

# OPRA FRIDAY 5

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 4, 2023

**ICF Rates:** Earlier this week DODD finalized and released the ICF rates for Fiscal Year 2024. The rates include the workforce development add-on of 13.55% of direct care costs as well as an increase in the ventilator add-on. DODD sent out a notice earlier this week that providers should be able to bill all July claims through MITS or EDI with the new rate packages. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions.

**Waiver Redesign:** Earlier this week, DODD held the first in a series of regular monthly meeting with DD stakeholders regarding [the HCBS Waiver Redesign project](#) being led by contractor, DeLoitte. DODD shared that DeLoitte's process is starting with the DDP and AAI and trying to determine whether the assessments are/can be an accurate tool to predict costs. We know the redesign will also focus on HPC in a congregate setting and determining/designing rate models that support and simplify these services. DODD and DeLoitte are engaged in a national scan of service/rate models and putting out surveys to providers and county boards to help determine cost data and funding sustainability models. DODD is also convening provider focus groups specifically for Remote Supports and Ohio Shared Living, as well. OPRA is contracting with Chris Whistler, who was instrumental in helping ICFs navigate the Budget process, to assist us in developing our own roadmap and data strategy for this the waiver redesign process.

**Quality Pilot Application (Delay):** We sent a message earlier this week that CMS has not yet approved the funding for the ADS Quality Pilot we have been discussing for the past several weeks. The application for the pilot, which was intended for release on August 1st, will have to await that approval from CMS. If you are still interested in learning more about the pilot project, you can download the [Technical Implementation Guide here](#). Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback about the project. We will let members know as soon as we learn of the approval.

**Policy Committee:** Next Wednesday, August 9th at 10 am, we will be having a policy committee meeting to discuss the system reform items originally developed by our budget coalition last year. Due to the intensity of the budget advocacy, some of these system reform items were put on hold. We are ready to dust them off and talk about next steps in moving these items forward. We will be asking for your feedback through committee discussion and also utilizing live polling as we review the system reform ideas that are on the table.

**Jamming for DSPs:** We would like to thank and congratulate OADSP on their 'Jamming for DSPs' event last Friday night. This music-themed event, hosted at the Columbus Zoo's Africa Center, kicks off a season of DSP appreciation and helps to raise funds for the [Annual DSP Recognition event in September](#). OPRA is a proud OADSP booster and we had a great time at the event, which featured the band Session 5 and Zayne Harshaw of the Blue Spectrum band. Scott even performed a couple of songs, but unfortunately the kazoos he distributed for the big 'kazoo-along' were not up to par.



# 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 reposted information on the Tech Ambassadors RFP, a memo on facilitated discussion on community-integrated services with the CLE team and more...

**CMS:** This week CMS sent a letter to all state Medicaid directors regarding the use of the 1915c HCBS waivers through the Appendix K flexibilities. Appendix k flexibilities are set to expire 6 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency on November 11, 2023. CMS have issued guidance to the state Medicaid directors that those flexibilities may be extended beyond November 11th if the state acts to incorporate those flexibilities into underlying HCBS services. We will keep following this space and make sure to let everyone know as we gather more information.

**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.](#)

**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

[8/8: OPRA HR Committee Meeting](#)

[8/10: OPRA Healthcare Committee](#)

[8/11: Tech Summit 2023](#)

[Click here for DODD August Trainings](#)

## News & Resources

["CMS Allows States To Extend PHE-Era Flexibilities For HCBS"](#)

[""Critical but often overlooked," Ohioans face challenges when accessing dental care"](#)

["Education funding available for Ohioans with disabilities"](#)

["Do you or your loved one have a disability? Here's how to attend the Ohio State Fair"](#)

