

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 6, 2024

Proposed 14c Rule: Earlier this week, the US Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division released a proposed rule to phase out the use of 14c certificates, which allow for commensurate wages for workers with disabilities. The proposed rule outlines the historical and policy developments that led the DOL to preliminarily conclude that the certificates are no longer necessary to 'prevent curtailment of employment opportunities' for people with disabilities. Given the changing administration and potential challenges to DOL's authority to make this change, the future of this rule-making is very uncertain. DOL is seeking public feedback through January 17th, 2025. [Click here to read the proposed rule, FAQ and OPRA's powerpoint summary.](#) Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

EVV: Yesterday, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) shared an update on the timeline for turning on claims denials based on insufficient EVV units. ODM will begin turning on claims denials in multiple phases with phase one starting on March 1, 2025. The first phase of denials will NOT impact DODD services. DODD services will be included in a future phase. [You can read more here.](#) For more information, please reach out to [Christine](#).

DOL Overtime Rule: As OPRA previously shared a few weeks ago, a Texas Court recently struck down the US Department of Labor's proposed increases to the overtime exemption threshold. Last week, the Biden administration officially filed their appeal of the court's decision. With the pending change of administration and holidays, it seems unlikely the court will have the chance to have a hearing or move the appeal through the legal process before the Trump administration takes over. [You can read more about the appeal here.](#)

Shared Living Rule: [The rule will be coming up for 5-year review.](#) In preparation, if you have any thoughts, suggestions, concerns, please send them to [Teresa](#).

Cincinnati Area Housing Market Analysis: [EmpowerMe Living](#) and [First Place Global Leadership Institute](#) are seeking feedback from adults 18+ with autism and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families in Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont counties on housing and support needs and preferences. Survey data from this process will be shared with local housing leaders, service providers, governmental entities and more to develop more diverse, inclusive, and supportive housing options. [The survey is available here.](#)

OISP ICF Training: Milestones has partnered with DODD to develop a training series on the OISP that is specifically geared toward ICF's. Please forward this notice to anyone within your organization that you feel will benefit from this webinar and training series. This webinar will be available to stream on-demand or to watch live. The webinar, on December 11 at 10 AM, will give a preview of the training content, and kick-off registration for the in-person training, which will happen in each region throughout the state in early 2025. [Register at the link here.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



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 an update on the Employment First Partnership, The Q&A from the NMT to Employment webinars, OISP trainings and gatherings, and Capabilities' 'How to do Side by Side Training' virtual training.

Member Meeting: The OPRA Team is pleased to announce that an Annual Meeting of Members and Town Hall Discussion on the newly revised Major Unusual Incident (MUI) rule is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th from 9am – 10am. At this meeting, we will talk about the 2025 OPRA Strategic Plan, the upcoming budget year and focus on the newly revised Major Unusual Incident (MUI) rule to provide insight into the significant updates that impact providers, families, and individuals receiving services. Attendees will gain an understanding of the implications of the revisions, practical steps for compliance, and best practices for integrating these changes into their operations. Provider members should have received an invite from Sonya.

OPRA's Great Provider Series: Latest edition can be found [here](#).

HB 676: Pediatric Prescribed Extended Care (PPEC)- Last week, the House Families and Aging Committee hosted the second hearing for the bill that would create PPECs. Rep. Baker is having on-going discussions with the Ohio Department of Medicaid about funding and the Department of Health on certain licensure requirements. We do not anticipate the bill will pass this General Assembly but think we could see a version in the next budget. If you are interested in the legislation, please reach out to Christine.

[Watch the Hearing Here](#)

[Read the Submitted Testimony](#)

[LSC Analysis and Bill Text](#)

HB 236- Never Alone Act: On Tuesday, the Senate Health Committee held a hearing for interested parties and opponents on the Never Alone Act. OPRA has been involved in a number of recent conversations on possible additional amendments to the bill, but do not know if any of the amendments will be accepted by the sponsors or the Committee.

[Watch the hearing here.](#)

[Read the Testimony \(including OPRA's submitted testimony\) here.](#)

[LSC Analysis and Bill Text](#)

Upcoming Events

12/11: Risk Assessment Basics Training

12/18: Residential Waiver Committee Meeting

12/18: ICF Committee

1/14/25: Member Only Webinar: Understanding Policy Shifts in a Trump Administration

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

“Biden seeks to end sub-minimum wages for workers with disabilities”

“GOP resists Biden and AFL-CIO-backed plan to raise disabled workers' pay”

“Senator Collins' Bipartisan Bill to Expand Autism Research, Training, and Services Passes Senate”

“Effect of cognitive-behavioral therapy-based physical play intervention on empathic ability of children with intellectual disabilities”

