

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 12, 2022

Workforce Committee: The statewide direct care workforce workgroup, led by Ohio JFS, met this week to review [their draft "explorations' document](#), outlining several proposals to address the workforce shortage, based on testimony provided to the committee over the past few weeks. In addition to these items, the workgroup assured they were also looking at rate reimbursement increases, which will be necessary even to implement many items on this list.

GED/Age Waiver Survey: Following last month's extension of the GED/Age waiver for direct support professionals, [DODD developed this survey](#) in order to assess the statewide usage of the waiver and consider its permanency past the next year. If you'd like to see this hiring ability continue, it is important that providers complete the survey so DODD has the necessary data to make that decision.

Workforce PSAs: As part of the state's initiative to recruit more direct care professionals- DSPs and other direct care workers, the state has started a statewide PSA this week. This PSA will drive people to OhioMeansJobs. The campaign will be featured on cable TV, broadcast TV, YouTube, social media, billboards, etc. To show up in the results, a job listing should include the phrase "Direct Support Professional". [You can see the search result here](#). This is a permanent URL that will be used during the campaign and after. We had hoped to have some lead time to communicate this to providers but the timing did not allow for that. Again, we intend to use this page long-term in recruiting the DSP position.

DODD will post them to DODD's website as a tool-kit. Resources from OMJ-

- <https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/help-center/employers/employers>
- <https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/for-employers/resources-for-employers/Workforce-Services-Team>

CDC Covid Guidance: Yesterday the CDC announced they have relaxed some [COVID guidelines](#). The CDC stated that they are making these changes now as vaccination and prior infections have given many folks some protection against the virus. As such, the CDC is no longer recommending that people stay six feet away from others. Rather, they are saying that avoiding crowded areas and maintaining social distancing are part of strategies for people to utilize. Additionally, they are no longer making a distinction between those who are up to date with vaccinations and those who are not. People who have been exposed to the virus no longer have to quarantine at home regardless of their vaccination status. The CDC is still recommending they wear a mask for 10 days and get tested for the virus on the 5th day. Those individuals who test positive should still isolate for at least 5 days. Those who have a moderate or severe case of COVID, or those who are immunocompromised should isolate for 10 days. The masking guidelines still have not changed. We will of course keep you updated as soon as we hear more information regarding this guidance.

Blueprint: Thanks to everyone who provided feedback regarding the Blueprint workgroup and rate setting. [The recording of las week's Day Array committee, as well as the Blueprint powerpoint shared can be found here](#). Please review the presentation, particularly the last slide, and provide feedback on the level of PTO your agency provides, especially in comparison to DODD/Milliman's projections. If possible, please email [Scott](#) feedback by COB today.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download [DODD's Memo Monday](#), containing the documentation crosswalk and presentation discussed on this morning's call (2nd memo down).

Provider Relief Fund: "Providers who received one or more Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments exceeding \$10,000, in the aggregate, from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 must report on their use of funds during Reporting Period 3 (RP3). The PRF Reporting Portal for RP3 is now open and will remain open through September 30, 2022. Learn more [here](#) or reach out to [Christine](#).

This is a friendly reminder to submit your nominations to recognize your colleagues and collaborators for their hard work and dedication in the I/DD field! If you have not already submitted your nominations, today is the last day to do so! [Click here to submit a nomination!](#)

Tragically, Dustin Wright, a SHIFT co-founder, passed away unexpectedly last month. To honor and celebrate Dustin's memory and legacy, SHIFT has created the "Dustin A. Wright Tech Champion Award." Annually, the Dustin A. Wright Tech Champion Award will honor five Direct Support Professionals actively working for an IDD support provider who demonstrates a commitment to Technology First education and transformation. During Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (September 11th-17th), SHIFT will spotlight five DSPs who demonstrate these qualities and are committed to their organization's shift to Technology First programming. The honorees will each receive a framed certificate and a special gift. SHIFT will provide a copy of a press release to the organization for marketing purposes. SHIFT will also submit a letter to the state disabilities division or department announcing the award and winning recipient. [Click here to learn more and nominate!](#)



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Upcoming Events

[8/17: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee Meeting](#)

[8/17: OPRA ICF Committee Meeting](#)

[8/18: Training Workshop- August 18th: Billing 101 by 19Services](#)

[8/23: Dinner Program: Nursing Delegation in the DD Setting w/ Tarrytown Pharmacy \(Cincinnati Session\)](#)

News and Resources

["People will die waiting': America's system for the disabled is nearing collapse"](#)

["How the workforce shortage is harming care for adults with disabilities"](#)

["Ohio COVID-19 cases down for the second straight week"](#)

[CDC: 'Know Your COVID-19 Community Level' Map](#)



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Please find this week's COVID updates. While the numbers of confirmed positive cases and hospitalizations remained high this week, there were no additional confirmed deaths.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns. Have a nice weekend.

COVID-19 Testing Results for Reportable MUIs			
Negative	Pending	Positive	Total
1,148	1	1,714	2,862

- 1,702 people served have tested positive for COVID-19 and been hospitalized. There were **12 additional positives** since the 8/5 report.
- There were **11 additional hospitalizations** since the 8/5 report. This is a total of 2,683 people hospitalized and tested for COVID-19.
- A total of 2,862 COVID-19 reportable MUIs have been filed as 179 individuals were never hospitalized but COVID-19 was suspected or later determined as their cause of death.
- 388 people served have passed away who have tested positive for COVID-19. There were **0 additional confirmed deaths** since the 8/5 report.

Impacted Counties/Developmental Centers:

- There are 87 counties and 8 developmental centers with COVID related MUIs (CADC, CDC, GDC, TDC, MVDC, SODC, WDC and NODC).
- Franklin had the most people hospitalized and tested with 276 followed by Cuyahoga with 275.
- Cuyahoga had the most people tested positive with 177 and Franklin had 154.

Testing Demographics:

- Males accounted for 59.22% of those tested and females 40.78%.
- Ages of people tested ranged from 11 months to 95 years. The average age was 54 years. The most common ages are 59.
- The breakdown of people tested by race is:
 - Black or African American-14% (60% positive testing rate)
 - Other Race -2% (56% positive testing rate)
 - Unknown-5% (52% positive testing rate)
 - White/Caucasian 79% (59% positive testing rate)

COVID Related Deaths:

County or DCs with COVID Deaths							
Adams	2	Franklin	30	Lucas	23	Richland	8
Allen	6	Fulton	2	Mahoning	8	Ross	2
Ashtabula	4	Gallia	4	Marion	1	Sandusky	7
Athens	2	Geauga	1	Medina	1	Scioto	2
Belmont	1	Greene	3	Meigs	2	Seneca	1
Brown	1	Hamilton	15	Miami	4	Stark	26
Butler	10	Hancock	5	Montgomery	15	Summit	18
Carroll	1	Hardin	1	Morgan	2	TDC	1
CDC	2	Henry	1	Morrow	2	Trumbull	10
Champaign	1	Highland	3	Muskingum	1	Tuscarawas	7
Clark	6	Holmes	3	MVDC	2	Vinton	1
Clermont	6	Huron	1	Noble	1	Washington	1
Clinton	1	Jefferson	2	NODC	4	Warren	8
Coshocton	8	Knox	3	Ottawa	10	Wayne	4
Cuyahoga	26	Lake	13	Perry	4	Williams	1
Darke	2	Lawrence	2	Pickaway	2	Wood	5
Delaware	5	Licking	8	Pike	1	Wyandot	2
Erie	1	Logan	1	Portage	3		
Fairfield	5	Lorain	6	Preble	4	Grand Total	388

COVID-19 Deaths:

- The mortality rate of those passing from COVID-19 (388) and the total people served (98,956) is 0.392%.
- The ages of those who died range from 11 months-95 years of age.
- The average age of the person who died was 60 years old.
- A total of 70 counties and 4 DCs (CDC, MVDC, NODC, TDC) have reported COVID-19 deaths.
- Franklin has the most confirmed COVID deaths with 30.



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