

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 5, 2024

OPRA is proud and excited to welcome Teresa Kobelt to the team. Teresa will be taking on the role of Chief Innovation Officer. As CIO, Teresa will play a crucial role in launching OPRA into its next 50 years; Driving creative solutions, building partnerships, fostering a culture of innovation, and firmly establishing OPRA as a leader of innovation and systems change. Over the course of her career, Teresa has run a large provider agency, led an Adult Services department, and served as Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, overseeing such key initiatives as Early Intervention, Family Engagement & Support, Trauma-Informed Care, and Employment First. Most recently, Teresa helped launch the Office of Policy at OCALI, a global leader in autism and disability. More than any classroom or professional role, however, Teresa's greatest learning experiences have come from her kids — both of whom have multiple disabilities. You can welcome Teresa to the team by reaching out at Tkobelt@opra.org.



ICF Trade Meeting: We had the opportunity to meet as associations representing ICFs to discuss some of the current issues and trends, especially as they relate to ODH surveys. Notably, we have seen an increase in citations for PRN medications, particularly for mental health diagnosis. There is a concern that a prohibition of PRN meds could result in a situation affecting health and safety. It's not feasible to call each time and get an order right then for many reasons. CMS stated they know that there are times it's needed but they are strongly concerned with people becoming over-medicated. ODH has had conversations about this with CMS and they are looking to provide more guidance. As a reminder, our [review/survey feedback form can be found on the website here](#).

Telehealth Assessment: This week we also attended a meeting on the 'telehealth assessment' waiver service DODD is looking to bring up in order to make the 'Station MD-type' pilot program a permanent service option. We reviewed some potential rule language as well as Station MD's process and how that can be operationalized into rule. While there is much to still work through, we are hopeful at the opportunity for this service, which many members have utilized, to become a permanent option for waiver services and beyond.

ES Coach: Thanks to everyone who attended our Day and Employment services committee yesterday. We had some great discussions, as well as hosting a team from the Institute for Community Inclusion in Boston to share their 'ES Coach' resource. While we have shared information on this free resource before, it was great to have the team from ICI speak in detail about the resource, which is essentially an app that employment professionals put on their phone, which then gives a daily activity prompt. We've heard great feedback about the app, which is still free for participating providers through 2024. [You can learn more here](#). Reach out to [Scott](#) with questions.

Pre-Voc Proposal: Formal feedback on the latest proposal for pre-vocational and employment services is due into DODD next week. [Information on the proposal can be found on the website here](#). Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any feedback by Wednesday, January 10th, if possible.



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: Click here to read this week's [Memo Monday](#), covering topics such as Medicaid Maximum Rate Increases Effective January 1, 2024, Retention Payment Program Ending, Supporting People Involved in the Criminal Justice System, Provider Certification Office Hours and more!

**JOIN OPRA FOR
A NIGHT OUT!**



When: Sunday, March 3 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse
Fee: \$150

To purchase CAVS tickets scan the QR code
Includes: Early VIP Entry, Pre-game Reception, Pre-assigned Seat



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Prevention Plan Training for Providers and SSAs

The training will focus on how teams can use the causes and contributing factors identified through the MUI/UI investigation, to proactively mitigate risk and safeguard the well-being of people we serve, their providers, families and others. We will discuss how to identify the root causes that led to the incident occurring and how to develop a well-defined, effective, realistic prevention plan based on those identified root causes.

- [1/10/24 10A-12P MV Developmental Center](#)
- [1/17/24 10A-12P ODOT](#)
- [2/6/24 10A-12P Perry County Community Center](#)
- [2/29/24 10A-12P Wood County JFS Office](#)
- [3/13/24 1P-3P Muskingum Valley ESC](#)
- [3/19/24 1P-3P Mahoning CBDD](#)
- [4/3/24 10A-12P Summit County JFS Office](#)
- [4/10/24 10A-12P Big Creek Center, Parma](#)
- [4/24/24 10A-12P Hamilton County DDS](#)
- [5/7/24 10A-12P Marimor School](#)
- [5/21/24 10A-12P Greene County JFS](#)
- [5/21/24 1:30P-3:30P Miami CBDD](#)

Upcoming Events

[1/24: HIPAA Training: Authorizations for Release of Information Online Workshop](#)

[Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events](#)

News and Resources

[“ANCOR: The State of America’s Direct Support Workforce Crisis 2023”](#)

["Ohio politics: The biggest stories in state government coming in 2024"](#)

["Settlement Will Send Millions To SSI Beneficiaries"](#)

[People With Disabilities Hope Autonomous Vehicles Deliver Independence](#)

