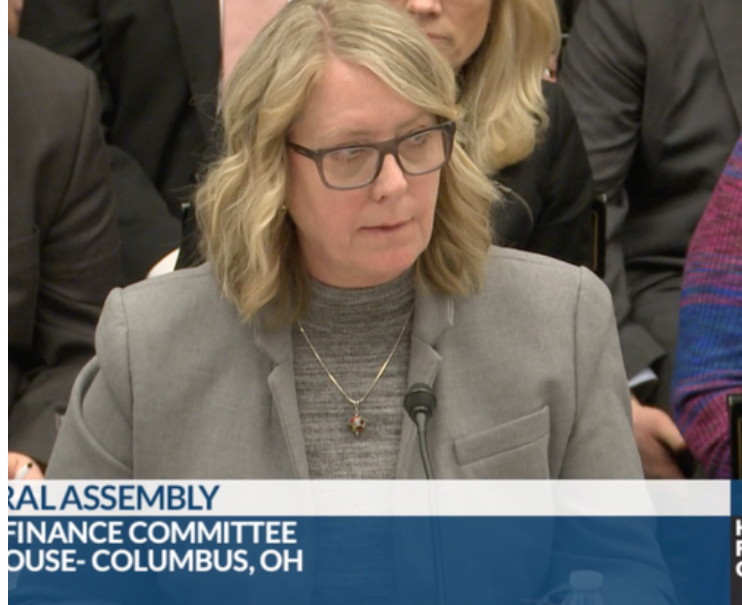


OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

Budget Testimony: Earlier this week, the cabinet Directors of Medicaid-related services testified to the House finance committee in support of the Governor's budget. DODD Director Hauck was joined on a panel by Directors McElroy (Aging), Criss (MHAS), and Corcoran (Medicaid) for a 4+ hour committee session, including extensive questioning from the committee. The tenor of the questions was notable and different from past years, with several legislators challenging Director Hauck as to the discrepancy between what state Developmental Centers pay and what is being proposed for private providers in the proposed budget. Several legislators also referenced visits to or experiences with provider agencies, highlighting the effectiveness of your local outreach and advocacy. [You can view the committee hearing here.](#) Director Hauck's testimony begins around the 51-minute mark and questions begin around 1:45, with questions from Rep. Schmidt to Director Hauck.



Share YOUR Story

You'll find an easy-to-use web portal below where you can share YOUR story! That story may then be shared with key legislators so they understand the very real and immediate human impact of this crisis. Simply click **Share YOUR Story** below and follow the prompts in the online survey tool. There will be several survey questions and then you'll have an opportunity to share your story.

DD Crisis Website: On Monday, our partners at The Impact Group held 2 webinars, unveiling [OhioDDCrisis.com](https://ohioddcrisis.com), the website that will act as a homebase/clearinghouse for many of the advocacy materials developed as part of our budget coalition efforts. This campaign has gone through a number of iterations before settling in on this website and direction. The site offers several resources, sample talking points, videos and most importantly, ways for you to share your story and the importance of funding disability services. The site is live now.

Budget Resources: With the release of Governor DeWine's proposed budget last week and committee hearing already underway, we are officially in budget season. The Governor's proposed budget gives a great start to our advocacy, but there is still much work to be done to protect and expand on the proposed rate increases. To that end, OPRA has developed [this budget resource page](#), including our '[Guide to Ohio's Operating Budget](#)', organized by Christine. We hope these resources will help members as you continue to share your story and advocate for support from your legislator. Contact [Christine](#) with any questions or to learn more.



Ohio's
Operating
Budget

A GUIDE FOR OPRA MEMBERS

State Fiscal Year 24-25

PHE: This week CMS held a webinar titled '[Unwinding Home and Community Based Services...](#)' States will be determining what flexibilities may remain in place once the PHE is officially over. For appendix K, the termination date will be no later than 6 months after the expiration of the PHE (November 11, 2023). The 1135 waivers expire at the end of the PHE (May 11, 2023).



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download [Memo Monday](#), including a Blueprint workgroup update, the upcoming Digital Opportunity Summit, the 'bug' the in the OTS system, and info on several upcoming webinars.

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.



Upcoming Events

[2/14: OPRA HR Committee](#)

[2/15: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee](#)

[2/15: OPRA ICF Committee](#)

[2/15: OPRA Workshop: HIPAA Session 3: Administrative Safeguards](#)

[Click here for DODD February Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["Ohio COVID-19 county map improves to the best that it has been since July"](#)

["Medicaid's pandemic benefits are ending: Here's what you need to know"](#)

["Here's how Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine would pay for new spending in his state budget proposal"](#)

["Keeping Students with Disabilities On Track for Graduation"](#)

