

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

Budget Testimony: In our first public testimony of this budget season, OPRA and our members provided support this week for OOD's budget proposals in HB33, the budget bill. We want to thank Amanda Smith of Arc Industries, Liz Owens of the Alpha Group, and Linsey Hollingshead of Partners In Employment for providing in-person testimony to the House Finance HHS Sub-Committee, chaired by Rep. Carruthers. OPRA's Scott Marks also [provided this testimony in support of the proposed OOD budget](#), the first that would maximize the federal draw-down of funding from RSA in over 15 years. In addition to supporting transition, PREETS and apprenticeship services, we look forward to working with OOD on adjustments to their fee schedule allowed by the additional funding. We also want to thank RTI and UCP of Greater Cleveland for providing written testimony to the committee. [You can watch the committee hearing here.](#)



Rule Comments: The past few weeks have seen a few rules of interest to OPRA out for public comment to DODD and the Common Sense Initiative (CSI). Last Friday, OPRA provided written comments on proposed changes to the Employment First rule, that would modify place 4 on the path and require additional reporting requirements for vocational service providers. While we support the proposed changes to 'place on the path 4', we expressed our concern about how the change may impact access to services to those assessed to be on place 4, as well as unfunded increased reporting requirements. Today, we also provided comment on both [the Home-delivered meals rule](#), where we advocated to allow individuals to be able to designate where their meals could be delivered as well as the Non-Medical Transportation rule. We commented on our concerns [about the proposed changes to the definition of 'commercial transportation'](#) and how they would impact access to community employment transportation services, as well as recommending a 'UCR' for any transportation services used to help people get to work in the community. We will share DODD's feedback on these comments as we receive them.

Blueprint: DODD is seeking final feedback on the Blueprint proposal developed by the Milliman consulting group by Tuesday February 28th. Weeks back, [OPRA submitted this letter to DODD](#), outlining our concerns with the proposal. In response to concerns raised by the letter, as well as questions from other stakeholders, [DODD released this Q&A](#). Many of the responses contained within the document highlight the challenges and concerns we have with the approach that has been taken to this work. OPRA has worked with our member Blueprint representatives to develop alternative rate models, reflective of real-world service assumptions and wage goals of \$16/hr and above. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

Legislative Meetings: In addition to the testimony outlined above, the OPRA team and members were able to meet with several Reps and Senators this week, advocating to build on the Governor's budget.

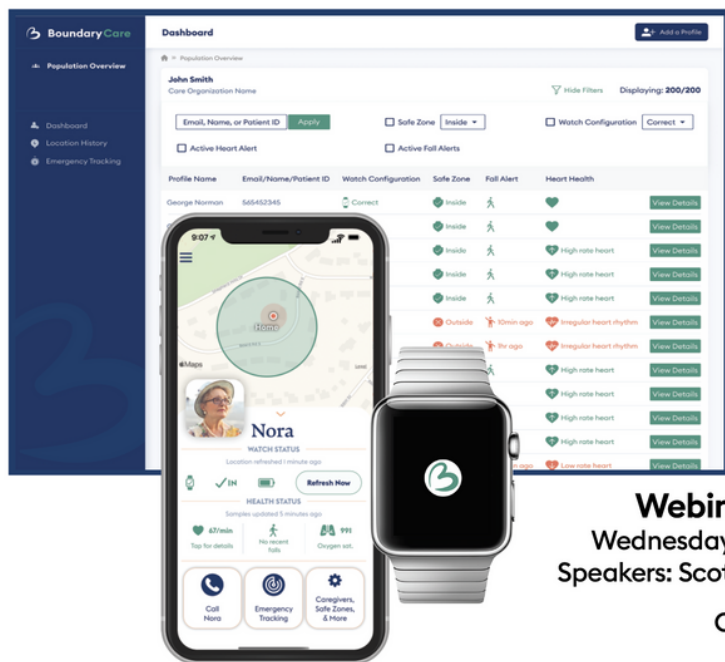


In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download DODD's [Memo Monday](#), including info on upcoming respite and residential support grants for youth with complex needs, Provider resource team sharing sessions, the 'change of DOO' process, 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.



Learn about this revolutionary solution in IDD supports. BoundaryCare enhances safety, health, and wellness, delivering clear and actionable data to individuals and those who support them.

Webinar (hosted by OPRA)
Wednesday, March 1, at 10:00 am Eastern
Speakers: Scott & Paul Carpenter, Co-founders

[Click here to register](#)



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.

Upcoming Events

[2/24: Member Event: Alpha's Laugh & Luck Reverse Raffle](#)

[3/1: DD Advocacy and Awareness Day](#)

[3/1: HIPAA Session 5](#)

[3/2: OPRA Day and Employment Service Committee Meeting](#)

[Click here for DODD February Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["11 states ready to go live with Medicaid HCBS final rule as deadline approaches, CMS says"](#)

["Nursing Shortage Puts Children With Disabilities At Risk, Spurs Calls For Change"](#)

["GAO Report: DOL Could Do More to Ensure Timely Oversight for 14c Program"](#)

["Ohio reports 9,136 new COVID-19 cases"](#)

