

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 10, 2023

Blueprint Meeting: Following last week's submission of OPRA's [final feedback document](#), DODD convened a meeting to discuss the feedback and determine next steps for the Blueprint proposal. We joined reps from OACB and OHCA in meeting with much of DODD's leadership, including Director Hauck. Much of the meeting was spent discussing and debating the rate formula and methodology developed by the Milliman contracting team, and how it can reconcile with proposed funding increases in the Governor's budget. In order to provide needed expense data and realistic service/program assumptions, OPRA will be pulling together an ad-hoc workgroup to present further alternate rate modeling to DODD. Other notable highlights of the meeting were the delay of the proposed 'cost of doing business' changes to align with the waiver redesign work DODD is entering into, as well as a promise that the employment aspects of the Blueprint proposals will be shared with stakeholders in April. DODD does not anticipate any rule changes can take effect until at least of March of 2024, largely due to the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback.

Budget Testimony: Next week continues House Sub-Committee hearings on the budget proposals for Ohio's Health & Human Services (HHS) with Director Hauck on March 14th. DD Council will follow the Director, leading into our budget coalition panel which will include Pete from OPRA, Debbie Jenkins from OHCA, Adam Herman from OACB and Gary Tonks from the Arc of Ohio. Following the budget coalition, we have helped coordinate in-person testimony from providers, people served, families, DSPs and county board staff. We are extremely grateful for everyone providing in-person testimony and to everyone who has already submitted written testimony in support of our budget ask. But we are still hopeful that even more members will provide written testimony, so please feel free to reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions you have about advocating on the state budget!

Works4Me Grant: OOD held a meeting this week, beginning to lay out a plan for their ['Works4Me' program, authorized through a 5-year, \\$9M grant from RSA](#). The program, intended to support people to move from sub-minimum wage jobs into community employment, will begin with a pilot in NE Ohio, before expanding statewide.

14c Commensurate Wage: Last week, Representative Dontavius Jarrells held an interested parties meeting regarding potential legislation he is pondering to eliminate commensurate/sub-minimum wages in Ohio. The meeting was mostly constructive, although the differences of views on 14c was well evident among the parties, which included advocates on both sides of the issue and reps from pertinent state agencies. Following the discussion, Rep. Jarrells said he would attempt to write and 'slow walk' a bill that took into account the different viewpoints in the room. He is looking to hold another 'IP' meeting, including more people and families directly impacted by potential legislation, possibly in April. Further complicating the issue, last week also saw the introduction of the ['Transformation to CIE' act](#), which would phase out 14c over 5 years, introduced in both chambers of the Federal legislature, with bi-partisan bill sponsors. While the disfunction in Washington will likely prevent any bill from passing, we will be watching and working closely with our national partners as these bills potentially progress. Please contact [Scott](#) with any questions or further feedback.



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 extension of MUI annual reviews, provider resource team open hours, behavior support workshops, OISP regional gatherings, and new profile fields in MyLearning.

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

[3/14: DODD Workshop: Neurological Conditions in Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

[4/6: OPRA Day Array Committee](#)

[Click here for DODD March Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["Disability rights activist Judy Heumann dies at 75"](#)

["Pandemic-era Medicaid coverage at risk for Ohio residents as eligibility changes take effect on April 1"](#)

["Ex-Ohio House Speaker and former Ohio GOP leader found guilty in \\$61 million bribery scheme"](#)

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

