

# OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 30, 2023

**Budget Update:** We are in the final phases of the state budget process as The House and Senate are scheduled to meet this afternoon, assuming the Conference Committee is able to reconcile the differences between the two chambers in HB33. Though it does not appear that Governor DeWine will sign the budget by the statutory deadline this weekend, we hope the budget will be finalized and signed by the Governor without major delay. DODD has begun discussions with OBM to ensure provider payments will continue in the case there is any significant delay in finalizing the budget.

**Compliance Rules:** This week OPRA had the opportunity to provide comment on rules 5123-2-04 and 5123-3-06 regarding compliance reviews for certified and licensed providers. The rules, currently up for review, have been updated to adjust the reporting timelines and adjust all of the 'shalls' to 'wills' in the rules. Though these are fairly minor changes, we took the opportunity, while the rules are open, to advocate for continued compliance reform and a process that recognizes 'providers in good standing'. We provided comment, specifically on the 'abbreviated' review sections of the rules, advocating for expanded eligibility and self-assessments for established quality providers. We also requested DODD consider eliminating duplicative review processes for agencies that operate multiple sites and share policies across sites and throughout the agency. [Click here to download OPRA's rule comments.](#)

**OOD Works 4 Me:** We met with OOD a few times this week regarding their 5-year federal grant project called 'Works 4 Me'. The grant project provides approximately \$9M in funding to help workers with disabilities transition to competitive employment. Grant guidelines require the project to start with a pilot, which is getting underway in NE Ohio in Cuyahoga and Lake counties, working with 3 providers/employers before expanding statewide. We were also able to meet with DODD liaisons to the project, emphasizing the need to expand the project for interested providers and also provide for funding for Subject Matter Experts, providers with experience in such transitions, to help support the pilot and other participating providers. Through this project OOD is also looking to update their Career Counseling materials required by WIOA. Please reach out to [Scott](#) if you have any ideas on how the Career Counseling could be updated to be more useful and impactful.

**Blueprint:** As DODD prepares to implement a pair of 'Quality Pilot Projects' in both Adult Day Supports and Employment services, several Blueprint committee meetings have been scheduled over the next several weeks. Meetings of the Communication, Rule & Waiver, and Training & Technical Assistance committees will meet over the next few weeks to prepare for the rollout of the pilots, which DODD has indicated they hope to begin the application process for by the end of July. [Please review the ADS Quality Pilot Technical Implementation Guide here](#) and please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions about the project.

**Scream Room:** We are hosting a provider-only budget scream room on July 11th at 8:30 am. Christine previously sent out a calendar invite for the event. If you did not receive the invite and would like to join, please send [Christine](#) an email request for the invite.

**OPRA Comp. and Benefits Survey:** Christine is creating a small workgroup to review the current structure of OPRA's Compensation and Benefits Survey. The small workgroup will start meeting in August and meet every 2-3 weeks. If you are interested in joining, please let [Christine](#) know.



# 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 Survey upcoming deadlines, the ability to authorize HPC and OSL through the PHE unwinding, Commercial NMT maximum rates, retention bonus deadlines and 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

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

[Click here for DODD July Trainings](#)

## News & Resources

["Lawmakers approach deadline to finish final  
operating budget"](#)

["Lawmakers push to unseat Disability Rights  
Ohio as the state's official advocate for the  
disabled"](#)

["Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council seeks  
applications for new members"](#)

["Biden Administration Plans Crackdown On  
Disability Rights Violations"](#)

