OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

ARPA Approval: The State of Ohio received approval from CMS for the Appendix K application that will allow for the provider relief payments we have been awaiting since the ARPA bill was passed last year. The Appendix K approval is a positive sign and next step in getting the 10% payment to providers. Even though the Appendix K has been approved, CMS has not yet signed off on the state's spending plan, which will need to happen before the funds are released. But this approval is a positive signal that the payments will be released by the end of March, as DODD has previously indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUM/ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service	
2500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-1	
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1890	+-20
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs	Greap
February 22, 2022	
Master Corcern	
Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid	
50 West Town Street, Suite 400	
Columbus, Ohio 43215	
Dear Ms. Corcorne:	
waivers with the Emergency Preparedness DOMD-19 pundernic:	5(c) Home and Community-Based. Services (HCBS) and Response Appendix. Ks in order to respond to the
WAIVER TITLE	CMS AMENDMENT CONTROL NUMBER
Ohio Horne Care Waiver PASSPORT Waiver	OH 0337, 803, 02 OH 034, 806, 03
	OH 0231 R05.08
Individual Options Waiver	OH 0380 RM 02
Level One Waiver Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver	OH 0593, 894, 02 OH 0877, 892, 07
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OOD Fee Schedule: Yesterday OOD kicked off a series of regional listening sessions aimed at gathering provider feedback ahead of potential service and reimbursement changes looking to be made in October. These sessions will be valuable opportunities for providers to share their current struggles and ideas for improving vocational rehabilitation services in Ohio. Our employment committee has focused heavily on OOD challenges, particularly the difficulty in hiring/retaining job coaches and we hope the changes looking to be made by OOD in the short and long-term will help address these major challenges. The schedule and agenda for the sessions can be found here.

Rules for Review: Last week we were informed that the rules for HCBS Waiver services and Licensed Residential Facilities were up for comment and review. Right now, we are thoroughly reviewing these rules and the proposed changes and will be providing comment back to the department. In fact, our intern Carol put together a document of all the changes that we see in both rules for members to review. 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. So again, if you have any comments on the proposed rule changes, please make sure to send them to one of the team soon.

<u>Nisonger Surveys:</u> Our friends at the OSU Nisonger Center have asked us to share a pair of surveys with the membership. The first is a 'needs assessment' that will direct Nisonger's support and research projects over the next few years and is a good opportunity to shape some Ohio-based initiatives. The second is a 'DSP Retention' survey, developed as part of Nisonger's study of the efficacy of the Competency/longevity-based add-on. It is an anonymous survey and will be used to inform Nisonger's final report on 'Promising Practices in DSP Retention in Ohio and Nationally'.

<u>Click here to access the Nisonger needs assessment.</u>

Click here to access the DSP Retention Survey

<u>Advocacy Army:</u> Thank you to everyone who joined us for last week's OPRA Advocacy Army webinar and who have already signed up for the program. There is still plenty of room if you want to join us! Please let <u>Christine</u> know if you have any other questions. <u>You can find a copy of the slides, a copy of the recording, and registration here.</u>





In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

<u>Memo Monday:</u> This week's roundup of DODD communications included information about the CMEs selected for the OhioRISE program, two upcoming webinars on trauma-responsive care and dual diagnoses, and the OTS master report. <u>Click here to read.</u>

<u>PRF Phase 2 Reporting:</u> 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." <u>Click here for more information.</u>

<u>CMS:</u> The deadline for the first phase of the CMS Vaccine IFR was February 14th. Phase 2 implementation begins March 15th. Impacted providers must have a process or plan in place for vaccinating all eligible staff, a process or plan for providing exemptions or accommodations, and a process or plan for tracking and documenting staff vaccinations. <u>Click here for OPRA's CMS IFR resource page.</u> Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. We welcome the opportunity to assist with this very complicated rule.



HOW IT WORKS:

If you know a provider who is interested in a free membership trial during the month of March, please email the provider's contact information to Sonya Summers at summers at summers at summers@opra.org. Sonya will reach out to the provider with more information about how they can participate.

YOUR GUEST WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Participate on the OPRA Friday 5 Calls
- . Access to the OPRA Team for question
- Presentation about OPRA
- Receive OPRA communications during the month of March
- Presentation on OPRA advocacy efforts in 2022

OPRA's number one priority remains to be the voice for providers and to help resolve the issues providers face every day.

We thank you for being a valued member of OPRA, and we look forward to welcoming your guest agency to the OPRA Community.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information about the OPRA Member/Guest Project.

WWW.OPRA.ORG

*The rebate will be calculated based on the new member's membership dues level. In order to

Upcoming Events

3/2: OPRA District 3 Meeting

3/3: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

News and Resources

"Ohio sees more than 90% drop in COVID cases since reaching pandemic high in January"

"4 Reasons Why Businesses Should Care About Disability Issues"

"Biden imposes additional sanctions on Russia"

Registration open for Ohio Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day 2022.







