

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 13, 2024

MUI Rule Presentation: Thank you to all who joined us this week for our Town Hall Tuesday in which we reviewed OPRA's strategic plan as well as the proposed MUI Rule. Click here to Please reach out to [Rachel](#) if you have any questions, concerns, or need for training with the proposed rule. [Click here to download the presentation on investigative process chart.](#) We will be hosting our Residential Waiver and ICF committee meetings on Wednesday December 18th.

Proposed 14c Rule: Last 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. 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. We will be surveying OPRA members who provide 14c employment services to shape our feedback to DOL and our approach on the issue going forward. [Click here to read the proposed rule, FAQ and OPRA's powerpoint summary.](#) Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

ADS Pilot: This week, DODD held 2 quarterly meetings for the ADS Quality Pilot. The meetings covered upcoming training opportunities, updates on pilot activities, and key measures for year two, including staff retention, training, and service quality improvements. Payment calculations and success stories from pilot providers were also discussed, along with performance measures that will determine financial outcomes for providers. As we move into the last quarter or so of the project, please feel free to reach out to [Scott](#) with feedback about your experience with the project. We will be working with DODD on what elements of the pilot we'd like to see made permanent for ADS services. [The presentation from the meetings can be downloaded here.](#)

HB 236- Never Alone Act: On Tuesday, the Senate Health Committee held the final hearing for interested parties and opponents on the Never Alone Act. The Committee reviewed several amendments, but none were ultimately accepted by the Committee. The Committee passed the bill and the full Senate and House followed suit. The bill is now headed to the Governor's desk for a signature.

[As enrolled LSC Analysis.](#)

[As enrolled bill language.](#)

Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any additional questions.

EVV: Last week, 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](#).



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 Updated Resources for Nursing Services, Twelve Days of Holiday Stress-less Strategies, Info Session on Community Inclusion, New Resources for Provider-Owned and Provider-Controlled Settings and more.

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](#).

OPRA invites you to submit session proposals for our 2025 Spring Conference, scheduled for May 29 & 30 at the [Hilton Columbus](#) at Easton (3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio). This year's focus is on advancing the business of delivering high-quality I/DD services through strategic leadership, operational excellence, and innovation.

Conference Theme: Building Great Providers. The OPRA Spring Conference emphasizes the importance of building "Great Providers" who:

1. Deliver Person-Centered, Outcome-Focused Services
2. Invest in and Support Qualified Staff
3. Cultivate Strong Leadership and Partnerships
4. Establish Strong Operational Foundations
5. Advocate and Innovate Continuously



The deadline to submit your session proposal is Friday, March 7, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonya Summers at ssummers@opra.org

Upcoming Events

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

"What the Proposed Rule to End Subminimum Wage Means for Workers with Disabilities"

"Gov. Mike DeWine still mulling JD Vance replacement: 'A lot of people want to be senator'"

"Home Care Worker Wages Stagnate, Despite Surge In Medicaid Spending"

"OOD Works Podcast: Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits Updates for 2025"

