

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 17, 2023

Budget Testimony: This week saw some incredible advocacy and testimony in the Ohio House Finance Sub-Committee on Health and Human services. Director Hauck testified to the subcommittee on Tuesday morning, and continued to face questions from the committee regarding the discrepancy in wages between staff at state-run Developmental Centers and private provider agencies. Following the Director's testimony, our budget coalition testified in support of our budget ask and the need to build on the Governor's proposal. The panel included OPRA's Pete Moore as well Gary Tonks of the Arc of Ohio, Debbie Jenkins of OHCA and Adam Herman of OACB. Just prior to the testimony, [Gongwer published this interview with the coalition representatives](#). Thank you to everyone who submitted written testimony and huge thanks to OPRA Members Becky Sharp from Open Door, Dan Conners for St. Joseph Home, and Ashley Brocious from RT Industries for providing in-person testimony on Tuesday! [Click here to watch Tuesday's full hearing](#). There is still opportunity to submit written testimony to the sub-committee if you are interested and we really encourage you to do so if have not already! Christine sent information on how to do so- if you have any questions, please send them to [Christine](#). If you are interested in providing in-person testimony next week, please reach out to either Pete or Christine. Following the week of testimony, the sub-committee chair, [Rep. Carruthers](#), [expressed her support to build beyond the current \\$16/hr wage proposal](#), but acknowledged their various funding priorities and the challenges in allocating their limited resources. [Click here to view the testimony of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran delivered yesterday](#).

CMS and PHE Unwinding: This week we had our national call with CMS. And we began this meeting discussing many of the challenges providers are experiencing in relation to the end of the Public Health Emergency. At this time CMS is preparing guidance related to the end of the public health emergency, but we still do not have clarity on the big issues such as masking and vaccine mandates. Just a reminder the PHE does end in May and things may be moving quickly here soon. We will continue to push for clarity and will keep members apprised of any new information from CMS. Please contact [Rachel](#) with any questions or feedback.

Blueprint: Following the stakeholder-wide pointed feedback to the current proposal from DODD/Milliman, DODD is pulling stakeholder back together to chart a path forward. Next week DODD will convene the Quality Program Blueprint sub-committee. This group had been meeting prior to DODD concluding stakeholder work and developing their current proposal. DODD is hoping to implement a pilot project by the end of 2023, but there is still much to work through if DODD is to get system support for the project. Additionally, DODD has scheduled a meeting for April 19th, to unveil the Employment/Vocational part of the Blueprint proposal. This will be crucial in evaluating the overall impact of both proposals and which elements we can support and/or oppose. Please contact [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback.

Spring Conference: Registration is live for OPRA's 2023 Spring Conference. We are so excited to see everyone on May 18-19 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center. Please see our keynote announcement on page 3 and [click here for all of your conference and registration info!](#)

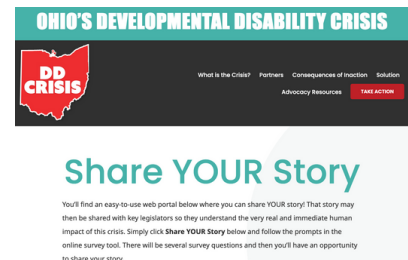


In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download DODD's [Memo Monday](#), including info on the newly proposed Department of Children and Youth, the Artists with Disabilities Access program, the ACL dual diagnoses steering committee 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

3/21: OPRA Marketing & Communications Committee @ 10 am

3/24: Appendix K Stakeholder Experience Webinar

4/6: OPRA Day Array Committee

[Click here for DODD March Trainings](#)

News & Resources

"BLS Report: Persons with a Disability – Labor Force Characteristics 2022"

"Opinion: Focus on abilities, not disabilities of people in our community"

"Biden Administration Calls For \$150 Billion For Home- And Community-Based Services"

"Senators Hassan and Shaheen Joins Colleagues in Introducing Bill to Begin Eliminating Home Care Services Waiting List"





Ohio Provider Resource Association

SPRING CONFERENCE

May 18-19, 2023

KEYNOTE

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