

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

AUGUST 23, 2024



Registration is officially open for OPRA's Fall Conference, which will be held at the Polaris Hilton on October 24-25. This will be a special conference for OPRA as we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary! The event will include a 50th anniversary gala, our award ceremony, as well as all of the sessions and networking opportunities you expect from an OPRA conference. [Click here to learn more and register!](#) Please contact [Melissa](#) with any questions about the conference. We hope to see you there!

Provider Cert Rules: This week we provided feedback on both the Agency Provider Certification and the Licensed Facility Administration rules. We are supportive of DODD's proposal to establish a 'Direct Support Assistant' role for staff who are 16/17 years old, who can provide services in a limited capacity. DODD is also proposing to remove the requirement for DSPs to hold a High School or equivalent degree. These changes make permanent the waiver that has been in place for the past few years. We also proposed that DODD allow more flexibility in training requirements and to move away from the 'Director of Operations' designation for an agency lead.

OOD Fee Schedule: OOD sent a message this week that their fee schedule proposal has cleared the JCARR (Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review) process, making it on track for implementation October 1st, as planned.

Non-Compete Ban Blocked: Earlier this week, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas struck down the FTC's non-compete ban, permanently and nationally. According to the court, the FTC "exceeded its statutory authority in implementing the rule, and the rule is arbitrary and capricious." [Click here to read more from our partners at Vorys.](#)

Respite Home RFPs: Our friends at the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (SWOCOG), reached out to us, asking us to share these RFPs for 2 respite homes in South West Ohio. [The RFPs can be found on the SWOCOG site here.](#) You can reach out to [Joan Justiniano at SWOCOG](#) with questions.



Award Nominations: We are currently accepting your nominations for the 2024 OPRA Annual Awards to be held at this year's Fall Conference. 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](#).



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 new housing resources, an OISP production update, the upcoming training "Building Bridges: Developing Valued Relationships Between DSPs and Families and other updates.

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 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.

Recreational Cannabis Resources: Following last week's update on Adult Use sales, we continue to get questions. We wanted to reshare the presentation from Vorys and additional resources on this topic. [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.



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. The \$1,000 fee for the video customization will all go towards a statewide commercial campaign.

Upcoming Events

9/5: OPRA Day & Employment Services Committee Meeting

9/10-11: Advocacy Army Session 2

10/24-25: OPRA Fall Conference

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

"Governor DeWine Announces Launch of New Innovation Hub in Dayton"

"Millions Headed To States To Support Disability Housing"

"Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine tests positive for COVID as cases rise"

"Kansas Gov. Signs Bill To Eliminate Subminimum Wage For Disabled Employees"

