

# OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 14, 2023

**State Budget:** While we had reason to believe that we would see a budget sub-bill come out of the House Finance Committee this week, as of this morning, it has not yet been introduced. However, we know that several legislators have submitted amendments to help us achieve our budget ask of an increase of 50% for waiver services and 40% for Direct ICF services, and we also know that Democratic lawmakers have developed amendments for even higher than that, applying to all HHS services. Given the various amendments, we eagerly await the sub-bill and look forward to further testimony and advocacy in the House, as we also look towards the Senate. As Pete said on the morning call, if the budget process was a football game, we'd essentially still be in the 2nd quarter. And although the process has been positive so far, there is still much game to be played and advocacy to be done. We again want to thank all of the members who have provided written and in-person testimony throughout the process so far. Please reach out to [Pete](#) or [Christine](#) with questions.

**OOD Meetings:** Our partners at OOD held 2 important meetings this week, including outlining some next steps in their 'Works4Me' grant project, which they intend to roll out a pilot of in Cuyahoga and Lake counties before expanding statewide. OOD also held their quarterly stakeholder meeting earlier this week, where they presented [recent service and case spending trends for VR services](#), as well as sharing some initial fee schedule/service changes they are hoping to implement in expectation of more resources allocated in the state budget. These include 'immediate' adjustments, including the reintroduction of the REACH service, as well as long-term fee schedule adjustments and rate enhancements. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

**WCTF:** Earlier this week, DODD led a quarterly meeting of the Workforce Crisis Task Force, a group put together following the last budget cycle to develop and direct state policy to address the workforce shortage. The Meeting focused on two recent reports/studies; one conducted by the OSU Nisonger Center, studying DSP retention and factors impacting it, and the other from OADSP, called the DSPX, studying and analyzing the 'DSP experience', and how it impacts the direct support workforce, recruitment and retention. We will share both of those reports as we have them and the group from Nisonger will also be presenting their findings at the [OPRA Spring Conference](#).

**DRO Report:** Following the last budget cycle, a joint oversight committee was set up to monitor the activities of Ohio's Protection and Advocacy (P&A), organization, Disability Rights Ohio (DRO). The committee, which was chaired by Rep. Scott Lipps, held multiple hearings last year, hearing from many families, providers and other stakeholders who shared their experience working with DRO. Earlier this week, the committee released this report, outlining recommendations for Ohio's P&A program. The recommendations range from designating a new agency as Ohio's P&A group to setting up an advisory council of families to help guide DRO's activities. [You can read the report here.](#)

**Med Admin Guidance:** This week the department put out guidance related to [Medication Administration Support](#) with the hope that this document will provide some much needed guidance to providers when determining the appropriate supports for medication administration. Please reach out to the OPRA team with any questions about this guidance.



# 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 information on providing OhioRISE services, The previously mentioned Med admin guidance, OTS updates, protection from food stamp assistance fraud and more!

**GSFO Grant:** Our friends at the Good Sheperd Foundation of Ohio have shared their 2023 grant application, which supports extracurricular activities for people living in residential service settings. [You can download the application here.](#) Applications are due May 5th, 2023.

**Committees:** Next week we have both our Residential Waiver and ICF Committee meetings. We have much to discuss at both meetings and will also be having representatives from DODD on for both to provide updates. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with agenda topics you'd like included.

**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!](#)



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**OHIO'S DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CRISIS**



What is the Crisis? Partners Consequences of Inaction Solution Advocacy Resources [TAKE ACTION](#)

## 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 to convey 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 you'll have an opportunity to share your story.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

*Need some tips on how to structure your story? Visit [this link](#) for some writing prompts and tips.*

## Sign the Petition

Ohioans with disabilities cannot get the care and support they desperately need because of the unprecedented workforce shortage of skilled Direct Support Professionals caused by extremely low wages. Without critical support, people with developmental disabilities suffer!

Developmental disability providers are locked into reimbursement rates set by the State of Ohio. **Only action by state officials can resolve this issue.**

Please support the cause as we advocate for a solution to Ohio's Developmental Disability Crisis!

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

## Upcoming Events

[4/18: OPRA District 2 Meeting](#)

[4/19: OPRA ICF Committee Meeting](#)

[4/19: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee Meeting](#)

[4/26: HIPAA Training: Simple Preventions for Common HIPAA Breaches](#)

[Click here for DODD April Trainings](#)

## News & Resources

["President's Committee for People With Intellectual Disabilities to hold Public Meeting May 1"](#)

["Deaf, blind communities ask lawmakers to appropriate funds for services to meet needs"](#)

["DeWine announces nearly \\$3M in mental health aid for those impacted by traumatic events"](#)

["Ask the expert: What can the workplace do to break the stigma behind developmental disabilities?"](#)





Ohio Provider Resource Association

## SPRING CONFERENCE

May 18-19, 2023

KEYNOTE

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