

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 28, 2023

State Budget: On April 26th, the Ohio House of Representatives voted [House Bill 33 \(the state operating budget\)](#) out of the House with a vote of 77 yeas and 19 nays. The bill included the investments we discussed on last week's Friday call- funding across services to support statewide average wages of \$17/hour starting 1/1/24 and then statewide average wages \$18/hour on 7/1/24 and drawing down full match for OOD services. This week, the coalition of DD associations [released a statement expressing gratitude](#) to the House for their generous support of our services. In the spirit of gratitude, we encourage you to also send a thank you email to your Representatives who voted "yea" for the bill, especially if your Representative served on [the House Finance Committee](#). The thank you does not need to be detailed- simply thank your Representative for supporting services for Ohioans with developmental disabilities in House Bill 33 and provide a sentence or two about how the funding will support your organization. You can find the budget guide that includes the directory for the House so you can find the relevant email address [here](#). You can also access all of OPRA's State Budget Resources by clicking [here](#).

Budget Testimony: We now officially turn all of our advocacy efforts to the Senate! Directors Corcoran and Hauck testified in the Senate Medicaid Committee on Thursday April 26th. Neither Directors faced too many questions from the committee and the sessions were relatively short, especially when compared to recent hearings in the House Finance Committee. [You can watch the hearing here](#). The Medicaid Committee will host public testimony next Thursday (May 4th) at 9 where Pete and the coalition will present testimony in support of additional increases. We will be sending out information on how to submit written testimony in the Medicaid Committee later this week. Additionally, Director Miller of OOD testified on Tuesday in the Senate Health Committee. [You can watch his testimony here starting at the 44-minute mark](#). We will be organizing testimony in the Health Committee in support of ODD's budget on May 10th. We will send information about how to submit testimony to the Health Committee next week.



CMS Access Rules: Yesterday CMS released the proposed access-related rules for HCBS services, [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P\) and Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS-2439-P\)](#). OPRA will be reviewing these and will provide updates for members. An initial takeaway is that these rules essentially establish new strategies for oversight and monitoring as well as putting those pieces of quality assurance and improvement into HCBS programs. We will have a more in-depth analysis as we work through the full rules packet.

Wage Verification: This week the department announced that they will be launching the [2022 direct support professional compensation survey](#) on May 1st. If you provided HPC services in calendar year 2022, you MUST fill out this survey. Links will be sent out to each agency's primary contact on May 1st. The survey must be completed by July 16th. DODD is also offering some virtual training webinars if you need a refresher (see Memo Monday link on next page) or haven't completed the survey before.



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 the DSP compensation study (from previous page), the OTS 2021 data report and webinar on May 3rd, the Office of Compliance name change and much 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.

Training Opportunity: OPRA member, [CEUCertificates.com](#), in collaboration with The Academy for Professional Development, is now offering online courses that meet Director of Operations requirements. This series, called Guiding Your Team, is also appropriate training for Agency CEOs, Program directors, Front line supervisors, SSA managers, and other Team leaders. These courses are available on-demand and can be [found for your review here](#). Please reach out to Debra@ceucertificates.com with any questions.



2023 GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT MELISSA FANNON,
OPRA EVENTS MANAGER @ MFANNON@OPRA.ORG

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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

5/2: DODD Community Resource Coordinators (CRCs) Open Door Office Hours

5/4: OPRA Day and Employment Services Committees

[Click here for DODD May Trainings](#)

News & Resources

"Our workforce is weary': Advocates ask state to fund raises for direct support workers"

"Income and sales tax cuts part of massive Ohio budget passed by House"

"What comes next in the debt ceiling showdown"

"Disability Programs At Risk In Federal Budget Battle, Advocates Warn"





Ohio Provider Resource Association

SPRING CONFERENCE

May 18-19, 2023

KEYNOTE

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KEYNOTE



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