

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

OCTOBER 18, 2024



**Conference!:** We look forward to seeing everyone next week at our Fall Conference and OPRA 50th Anniversary celebration gala. We're at full capacity for the conference, gala and PAC fundraiser, so are excited about a great week of learning and connecting. See you next week!

**Payment Issues:** Between the FI transition delaying adjustment claims, issues regarding EVV, and other system glitches, we have received many emails from members experiencing significant payment delays. We are working with system partners to try to resolve these issues and/or get payments resumed and will keep in touch with members as we do.

**Case for Inclusion:** Our friends at ANCOR and United Cerebral Palsy have released their annual 'Case for Inclusion' report, which has focused on the impact of DSP workforce shortages over the past few years. This year's report is presented as a data snapshot, which shows that national DSP wages have increased to \$15.79 as turnover and vacancy rates have decreased. The report also mentions new methods for capturing how many people are on waiting lists and 'Interest lists' to better capture how many people are really waiting to receive services. [You can read the Data Snapshot here.](#)

**Supported Decision Making:** After an 8-month grant project completed by Ohio APSI and its partners, The DODD Supported Decision-Making Project Toolkit is now available [here](#). This toolkit is intended to "make a substantial impact on the understanding and utilization of supported decision-making and other forms of self-determination." APSI will be presenting at our conference next week to share more information about this project and toolkit.

**Adult Use Cannabis FAQ:** As mentioned on this morning's call, we received the frequently asked questions document from our partners at Vorys regarding recreational marijuana/adult use cannabis. The FAQs are divided into two basic categories- first with questions regarding to what policies you can implement as employers and then move to questions about what policies you can implement as providers. This is intended to be a "living" document. As you continue to sort through situations involving recreational marijuana, please feel free to send them to us and we will update the document to provide additional guidance. [The FAQ document can be found here](#). Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any additional questions.

**OPRA Networks:** Don't forget to register for the next round of Professional Networks. Networks are for CEOs, CFOs, Program Managers, and QIDPs. The next network meetings will take place on 10/23 from 12:00 – 1:30 at the Polaris Hilton. Register [here](#). You do NOT have to attend the conference to attend the network meetings. For more information on the networks, please email [Teresa](#).



# 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 Payment Error Rate Measurement, My Care Ohio, Charting the LifeCourse Showcase, and an upcoming Innovative Employment webinar with TAC.

**DD Council Survey:** Our friends at the Ohio DD Council have reached out to share their 5-year state plan survey. The feedback in this survey will inform the projects and initiatives the Council will support in 2026 and beyond. [You can access the survey here.](#)

**Works For Me:** OPRA has recently entered into a partnership with OOD to coordinate and facilitate the 'Provider Subject Matter Expert' and 'Family Mentor' initiatives that are a part of the Works For Me project, which aims to support people to attain competitive integrated employment. OPRA has brought on a contractor, Mark Miller, to help support the project. Reach out to [Scott](#) with questions.

**COVID Tests:** The US government is providing free COVID-19 tests to households this year. Every US household is eligible for 4 tests. Visit [COVID Tests.gov](#) to register. To order the accessible tests, please click [here](#). Tests distributed are able to detect the dominant variants that are circulating, including the subvariant KP.3.1.1 and KP.3.



**NDEAM:** October is [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#).

The links to take you to a library of resources from the Office of Disability Employment Policy, including a new animated video. We look forward to seeing all of your NDEAM celebrations over the coming month! "Each October, during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, or "NDEAM," we celebrate the value and talent workers with disabilities add to America's workplaces and economy. NDEAM's purpose is to confirm our commitment to ensuring disabled workers have access to good jobs, every month of every year. That's the spirit behind this year's official theme: "Access to Good Jobs for All."

## Upcoming Events

10/23: OPRA Professional Network Meetings  
(click to register)

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

## News & Resources

"Ohio changed rules for returning ballots at drop boxes. Here's what you need to know"

"These Apps Help People With Disabilities Travel More Easily"

"Uber Launches Improvements To Boost Accessibility"

"New Senate Bill Seeks to Amend HIPAA with Mandatory Minimum Healthcare Cybersecurity Standards"





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