

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JUNE 14, 2024

**Tele-Health Service:** This week the Department sent notice that the new Health Care Assessment waiver service was being removed from the current waiver amendment and that the service will not be available on July 1st as planned. Per the Department, CMS has questions regarding the service and offered Ohio two options to address those questions. The state could either remove the service and work through the CMS questions informally or request an extension of our current waivers and to respond to formal questions. The latter option would have delayed implementation of the additional July 1st waiver changes. Therefore, the decision was made to pull the service for now and to try and get this worked out with CMS. DODD will be utilizing state funds to continue to support those currently enrolled in the Station MD pilot so that services will not be interrupted for those individuals.

**Legislative Update:** Legislative Update: HB 236 (Never Alone Act)- Yesterday the Ohio House passed HB 236. The bill now moves to the Ohio Senate for consideration. The General Assembly is set to break for the summer in a few weeks, so it is unclear if the bill will have an opportunity to be heard in committee. We will continue to keep everyone updated as the bill now moves through the Senate.

**Additional State Budget Survey Opportunity:** The Ability Center is conducting a study of how the budget increases are impacting providers and DSPs across the HCBS waiver programs. They are currently seeking providers to participate in focus groups about how providers are passing on the increases. If you are interested in participating in a focus group, please reach out to Jules Patalita ([jpatalita@abilitycenter.org](mailto:jpatalita@abilitycenter.org)).

**Advocacy Army:** We are pleased to announce registration for the second iteration of Advocacy Army is now open! The training will keep much of the content from last round with new opportunities for advocacy practice. [You can learn about the changes and register here.](#) Pete and Christine will be reviewing the changes after next week's Friday Member Call. Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.

**OISP:** Reminder that for people receiving HCBS waiver services and in ICFs must have an OISP in the system by June 30th. This standard is being added to the compliance tools on July 1st, 2024. However, during the transition, the department and ODH have stated that there will be no citations issued related to plans not being in the online system until January 1, 2025. Please keep these dates in mind as you work through the process of changing over ISP's.

**OPRA Compensation Survey:** There is still time to complete OPRA's Compensation, Benefits and Turnover survey! Members who complete the survey receive a free copy of the survey report. Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions on the survey or survey process.



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

**Memo Monday:** Click here to read this week's DODD [Memo Monday](#), which includes info on the Wage Verification survey deadline, the Health Care Assessment service mentioned above, the Employment Quality Readiness program and more!

**CESP Data Study:** OPRA is collecting data on the efficacy/impact of the CESP credential. The data collection tool and instructions can be found on the [website here](#). Please reach out to Scott with any questions and/or if you are interested in being part of a qualitative data discussion regarding your experience with the credential.

**Station MD Survey:** Our friends at Nisonger are encouraging those of you who have experience with StationMD to participate in a survey. They are trying to increase participation in their study from provider agency or ICF staff who have experience with StationMD (DSPs, nurses, Directors, etc.). Provider agency staff can take a [survey and participate in a focus group by clicking here](#).



Congratulations to the Belco Works team on the groundbreaking on their new 'Next Gen' Facility. We were able to attend the ground breaking event, along with a big turnout from the Belmont County community, for the new venture which will be the hub for new community-focused services. Congratulations to Anne and the entire Belco team and community!

## Upcoming Events

6/19: OPRA Residential Waiver Committee

6/19: OPRA ICF Committee

6/20: OPRA Healthcare Committee Meeting

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

## News & Resources

“Business groups seek stay of Labor Department overtime rule’s effective date”

“VOICES: Everyone can play a role in helping support fathers”

“Uber Launching Service To Help Caregivers”

“Loneliness and social isolation: What to know and how to help promote social connection ”



# RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR DISABILITY PROFESSIONALS!

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center needs your help in a research study to improve services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**We want to hear from you!**

**Are you a disability professional who worked in Ohio's disability field between 2012-2024?**

**Do you have experience with Ohio's Employment First Transition Framework?**



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## Who can participate?

- Disability professionals who worked in Ohio in the disability field any time between 2012-2024.
- Must also be familiar with Ohio's Employment First Transition Framework.
- Must also currently live in Ohio.

## What will study participants be asked to do?

- Participants will take part in a virtual focus group with other Disability Professionals to discuss their experiences with Ohio's Employment First Transition Framework. The focus group will last 90 minutes.
- Participants will also be asked to complete a short online demographics form. This form will take 10-15 minutes to complete.

**If you would like to know more, please  
contact Jessie Green**

**Email: [Jessie.green@osumc.edu](mailto:Jessie.green@osumc.edu)**

**Phone: 614-685-3189**



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