

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 3, 2023

Blueprint Feedback: Earlier this week, [OPRA submitted its final feedback document to DODD](#) regarding the Blueprint proposal shared in December. The feedback, which was due February 28, outlines the 4 major areas of concern we have with the proposal, as well as several recommendation and alternative models and approaches to the ones taken by DODD and the Milliman consultant team. This feedback follows [the letter which OPRA sent to DODD](#) weeks back. Our primary recommendations are around building capacity in employment services, re-engaging stakeholders in policy decisions, and providing for a meaningful rate increase for day and employment services. We are still awaiting a response from DODD and we will share with members next steps as we learn them. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback.

CMS Information: This week CMS sent a [Press Release](#) regarding the ending of the Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023. The links in the press release provide information and clarification as to some of the changes that will occur with flexibilities that were developed during the pandemic. Additionally, CMS has provided a "[WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW](#)" document regarding CMS waivers, flexibilities, and the transition forward. Per CMS, "It is important to note that the Administration's continued response to COVID-19 is not fully dependent on the COVID-19 PHE, and there are significant flexibilities and actions that will not be affected as we transition from the current phase of our response. As described below, the Administration is committed to ensuring that COVID-19 vaccines and treatments will be widely accessible to all who need them. There will also be continued access to pathways for emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for COVID-19 products (tests, vaccines, and treatments) through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and major telehealth flexibilities will continue to exist for those participating in Medicare or Medicaid."

Legislative Advocacy: Today is a great day for advocacy! Cuyahoga providers partnered with the Cuyahoga County Board to host various Cleveland-area legislators; Melinda Kale and the Work Leads to Independence team is hosting Rep Haraz Ghanbari and Senator Theresa Gavarone; Michelle Madden and the Independence of Portage County team is hosting Senator Vernon Sykes, Dave Rastoka and the Advancing Abilities team is hosting Rep. Mark Johnson, and Trent Grooms from Choices in Community Living is meeting with Rep. Carruthers. If you are interested in hosting your state legislators, now is the time to reach out to schedule a tour of your locations! If you are not sure where to start to schedule this, you can reach out to [Christine](#) for assistance.

Budget Testimony: Director Hauck will be presenting testimony on behalf of the DODD budget proposals on March 14th in front of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Service. Pete and Christine are working on developing tools to help you, your staff, and the people and families you support write testimony that can be submitted to the subcommittee. These resources will come out early next week.

DD Day: It was great to see so many of you at the statehouse this week for DD Advocacy and Awareness day. With that happy DD awareness month! If you had meetings with your legislators and you feel like there is an opportunity for OPRA to follow up with any of the offices, please let [Christine](#) know so that we can follow up with the office.



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 the Charting the Life Course Ohio showcase, information sessions for DSPs and providers, RMN annual analysis and 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.



Upcoming Events

[3/8: HIPAA Session 6: Risk Mitigation & Management](#)

[3/8: OPRA Policy Committee Meeting](#)

[Click here for DODD March Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month"](#)

["Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and first lady Fran spend day in East Palestine"](#)

["Champions' Actor James Day Keith Talks Film's Disability Representation"](#)

["Ohio creeps toward 10,000 new weekly COVID-19 cases"](#)

