with special emphasis on masking, social distancing, isolation, testing, etc.
4. Visitation. Per the QSO: "While CMS guidance has focused on protecting patients and staff from COVID-19, we recognize that restricting visitation from family and other loved ones has taken a physical and emotional toll on patients. At this time, continued federal guidance on visitation restrictions for ACC facilities are no longer necessary, which is consistent with the nursing home guidance in QSO-22-39. Facilities should continue to adhere to basic COVID-19 infection prevention principles consistent with national standards of practice."

As best practice for infection control, providers may need to justify reducing or eliminating visitations due to COVID by providing data including state / local increases or decreases in infections rates, low vaccination rates by visitors, and policies or procedures to replace visitation if the team decides this must occur. This can be part of a provider's Infection Control policies. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included a 'thank you' message from Director Hauck for providers' amazing efforts during last week's storms, as well as information on the family engagement survey, March's Frontline Forum and more. [Click here to read.](#)

PRF Phase 2 Reporting: HRSA announced that the reporting period for PRF Phase 2 is now open and will be until March 31, 2022. Phase 2 includes "Providers who received one or more General and/or Targeted PRF payments exceeding \$10,000, in the aggregate, from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 must report on their use of funds in Reporting Period 2." [Click here for more information.](#)

Town Hall Tuesday: OPRA's Advocacy Army Introduction Town Hall is Tuesday. [Registration is required](#), and the session will be recorded for those unable to attend.

OOD Fee Schedule Sessions: "Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is beginning conversations and considerations for the next VR Fee Schedule update. OOD will be starting with regionally focused virtual meetings, where providers can share suggestions for updates to the VR Fee Schedule. OOD appreciates the work providers offer to support individuals with disabilities and looks forward to meeting with providers and hearing feedback during the listening sessions...To request an ADA reasonable accommodation for any of these meetings, please contact Jennifer Pollard (jennifer.pollard@ood.ohio.gov) no later than February 18, 2022." [For a list of regional sessions and TEAMS information, click here.](#) Please contact [Scott](#) with any questions.

HIPAA Online Training: Train staff to cover your "bases" – databases, that is! We're now offering on-demand training in privacy and security to meet federal regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This new on-demand course meets training requirements both for new hires and existing staff. Plus you receive a bonus: A whole suite of training-related policies and materials for your organization's use. [Click here to learn more about bulk purchases.](#) Limited time offer: Sign up in February and receive three free passes for senior staff to join your choice of advanced virtual classes in privacy and security coming this spring.

Upcoming Events

[2/15: Town Hall Tuesday: Advocacy Army Info Session](#)

[2/16: OPRA ICF Committee](#)

[2/16: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee](#)

[2/24: OPRA Day & Employment Service Committee](#)

News and Resources

[Registration open for Ohio Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day 2022.](#)

["Daily COVID-19 cases have dropped almost 90% in less than 2 weeks in Ohio"](#)

[Dispatch: "'The pandemic has not been very good to me': People with disabilities feel forgotten"](#)

["Ohio Supreme Court rules re-drawn legislative maps still unconstitutional"](#)

