

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 4, 2022

ARPA: Earlier in the week, DODD released a memo from Director Hauck earlier today, indicating that following last week's approval of Ohio's Appendix K and [Governor DeWine's executive order](#), the long-awaited ARPA provider payments can begin disbursement to HCBS providers. The payments will constitute 10% of billing claims for waiver services including Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC), Onsite/On-call HPC, Participant-Directed HPC, Transportation, Informal Respite, Community Respite, Residential Respite, Adult Day Supports, Vocational Habilitation, Career Planning, Independent and Group Employment Supports, Non-Medical Transportation, and Shared Living between November 2020 and October of 2021. The cutoff for claims submission to be included in the calculation was February 1st, 2022. DODD has indicated there should not be any reporting requirements or restrictions on the use of these funds. The funding/payments allocated for ICF providers are still pending final approval from CMS, but Director Hauck noted they are expecting that approval soon. In a stakeholder meeting held today, ODM reps indicated that the HB169 language that requires payments to go towards 'direct support' positions will be interpreted flexibly, but we are still awaiting that approval and further guidance.

Rule Comments: Thank you to those of you that send comments our way regarding the proposed adjustments to many of the Licensed Facility and HCBS services rules. We did submit our formal comments on these rules to the department this week. [You can read OPRA's comments on the proposed rules here.](#) Additionally, there was a public hearing held yesterday for the proposed Technology First rule. OPRA also submitted written testimony on this rule, requesting the need for time and flexibility in developing a technology policy for ICF providers.

Wage Verification: The wage verification survey, intended to demonstrate how the HPC rate increases from the FY19 budget cycle went towards DSP wages, is being tested and there will be training on how to use at the end of March. All residential HPC providers will be required to complete the survey by July 1, 22. There are two parts. The first will ask you to share compensation data that will be used to establish a statewide DSP compensation average. The second part of the survey will ask you to report on your workforce data, in an effort to establish workforce trends and patterns. Part two of the survey replaces the NCIS workforce survey that you used to complete. We will share more info as we get closer to the implementation date. Please reach out to [Pete](#) with any questions.

ANCOR Conference: If you are planning to attend next month's [ANCOR conference](#), please let [Christine](#) know! We have a reservation on Monday night at a restaurant close to the hotel and we look forward to spending time with the OPRA delegation at this national conference.

DD Day: We were honored to support and be a part of this year's Developmental Disability Advocacy & Awareness day. This year's theme was 'Be The Change' and the morning presentation featured Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director Hauck, an Employment First panel and keynote speaker Kevin Flynn, of The Cincinnati City Council. [You can watch the morning presentation here!](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: This week's roundup of DODD communications included the two Nisonger surveys we sent out last week, as well as information on the ICF quality incentives, training plan templates, and a call for proposals for the Trauma-Informed Care Summit. [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.](#)

CMS: 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. [Click here for OPRA's CMS IFR resource page.](#) Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. We welcome the opportunity to assist with this very complicated rule.

Survey: "DODD is seeking feedback on your experiences related to ICF-Based Options Counseling and/or Exit Waiver enrollment. Your responses will be used to establish baseline metrics that will help a process improvement workgroup simplify and standardize ICF-Based Options Counseling and Exit Waiver coordination, enrollment, and community transition". [Click to take the anonymous survey.](#)



2022 SPRING CONFERENCE



MAY 5 - 6

The OPRA Spring Conference is THE place to network, engage around the latest issues facing providers, find resources to benefit your organization and learn from first-rate speakers. Participate face-to-face or virtually from wherever you're most comfortable! Questions? Contact Melissa Fannon, OPRA Events Manager at mfannon@opra.org

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE](#)

Upcoming Events

[3/15: Marketing & Communications Committee Meeting](#)

[3/17: HIPAA Employee Responsibilities for Privacy & Cybersecurity](#)

News and Resources

["Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update: Just under 1,200 cases reported"](#)

["We Cannot Afford to Ignore Disabled Voices: Changing the Way We Talk About Covid"](#)

[NACDD's resource page for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

[CDC Adds IDD To List Of Conditions At Increased Risk From COVID-19](#)

