

# OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

**Governor's Budget:** Earlier this week, Governor **Mike DeWine delivered his State of the State address**, outlining his funding and policy priorities for the next biennium and marking the unofficial kickoff of state budget season. Governor DeWine's speech focused heavily on programs and policies aimed at children and youth, including the development of a new cabinet agency, the Department of Children and Youth, as well as mental health, school safety and literacy and a quality initiative for Ohio's nursing facilities. **Soon following the speech, the Office of Budget Management (OBM) released budget details, and the administration's proposed funding** for their policy priorities for the coming fiscal years. For Developmental Disability services, the Governor and his administration are proposing increases intended to raise the average wage of frontline staff to \$16/hr. Through a mix of General Revenue Funds (GRF) and dollars appropriated through ARPA, the proposal includes a 16.5% rate increase for residential waiver services, a 10% increase for day array services, including NMT, as well as a proposal to allow the ICF formula to run at a 6% increase each year, as well as a direct service add-on of 6.5%. There is still much work to do in the legislature to secure these proposed investments and achieve equitable increases across the services. That said, we are incredibly grateful to the Governor and his team, as well as the support of DODD, for these proposed increases and will continue to work to build on them through the process. And thank you to the OPRA membership for your advocacy and support throughout the process so far. **[Click here to download the budget outline slides from this morning's member call.](#)**



**House Committees:** We finally learned the remaining Republican members of the various house committees. Representative Hoops from Napoleon and Representative Jean Schmidt from Loveland are the two remaining committee members on the House Finance HHS subcommittee. **[A full list of the House Republican caucus committee assignments can be found here.](#)** If you provide services in Representative Hoops or Schmidt's district, or anyone else on the House Finance committee, you should consider inviting them to tour your services.

**PHE:** The Covid-19 Public Health Emergency will end as of May 11, 2023. This aligns with the 60-day wind down period that the Administration has promised. CMS will be hosting a webinar on February 8th from 1:30-3:00pm titled **[Unwinding Home and Community-Based Services Public Health Emergency Flexibilities](#)** We strongly encourage members to register for this important webinar.

**Blueprint Letter:** **[Click here to download the draft letter](#)**, outlining OPRA's concerns with the Blueprint proposal. If you were not at Thursday's Day Array meeting and would like to sign on to this letter, please email **[Scott](#)** and include your name, agency name and best contact email.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday/Pipeline:** Click here to download [Memo Monday](#), containing information on the Trauma-Informed Care Summit, the New Technology Solutions Guidance Document, the recipients of the Building Technology Capacity grants and much more!

**PRF:** Don't forget that reporting on phase 4 funds is now live and will remain open till the end of March! Please contact [Christine](#) with any questions.



We are beyond excited to announce that former OSU Buckeye, Ryan Shazier, will be our keynote speaker at the [2023 OPRA Spring Conference](#). While playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2017, Ryan suffered a spinal contusion that left him unable to walk. Ryan will share his story of resilience and recovery in a moderated keynote discussion to kick off the conference. Registration for the Spring Conference will open in March.



## CALLING ALL SPEAKERS

We are now accepting proposals for the 2023 Spring Conference! Learn more and submit your proposal [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

[2/8: OPRA Workshop-HIPAA Session 2: Mapping & Inventory: Account for all private information](#)

[2/9: OPRA Health Care Committee](#)

[2/10: DODD Budget Webinar at 1:30pm](#)

[Click here for DODD February Trainings, including the 2/7 ICF Quality Onsite Review Implementation Webinar](#)

## News & Resources

["All about the kids: Gov. Mike DeWine focuses on children in State of the State address"](#)

["Ohio House, Senate Republicans applaud Gov. Mike DeWine's plans but eager for details"](#)

["Navigating workforce more challenging for those with disabilities, advocates say"](#)

["Ohio COVID-19 hospitalizations continue dropping"](#)

