

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MAY 12, 2023

Spring Conference: We can't wait to see everyone at next week's 'sold out' Spring Conference. In addition to two full days of informative sessions, we will be hosting Keynote speakers Ryan Shazier with Dave Holmes, as well as a Derby-themed/Karaoke party, and much more! A huge thanks our presenters, sponsors and exhibitors for helping us put together the best event possible. See you all next week!



HCBS Access Rule: This week we learned more about the [Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services \(CMS 2442-P0 and Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality \(CMS 2439-P\)](#) rule. While there are many aspects of the proposed rule to work through, the piece that has been most concerning to providers is the proposed requirement that 80% of HCBS payments be allocated to direct support wages. However in further looking into this, most of the services that you all provide would fall under the “habilitation” definition from CMS. Currently, this 80% does not apply to habilitation. And that is one of the things that CMS is seeking comment on with this proposed rule – if that 80% should also apply to habilitation services. As we have stated, this rule will be open for comment. So certainly if you have comment you would like to make on this, please be sure to contact [Rachel](#). Additionally, our friends at ANCOR will also be providing much commentary on this rule.

PHE Unwinding: Earlier this week we held a [Town Hall Tuesday where we discussed what the end of the PHE means](#); what flexibilities are staying, what are going away, as well as taking a look at the [new CMS QSO which discusses the requirement that staff vaccinations will no longer be mandated](#). Now we did hope to see a little more information regarding this issue as CMS had stated that more information would be forthcoming prior to the end of the PHE. However, we did not receive any additional information on this. [CMS did put out an informational bulletin this week](#), however that had more to do with those 1135 waivers and temporary flexibilities that would be either continuing or ending. Also please remember those 1135 waivers also ended yesterday as well. So we will pay attention to that space and see if we get any more information from them.

Budget Testimony: We had the opportunity to [provide testimony in support of the OOD budget in the Senate Health Committee](#) this week. Thanks to Justin Blumhorst-Capabilities, Paul Soprano-UCP of Greater Cleveland and Tonya Reed-RTC Industries for traveling to Columbus to testify during what was a very busy day at the Statehouse. We would also like to thank Karen Wotjala and Quiana Tolliver from Koinonia, as well as Tim Neville and Colleen Clancy from Echoing Hills for their [testimony to the Senate Medicaid Committee](#) on Thursday this week. We are so appreciative of the budget advocacy of all of our members!



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 the recently released Family Engagement Survey, Wage verification office hours with DODD, and Ohio RISE and Provider Support open door office hours.

Blueprint Employment Proposal: Earlier this week, DODD shared a Q&A document related to recently proposed 'Employment Services Quality Program' through the Blueprint. OPRA is primarily supportive of this employment proposal and are advocating for its 'ASAP Implementation'. That said, we plan on providing further feedback to DODD next week regarding ideas to help better serve job seekers with the most complex service needs and alternative payment design for long-term employment follow-along supports. [The Employment proposal, as well as the Q & A document can be found on OPRA's website here.](#) Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback on the proposal.



2023 GOLF OUTING
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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](#)

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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

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

[Click here for DODD May Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["The Unintended Consequences Of CMS' Proposed HCBS Medicaid Rule"](#)

["Californians With Developmental Disabilities Must Soon Be Paid Minimum Wage. Can the State Find Enough Good Jobs?"](#)

["National Council on Disabilities: The Impacts of Extreme Weather Events on People with Disabilities"](#)

["CMS Issues Quality Safety & Oversight Memo on Ending of the Public Health Emergency"](#)





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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