

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 22, 2024

SOC Bill: On Wednesday, [the US Senate passed the 'Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act \(S. 1332\)'](#), otherwise known as the 'SOC Code' bill. The bill urges the US Office of Management and Budget to create a Standard Occupational Classification code for DSPs, helping to strengthen and professionalize the direct support workforce. Per our partners at ANCOR; "The creation of a unique classification for DSPs is critical in enabling comprehensive and accurate data collection, allowing policymakers to better address the direct support workforce crisis. It is also important in helping states in setting reimbursement rates and stabilizing DSP wages." This bill has been a priority for ANCOR and OPRA has helped to advocate for it with Ohio's congressional delegation during our trips to Washington and in follow-up meetings. As the bill has passed the Senate, we have also had very positive meetings with US Representatives, including Rep. Marcy Kaptur's office in supporting the legislation in the House. [You can read more about the SOC bill here.](#) Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Federal Funding: [Earlier today, Congress passed a \\$1.2T spending package](#) in an effort to avoid a government shutdown. You can read highlights of what is in the [spending bill here](#). Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.

Primaries: Ohio held its primary elections on Tuesday, nominating Republican Bernie Moreno to challenge Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown for his US Senate seat. In state politics, we saw the primary unseat a handful of legislators, notably Rep. Sara Carruthers, who had chaired the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and helped advance the investments in DD services in last summer's state budget. [You can read the full results of Tuesday's primary here.](#)

Employment Service RFP: In this week's Memo Monday, DODD released an RFP for Employment Services, to coincide with the upcoming rule changes that will introduce outcome-based payments into our waiver Employment Services. Per the memo; "The awarded entity will partner with DODD to develop training content or e-learning courses related to employment services topics that will be uploaded onto DODD's MyLearning platform....An informational webinar will be offered on March 27, 2024, at 10 AM". [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

District Meetings: We would like to thank our OPRA Board Representatives and all of the members who attended and participated in this past week's meetings in Districts 3 and 6. We appreciate the great discussion and opportunities for connections within the OPRA community.

OOD and Works 4 Me: In addition to [the 'outreach funds' intended for providers who utilize 14c certificates to help communicate about the Works For Me Project](#), OOD has just released a Provider Subject Matter Expert grant, which [can be found here](#). This funding is intended for a provider who can support others help people attain competitive employment. A Family Engagement Coordinator will be released soon. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with questions.

Employment Quality: DODD Released info on an upcoming Employment Service Quality Readiness project ahead of upcoming rule changes. [The proposal and application can be found here.](#)



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](#), which includes Info on 'Severe Weather Week', the ARPA HCBS Workforce grantees, new RFPs for Employment Services, ICF training, and the Works 4 Me Provider SME, the Employment Quality Readiness application (submission date changed to April 9th!) and much more...

Eclipse: Reminder that the Solar Eclipse is happening on Monday, April 8th. Many portions of Ohio will be impacted by the path of the solar eclipse. [OPRA has put together a ppt with a list of resources](#) for providers and will continue to provide updates. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions.



MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER!

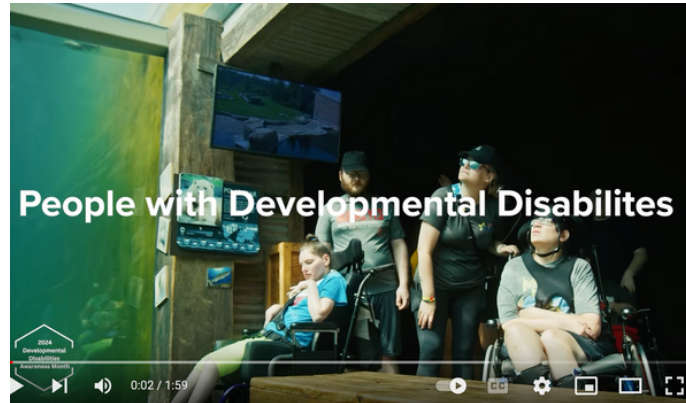


Accountability in the Workplace

- Boost in employee morale
- Increased goal attainment rates
- Restored culture of accountability

Alex Sheen

Speaker | Author | Humanitarian



Developmental Disabilities Awareness:

March is DD Awareness month, please check out the above video (click on image to view) from our friends at Silfies Media. You can share this video on your social media or other outlets to spread the awareness!

Upcoming Events

4/4: OPRA Day Array Committee

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News and Resources

“Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: A World of Possibilities”

“Navigating future planning: Aging and intellectual and developmental disabilities”

“Ohio’s Primary Election Results”

“Disabled victims, under-reported crimes center of new research”





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