SOC Code Bill: This week the US Senate's HSGAC (Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee) voted unanimously to move **Senate bill 1332** to the full US Senate for a vote. This bill would direct the US Bureau of Labor Statistics to create a **standard occupation classification code (SOC)** for DSPs. A SOC code would allow us to have better tracking of national data on DSPs like wages. There is still a long way to go to see this bill across the finish line, but this is a very important first step in the legislative process.

Compliance: Following after we made comments on the two revised compliance review rules, We had the opportunity to sit down with the leadership of DODD's recently renamed **'Office of Compliance'** to advance discussions around the future of compliance and oversight for DD providers. Reform of the oversight and compliance process is a priority for OPRA post-budget and this was a positive discussion around areas of potential collaboration and improvement. The discussion included;
·Process for letting her department know when you have a bad interaction with a reviewer.
·Consistency across all reviewers/processes.
·Acknowledgment of the ongoing workforce crisis and it's impact on service delivery.
·Redundancy of reviews for those of you who operate several sites.
·The culture around reviews and the stigma attached to receiving citations.
OPRA is currently developing a post-review feedback survey, designed to give us more concrete feedback about your review experience so we can share actual, not anecdotal feedback with DODD, ODH, and County Boards.

OOD/PreETS: Thanks to everyone who attended yesterday's meeting of the Employment Services committee to focus in on potential changes to OOD's fee schedule. We generated several ideas and positions to put forward in OOD's provider workgroup. A major topic of discussion was Pre Employment Transition Services (PreETS), which OOD is required to spend at least 15% of their case service budget on. While there is much work to be done to make this a more viable service for providers, OOD also announced this week that they are no longer requiring providers to submit their PreETS curriculums. Providers are still expected to utilize a curriculum that meets standards, but will no longer have to submit for approval through OOD. Reach out to Scott with questions.

I-9 Changes: Our partners at Vorys sent out an alert earlier this week, outlining **the revised I-9 form that will be available on 8/1/23.** Per the Vorys Bulletin; "Starting August 1, 2023, employers should start using the 08/01/2023 edition of the Form I-9. However, employers may continue to use the 10/21/2019 edition through October 31, 2023..Improvements to the new 08/01/2023 edition of the Form I-9 include clearer and substantially shorter instructions, which provides guidance on acceptable receipts and the auto-extension of some documents found on the Lists of Acceptable Documents. Among other changes, the new form reduces Sections 1 and 2 to a single-sided sheet, and is designed to be fillable on tablets and mobile devices. The Preparer/Translator section that used to be in Section 1, and the Section 3 Reverification and Rehire section are both being moved to a standalone supplement that employers can use as needed." Please reach out to the OPRA team with questions.

Memo Monday/Pipeline: Click here to download DODD's **Memo Monday**, including information on the updated Home-Delivered Meals rule, Behavioral Support surveys, provider training series dates, and the provider support team's open door office hours.

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.**

PRF: Reporting for phase 5 funding of the federal Provider Relief Fund (PRF) is now open. Providers who received PRF funding of at least $10,000 in the aggregate from January 1 to June 30, 2022 need to report on spending by September 30th, 2023. **You can find more information here**- or you can email Christine with any questions.

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.

Upcoming Events

8/3: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

8/8: OPRA HR Committee Meeting

8/10: OPRA Healthcare Committee

8/11: Tech Summit 2023

Click here for DODD July/August Trainings

News & Resources

"DeWine announces $7,000 in education support for fall term for Ohioans with Disabilities"

"Study reveals the best and worst US cities for students with disabilities"

"Prioritizing accessibility at the 2023 Ohio State Fair"

"The Vast Surveillance Network That Traps Thousands of Disabled Medicaid Recipients"

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