

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 9, 2024

**Award Nominations:** We are currently accepting your nominations for the 2024 OPRA Annual Awards to be held at this year's Fall Conference. The Awards Ceremony Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25th from 11:30am – 1:30pm at the Hilton Polaris. 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. [Click here to submit your nominations.](#) You can also email your nominations or direct any questions to [Sonya](#).

**Recreational Cannabis:** Recreational marijuana sales began this week, presenting a tricky situation, both as employers and as providers. After last November, OPRA hosted Vorys to do a presentation on employer obligations under the new laws; [you can view the presentation and some other resources here.](#) DODD has also previously published [guidance that can be found here.](#) As your agencies sort the various complex issues related to the sale of recreational marijuana, send these scenarios to [Christine](#). We will be compiling these examples for further guidance from either DODD or Vorys.

**ICF Rates:** Yesterday we met with Plante Moran as we are taking a deep dive into the ICF cost report data. Given the wage increases, this has been a critical year for ICFs. We will be hosting Denise Leonard and TJ Ely from Plante Moran at our next ICF committee meeting on August 21st. Denise and TJ will present some of their information as well as hit on some recommendations for ICF providers to implement. Both our ICF and RW committees will meet on 8/21. If there are certain issues or questions or topics or speakers that you would like to see at those meetings, please reach out to [Rachel](#).

**Day Array Co-Chair:** As discussed over the past few weeks, we are looking for a new Co-chair for the Day Array Committee. The new co-chair would join Anne Haning as chairs of the committee. [The short survey/application is linked here](#) for anyone who is interested in applying. The committee meets on the first Thursday of every other month, with the remaining meetings in October and December of 2024. We appreciate the interest in the co-chair position and are looking forward to seeing your applications. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.



**Advocacy Army:** It's the last call for registration for next week's first session of OPRA Advocacy Army. In order to capitalize on the Membership's energy, OPRA developed Advocacy Army to arm providers, families, and Ohioans with I/DD with the skills and knowledge of how to be great legislative advocates. [You can learn more and register here.](#) Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.




# 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 finalized FY25 ICF rates, Home-delivered Meals guidance, tools to protect against EBT theft, the OTS trainings and resources (also linked below) and more!



## ADVANCE PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Brought you by the  ADVANCE  
THINKTANK

The **2024 ADVANCE Partnership Summit** aims to foster unity among Provider and County Board leadership teams, Associations, and DODD, igniting a spirit of "positive disruption" across the sector and within each participating group.

Registration is Open!

September 23 - 25, 2024

Embassy Suites, Dublin

\*Participants are required to register in organizational teams of at least three.

[Register HERE!](#)



### **DSP Initiative - "CHANGE A LIFE" Campaign:**

OPRA members and friends have partnered with the Sheldon sisters, Jacy and Emmy, on a [video to spread awareness](#) about the Direct Support Professional field and the state's investment in disability service wages. These videos can be customized for any provider's use by reaching out to Dave Rastoka at [Drastoka@eautism.net](mailto:Drastoka@eautism.net). The \$1,000 fee for the video customization will all go towards a statewide commercial campaign.

## Upcoming Events

8/14: OPRA Advocacy Army Session 1

8/20: Blitz Media Workshop: How to Increase the Quantity & Quality of DSP Applicants

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

## News & Resources

Upcoming Outcome Tracking System (OTS) Trainings and Resources

"New bill proposals aim to make it easier for disabled individuals to save money"

OPRA Resource Page for Issue 2/Recreational Cannabis

"The Autism CARES Act of 2024 Advances through Congress"

