

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 5, 2023

Budget Testimony: We have a lot of people to thank today. Yesterday we were able to provide testimony in front of the Senate Medicaid Committee, chaired by Senator Mark Romanchuk on HB33, the State Operating Budget. We couldn't be more proud of the effort and the message sent by providers and families as they shared their stories of the workforce crisis. In addition to Pete's testimony as part of our coalition panel, we would also like to thank our provider panel of OPRA Members Dan Connors and Stacey Browning (family member) of St. Joseph Home in Cincinnati, Scott DeLong and Mindy Moats of CRSI, and Ashley Brocious and Dan and Taylor Hinkle of RT Industries and Stacey Rockoff and Cynthia Hornish of Koinonia for testifying. You can watch Pete, Dan, Scott, Mindy, and Ashley's [testimony here](#) (start at the 14 minute mark). You can see all of the submitted [testimony here](#). Next Wednesday the Senate Health Committee will hear public testimony on OOD's budget. Next Thursday the Senate Medicaid Committee will hear public testimony on DODD and the Department of Medicaid's budget. Christine sent out additional instructions on how to submit testimony in both of those committees. If you have any questions, please send them to [Christine](#)



PHE Unwinding: This week [CMS released QSO 23-13-all to coincide with the ending of the Public Health Emergency](#). As you know, the PHE is ending next Thursday, May 11th. As such, CMS released this QSO to address many questions, particularly surrounding staff vaccination. Per the QSO, "On May 11, 2023, the COVID-19 public health emergency is expected to expire. Considering these developments and comments received on the interim final rule, CMS will soon end the requirement that covered providers and suppliers establish policies and procedures for staff vaccination. CMS will share more details regarding ending this requirement at the anticipated end of the public health emergency." [OPRA will be virtual hosting a Town Hall Tuesday](#) on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 9:30am to present and discuss The End of the PHE and the CMS QSO that was released. We hope that you and your staff will join us.

HCBS Access Rule: Last week CMS released the proposed access-related rules for HCBS services, [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P0 and Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS 2439-P\)\)](#). OPRA will be reviewing these proposed rules and providing updates for members.

OADSP Event: Pete had the opportunity to speak at the OADSP's 2023 DSP Summit. on Wednesday He joined a panel with Rep. Gail Pavliga from Portage County and OADSP's Bethany Toledo to talk about the structure of government and about share insights about the budget and how DSPs can get involved in budget advocacy. We would like to thank Bethany Toledo and the OADSP team for being great hosts and allowing us to be a part of this event.



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 about entering ADS and Voc Hab service locations (we have reached out to DODD for some clarification), the wage verification survey process and related webinars and much more.

OTS Webinar: Earlier this week, DODD held a webinar walking through the latest data from reporting period 2021 of the Outcome Tracking System (OTS). The data primarily shows the impact of the pandemic on day and employment services. You can access the webinar by [registering here](#).

Blueprint Resources: Although many aspects of the previously proposed Blueprint initiatives will be not be considered for implementation until 2025, DODD is still looking to move forward with quality 'pilots' in the Fall of 2023, as well as looking to move forward with rate increases for Employment services to match OOD reimbursement rates. We are seeking further member feedback on the various proposals. Proposal info, as well as the video from this week's Day & Employment committee can be [found here](#). Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback.



2023 GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND



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

REGISTER: WWW.OPRA.ORG

[CLICK HERE TO PLAY!](#)

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

[5/9: OPRA Town Hall Tuesday: The End of the Public Health Emergency](#)

[5/18-19: OPRA Spring Conference](#)

[Click here for DODD May Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["Ohio House approves \\$88B state budget, sending it to Senate"](#)

["Home-Based Care Providers Wait For Word From CMS As White House Lifts Vaccine Requirements"](#)

["Paying Family Caregivers Could Alleviate Shortage Of Providers, Study Finds"](#)

["CDC Expands Autism Tracking"](#)





Ohio Provider Resource Association

SPRING CONFERENCE

May 18-19, 2023

KEYNOTE

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SPRING CONFERENCE – May 18-19, 2023

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