OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

We want to thank everyone for being a part of our Fall Conference and 50th anniversary celebration. To our attendees, vendors, sponsors, presenters, and visiting puppies, we couldn't have done it without you! This year's conference included several breakout sessions, pre-conference professional networks, our annual awards ceremony, 50th anniversary gala and so much more. We also want to thank keynote speaker Adriann Negreros, who also presented in our leadership track, for kicking off the conference with his inspiring and practical message. It was a great few days and we are so thankful for all of the members and partners who celebrated, networked and learned with us last week. We look forward to next year's Spring Conference, which will be held at the Easton Hilton in Columbus on May 29-30, 2025.

MUI Workgroup: Earlier this week the department gathered the MUI stakeholder group to discuss the changes that had been made to the proposed draft of the rule. Thank you to all of you who sent in comments or concerns regarding the rule and its potential impact on the system. As of now, the plan is to try and get the rule filed by the end of November. The rule would still go through it's comment period and JCARR. Please let Rachel know if you have any questions.

Election Day: The November 5th election is right around the corner on Tuesday. You can find resources for voters with disabilities here. Also, as mentioned on the morning call, here is the directive from the Ohio Secretary of State impacting who can assist voters with disabilities to vote via absentee ballot box.

Settings Webinar: Yesterday (10/31), DODD held a webinar outlining the federal and state requirements for compliance with the HCBS settings rule. The webinar highlights some of the concerns we have had with DODD's recent interpretations and enforcement of the settings rule. We will continue to work with DODD and system partners to gain clarity and seek consensus on the expectations for providers regarding HCBS settings. The webinar and materials can be found here.

Blueprint Report: This week DODD shared this final report of the work of the Blueprint Committee with workgroup members. The report outlines the inception, goals, outcomes and resources developed through the years-long workgroup. Please reach out to Scott with questions or feedback.

Daylight Savings Time is this weekend!! Remember to set your clocks back this weekend!

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**, including the news that waiver claims adjustments are open for FY25 service dates, the upcoming NMT webinars, Regional tech hubs webinar, 2024 training deadline and more.

Upcoming Workshop-Employee Responsibilities for Privacy & Cybersecurity: An Employee Responsibilities Policy is a key requirement under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Why? Because everyone across an organization must stand guard as protectors of privacy and security. As the Feds emphasize, small measures can prevent big problems. This session covers simple precautions that apply to all staff members, such as appropriate internet usage and activities to avoid.

Learning Objectives & Competency Building
- Requirements of an Employee Responsibilities Policy
- Daily procedures necessary to align with policy
- Best practices to meet policy objectives

Featured Content
- Checklist on employee responsibilities for privacy and security

Date: November 13th
Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EST
Fee: $100
Virtual

REGISTRATION LINK

"This week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) announced Giant Eagle, Inc. as the 2024 Governor's Inclusive Employer Award winner for their commitment to individuals with disabilities in the workplace....."We celebrate Giant Eagle's commitment to creating an inclusive workplace for Ohioans with disabilities," said Governor DeWine."

Upcoming Events

11/7: Day & Employment Services Committee Meeting

11/13: HIPAA Workshop - Employee Responsibilities for Privacy & Cybersecurity

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

"A Look at Waiting Lists for Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services from 2016 to 2024"

"Autism Diagnoses Surge Among Kids, Adults"

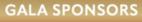"Experiences of Direct Care Workers and Family Caregivers of Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS)"

"Election 2024: An Ohio guide to the November election"

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