

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 8, 2022

Retirement: Earlier this week, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) announced the retirement of Executive Director Bridget Gargan, effective April 11. Adam Herman has been appointed the interim Executive Director. Both Pete and I (Scott) worked with Bridget for several years during our time at OACB and want to thank her for her years of support and dedication to Ohio's DD system. Bridget is a compassionate advocate for Ohioans with Disabilities and the system of services that support them. No matter what the issue, Bridget would always bring the conversation back to 'how does this issue impact people with disabilities and their families?'. We wish Bridget the best in her retirement and next chapter in her life and look forward to continuing to work with Adam through our stakeholder coalition and continuing system reform efforts.



MRC: This week the department put out their memos and tutorials for MRC. All of the links for all the documents and training are on the [MRC Guidance](#) and [Tip Sheet](#) can be found on DODD's website. The department has said that moving forward they would like for county boards and providers to make needed changes in CPT so that future projections align with the service hours delivered. These changes became effective April 1st and the hope is that this will allow providers to utilize the MRC tool to recalculate the daily rates so that they match up with the service hours and ratios that your staff delivered. This is not a perfect fix and there are still issues that providers and county boards are going to have to work through in regards to this. But, this does provide some better guidance on how to utilize the tool and the fix for it. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions.

QSO-Blanket Waivers: CMS [released a new QSO](#) announcing the ending of some of their Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for ICF's. These are the 30 day and 60 day blanket waivers. These waivers were a lot of life safety codes including facility maintenance, testing, and inspections, outside windows and doors, trainings in lieu of fire drills. Those waivers will end 60 days from the date the QSO was issued. ODH stated that their understanding from CMS was that many providers they have talked to just weren't utilizing these waivers very much at this time.

OOD Fee Schedule: Following several stakeholder listening sessions, OOD held a quarterly meeting this week where they outlined several changes they are looking to implement to the VR fee schedule in October of this year. The changes include the permanent allowance of virtual services, a new wrap-around service called 'Bridge supports' and a 2.37% rate increase for all VR services, as well as larger increases in PREETS and Benefits Planning services. While all of these are positive changes, we were hoping to see further investment in On-the-Job-Supports and an expansion of off-shift rate differentials. [You can review the proposed changes here](#) and provide feedback to [Scott](#).

Catalytic Converter Bill: On Wednesday, April 6th, OPRA submitted testimony to the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee in support of House Bill 408, a bill that is intended to curb the theft of catalytic converters. We know this has been an issue for members so OPRA offered our support for the bill. Thank you Ability Works and United Disability Services of Greater Akron for submitting testimony! [You can find a copy of the bill, an analysis of the bill, and OPRA's testimony here.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: [This week's roundup of DODD communications](#) featured information on the MRC updates (see previous page), the ICF module being live for the R3AP program, and upcoming webinar with Sarah Buffie on 'Embodied Facilitation' and much more...

Day Array Presentation: We are grateful to ANCOR's Donna Martin for joining this week's Day Array committee meeting and presenting on Alternative Payment Models (APMs). Donna walked through different APM models including managed care, managed long-term supports and different Value-Based Payment models being introduced into I/DD systems across the country. Donna also gave an overview on the different quality frameworks, such as CQL and NCI that are being utilized nationally and CMS's exploration of their own quality standards. This information will be important as Ohio looks to potentially begin implementing some alternative payment models through the Blueprint workgroup and other system reform efforts. [Click here to watch the meeting recording.](#)

Senate Workforce Committee: We sat in on the Senate Workforce and Higher Education committee this week. The committee had invited testimony from DODD to talk about the various certifications they offer. [You can read DODD's testimony here.](#)



The OPRA Spring Conference will be held on May 5-6 at the Nationwide Conference Center in Columbus. Check out the welcome video from our Keynote speaker, Courtney Clark, who focuses on resilience and 'reVisionary thinking'. We can't wait to see you all at the Conference in May (in-person or virtually)!

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

Upcoming Events

[4/14: HIPAA: Assessing & Managing Security Risks](#)

[4/28: DODD Provider Training - Service Delivery Documentation](#)

News and Resources

["Ohio reports 3,828 new COVID-19 cases in past week; deaths down by half"](#)

["Senate confirms Ketanji Brown Jackson to be first Black woman to sit on Supreme Court"](#)

["A federal appeals court upholds Biden's vaccine mandate for federal workers"](#)

[CDC: U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County Map](#)



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