

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 16, 2023

State Budget: Yesterday, the Ohio Senate voted House Bill 33 out of the Senate. The vote landed on party-lines, with 24 Republicans voting in favor of the bill and 7 Democrats voting against the bill. Although there still seemed to be universal support for the increase in our services, other issues in the budget likely led to the partisan split in the vote. There were a few notable changes to the bill from last week's Senate Finance Committee. Christine updated the presentation she gave last week to reflect the changes which you can read [here](#).



We want to once again thank our champions in the legislature, our system partners and most importantly, our members for all of the support and advocacy. The budget bill will now head to conference committee, which is charged with reconciling the differences in the Senate and House version of the budget.

Rule Update: This week we submitted comment on several rules in development. DODD rules are being proposed to align with [the Ohio Department of Medicaid's Draft Rule](#). We thanked the department for recognizing the importance of HPC services being provided to individuals while they are in an acute hospital setting. Additionally, we did provide comment on some of the shared living rule proposals namely being on record regarding some of our concerns with shared living, namely ODDP scores changing when an individual enters OSL and ensuring greater rate and oversight equity between independent and agency providers.

Waiver Workgroup: DODD's ongoing workgroup designed to work through and approve changes to Ohio's waiver services met this week with agenda items including the new rules out for review, appendix K transition resources, funding ranges for state budget adjustments and end dates for the retention program. [Click here to download the meeting minutes](#).

Home-Delivered Meals: Months back we, along with other system stakeholders, submitted clearance comments on proposed changes to the 'home-delivered meals rule'. Following a public hearing for the rule last week, DODD has adopted the changes that we and others advocated for, allowing meals to be delivered to a location of the individual's choosing, outside of just their residence. We hope that this change will allow for better flexibility for individuals to be able to access their meals. [The updated rule can be found here](#) and we expect the rule to go into effect on July 27th.

OOD Fee Schedule: With OOD on track to secure a significant budget increase through HB 33, the work has begun on how those new funds will be spent and allocated. Through this new investment, which will draw down the full federal grant available for the first time in almost 20 years, OOD is looking to serve approximately 7,000 people over the next few years, and invest more in their individual services. OOD's goals are to improve quality outcomes including median wages, credential attainment and measurable skill gains. Through a provider workgroup and several other avenues, we will work to get members connected to this effort to ensure that fee schedule changes reflect the real needs and opportunities for VR service providers in Ohio. Contact [Scott](#) with any questions.



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 a reminder for the DSP Compensation survey, memos on court ordered restrictions, restrictive measures, accreditation office hours, and the tech fest in Butler county later this month.

Calling All Speakers! OPRA is proud to announce that the call for session proposals is officially open for the 2023 OPRA Fall Conference. The conference will be in-person and hosted at Nationwide Conference Center on October 26th & 27th, 2023. We invite you to submit a thought-provoking, informative session with a clear outline of the tangible impact your presentation will have on attendees and their teams. [Click here to learn more.](#)



CMS Update: CMS has officially published their Final Rule regarding staff vaccination requirements. CMS does not expect reviewers to cite from this point going forward on staff vaccination. Should you be cited on staff vaccination, please reach out to [Rachel](#). Next week we will be hosting our Residential Waiver and ICF committee meetings on Wednesday June 21. We hope to see you there as we have much to talk about in both meetings.

JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY
JUNE 19



Juneteenth Resources: As the nation readies to celebrate the recently declared Federal holiday of Juneteenth this upcoming Monday, our friends at OOD recently shared this [Juneteenth reading list](#) from the State Library of Ohio. "The books on this list tell the story of Juneteenth, Emancipation, and Reconstruction after the Civil War. The books are grouped into three age categories: Adult, Teen/Middle Grade, and Picture Books. Books with an Ohio connection, such as an Ohio author or setting, are indicated by an Ohio flag."

Upcoming Events

[6/21: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee Meeting](#)

[6/21: OPRA ICF Committee Meeting](#)

[Click here for DODD June/July Trainings](#)

News & Resources

["Senate budget passes with no Democratic support. Now Ohio lawmakers will have to compromise"](#)

["Amid labor shortage, more Ohio businesses turn to employees with developmental disabilities"](#)

["Ohio lawmakers near a vote to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates, but will it be enough?"](#)

["Ohio lawmakers want to make July 1 Taylor Swift Day"](#)

