

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Advocacy Army: Thank you to everyone who joined us for our advocacy army webinar and who have already signed up. There is still plenty of room if you want to join us! Please let [Christine](#) know if you have any other questions. [You can find a copy of the slides, a copy of the recording, and registration here.](#)

Rules for Review: Earlier this week we were informed that [the rules for HCBS Waiver services and Licensed Residential Facilities were up for comment and review.](#) We will of course be thoroughly reviewing these rules and the proposed changes and will be providing comment back to the department. We of course encourage anyone with comments to please send them our way. These are two very big and important rules and we want to make sure that we are representing our members interests with both of them. Comments for the Licensed Residential Facilities rule is due by February 28th and the HCBS Waiver comment is due by March 1st.

HB 466: This week saw proponent testimony on a bill that may be of interest to members. HB 466 which is sponsored by Rep Jay Edwards, has its first hearing in the Ohio House Labor and Commerce Committee. The bill would attempt create licensing requirements and regulations on temporary health care staffing agencies. For OPRA members who use these kinds of agencies for positions like nursing, you may want to take a look at this bill. [You can read the bill language and summary by clicking here.](#) Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.

Mandate: The CMS IFR went into effect here in Ohio with the Phase 1 implementation date of this past Monday. Phase 2 implementation is March 15th. We did hear from two of our members this week that did have ODH surveys. And, in one of these cases, the surveyors and their supervisor stated that they were citing the ICF due to not having off site, contracted day facilities in their vaccination policy, which contradicted everything that CMS said a couple weeks ago regarding contracted facilities off site. We did put in a couple calls to our contacts at ODH about this and the issue appears to be resolved with ODH clarifying to these surveyors that off-site contracted facilities were NOT included in the IFR. So we do appreciate that ODH helped to clarify. So if you do happen to have ODH coming in to survey and you run into issues regarding this mandate – or any other issue – please be sure to reach out to [Rachel](#) so that we can get on the phone attempt to rectify with ODH.

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.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

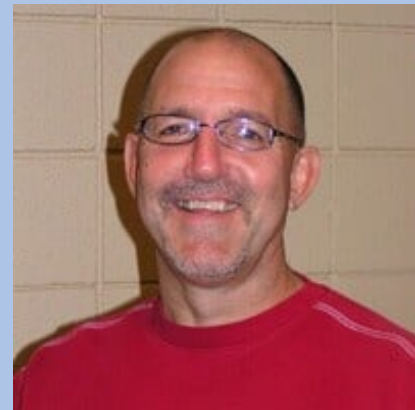
Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included information on 'Keeping Families Together' funding, guidance on annual training, optional training templates, updates on the PNM rollout and much 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.](#)

This week we mourn the passing of two great leaders of Ohio's DD Community. Many of us were honored to have known and worked with Jerome 'Jerry' Manuel, former DODD Director and County Board Superintendent and Adam 'Nick' Nicholoff, Director of Transition Services for the BHN alliance. Our thoughts and hearts are with their families and loved ones during this time. Please click on their pictures to the right to read their respective obituaries and service information.



Upcoming Events

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

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Friday update: Under 2,200 cases reported"](#)

["Parents have given up custody to get care for children with severe needs. Ohio Medicaid is closer to ending that"](#)

["Victoria's Secret features its first model with Down syndrome"](#)

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

