

OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 23, 2023

HHS Audits: We were recently made aware of audits being conducted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Health and Human Service Dept (HHS) through the Department of Medicaid in Ohio. The audits, which at this point seem to focus on day service providers, are intended to review state processes and Ohio's compliance with regulations and not intended to be a review of specific providers. We are aware of a few OPRA member agencies who have been subject to these reviews. Please let us know if you have experienced such an audit. [Click here to download the HHS letter and document request form.](#)

HCBS Access Rule: In the Policy committee meeting last week, we discussed a proposed federal rule called 'Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services' that has applications to various Medicaid services, including some HCBS services. CMS is proposing a number of requirements including a requirement that 80% of payments for certain waiver services must be used to compensate direct care workers. Right now, services for people with developmental disabilities do not appear to be included in the requirement. However, CMS asks for input on whether or not these services should be included.

[Press Release with key highlights](#)

[Rule and place for comments](#)

[ANCOR's Act on Access action alert](#)

Retention Bonus: DODD updated [their waiver retention bonus page](#) after the Biden administration announced the end of the COVID public health emergency. One change of note is that there will be a retention bonus payment for waiver work done between July-September. This payment was not listed on DODD's original communications about the payments and we received a number of questions about it. Please also note the payment deadline has been updated to 12/15 from a former 11/15/23.

Statehouse: It was a very active day at the statehouse on Wednesday as the legislature prepared to kick off conference committee, which started yesterday. The DD system is in a very strong spot heading into the conference committee. The committee will be going through nearly 900 points of contention (differences between the House and Senates versions of the budget). We believe our funding is not currently a point of contention/difference as the Senate did not change what the House did outside of adding the County Board contribution, which is not state GRF. There was also very good news yesterday about state revenues, which are \$387 million higher than expected for state fiscal year 2023 according to OBM's [Director Murnieks testimony in front of the Conference Committee](#). There was also a rally at the statehouse from other areas of the HHS system, Childcare, foodbanks, etc. The Rally centered around the lack of parity in the Senate's version of the budget. The Governor's message, basically started during the pandemic, has been about preserving parity and that was reinforced by the House version of the budget.

Wage Verification: Many of you are continuing to have difficulty with the Compensation Survey regarding entering something by mistake and not having the ability to "go back" to edit or correct. The Department is aware that this is a bug in the system. If you believe you have entered something incorrectly in the system and need to edit or revise, please contact [Rachel Blick](#) at the Department.



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 new funding for crisis intervention for COGs and CBs, Renewals and updates through PNM, upcoming behavior support workshops and much more.

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.](#)



Awards: OPRA is pleased to announce the call for nominations are now open for the 2023 OPRA Annual Awards. The purpose of the OPRA Annual Awards is to honor dedicated service professionals, groups and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions in the I/DD Field. We encourage all provider member agencies to submit nominations to recognize those that have worked hard and dedicated their time to help support the people they serve. We are accepting (2) nominations for each category per agency. Please take a moment to review the attached OPRA Awards Descriptions and coordinate with your staff before submitting your nominations. **All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, August 25th, 2023.** You can [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the Annual Award Form to submit your nomination. You will be asked to log into your OPRA account. Nominators will be contacted no later than Friday, September 8th regarding the status of your award nomination. Please reach out to [Sonya](#) if you have any questions about this year's nomination process



Upcoming Events

[6/27: Clearwater COG Tech Fest](#)

[7/6: OPRA Day & Employment Services Committee Meeting](#)

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

News & Resources

["Ohio House, Senate to hash out differences in state budget proposals as protesters decry funding levels"](#)

["KFF:Fiscal Implications for Medicaid of Enhanced Federal Funding and Continuous Enrollment"](#)

["Remembering Donald Triplett, the first person to be diagnosed with autism"](#)

["Sub-minimum wage work to be phased out for disabled Delawareans"](#)

