OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 17, 2022

Workforce Survey: At last week's member call we announced that the state of Ohio has put together a task force mainly involving the health and human service entities at the state executive level to discuss the workforce issues impacting all of us. **We mentioned that there is a survey that they put out asking stakeholders to give their input on ways to address the workforce crisis.** That survey closes this afternoon, so if you are reading this on Friday, there is still time and we encourage you, if you haven't already, to fill out that survey. We would like to have a good showing of DD professionals and organizations outlining ideas on how the state of Ohio can help. We, along with our budget coalition, will be submitting our thoughts about what we think needs to happen as well as writing a letter encouraging ongoing stakeholder involvement in this process. It is vital that the administration include those who are directly impacted by the crisis in their discussions and decision-making and that is what we are going to stress in our letter.

Blueprint Workgroup: DODD's Blueprint Rule & waiver implementation sub-committee met this week to continue the work toward developing service definitions and revised rate methodologies for non-work day array services. The discussion mostly focused on the 'provider groupings' that the Milliman consulting team will utilize to begin building the rate assumptions for the revised non-work services, as well as ideas for how day services can better support people with complex needs. We were pleased to see that the feedback we provided last week was heavily incorporated into the presentation materials, **which can be found here.**

Provider Certification Dates: In preparation for the Provider Network Management system or PNM system going live in the fall, all certifications with renewal dates on or after August 1, 2022 have automatically been extended by 180 days.This question came up at our ICF meeting the other day. So again, all certifications with renewal dates on or after August 1, 2022 have been automatically extended by 180 days. **Click here to read the Memo Monday regarding the change.**

MBIWD Bill: This week we attended a meeting **regarding HB 664**, a bill impacting the Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities Program. This program allows employees with disabilities to use their employment wages to pay into coverage under Medicaid. Currently, the eligibility for the program ends when someone turns 65, potentially threatening their health coverage or employment. This bill, which has been referred to the finance committee, but will not be heard until at least after elections, would expand the eligibility coverage to people working beyond 65 years old.

CMS Masking Policy: This past week we participated in a national call with CMS. There was much discussion surrounding the issue of masking along with the health screenings for ICF providers. CMS has stated that masking policies and procedures need to ensure that they have some type of national standard for guidance (such as the CDC). But, the CDC has not yet relaxed this guidance for healthcare facilities. We have heard various and conflicting approaches from surveyors regarding the need for masking and whether this will lead to a citation. We have also asked CMS if there is a plan regarding more training for the survey operations team regarding these policies, procedures, and mandate. At this time there is no plan for more training, but certainly CMS was willing to listen to these issues and have further discussion about them.
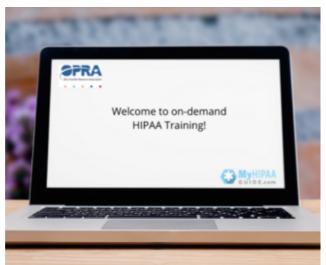
Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download **DODD's Memo Monday**, containing information on upcoming OhioRise Trainings, and trainings and resources related to revised Behavior Support rule.

Training is a critical defense against intrusions that breach privacy and IT systems. Why? Because training provides awareness and vigilance. All it takes is one click on a malicious email or link to open a backdoor into even the most secure databases. In partnership with MyHIPAA Guide, OPRA is now offering an on-demand course for staff that will fulfill privacy and cybersecurity training requirements under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Most importantly, this training will instruct staff on how to recognize suspicious activity and how to respond promptly and effectively. **Click here to learn more or sign up!**

Call for Speakers: OPRA is proud to announce the call for speaker proposals is officially open for the 2022 OPRA Fall Conference. The conference will be in person and hosted at Nationwide Conference Center on October 27th & 28th, 2022. **Click here to submit a proposal.**

Award Nominations: OPRA is pleased to announce the call for nominations are now open for the 2022 OPRA Annual Awards. The purpose of the OPRA Annual Awards is to honor dedicated service professionals, groups and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions in the I/DD Field. We encourage all member agencies to submit nominations to recognize those that have worked hard and dedicated their time to help support the people they serve.

You can **CLICK HERE** to be directed to the Annual Award Form to submit your nomination. You will be contacted no later than Friday, September 9th regarding the status of your nomination. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this year's nomination process.

Upcoming Events

6/23: Leadership Workshop: Take Back Your Culture Now - Part 1

6/24: Workshop: June 24th: THE ULTIMATE COMPLIANCE ACING FORM with Sara Sherman

News and Resources

"Ohio reverses course on new COVID-19 cases"

"New cards help improve communication between law enforcement and deaf people "

"Gov. DeWine signs capital budget"

CDC: 'Know Your COVID-19 Community Level' Map