

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 20, 2024

**Committees:** Thank you to everyone who attended our Residential Waiver and ICF Committee Meetings this week. We had some pretty robust discussion in both groups, particularly around HB 236 (Never Alone Act). Both of those meetings and the handouts from the meetings are on OPRA's website. [You can find the recordings and meeting materials by navigating to the ICF or Residential Waiver Committee pages here.](#)

**Tech First Advisory:** Members of the OPRA team attended DODD's Technology First Advisory Committee meeting this week. The committee, which has not met in several years, is intended to set direction on policies and initiatives that will bolster technology supports in DD services. The meeting focused on a review of the last several years of remote and assistive tech services and then groups moved into recommendations and vision-setting for the future of tech services. If you have any feedback about Remote Supports or Assistive technology to share with the committee, please reach out to [Teresa](#) or [Scott](#).

**Federal Funding News:** On Saturday morning, President Biden signed a government funding bill and avoiding a government shutdown. Congress passed the bill on Saturday, keeping the government fully funded through March 14th. The funding deal came after a week of failed attempts to pass a bill to keep the government funded. If you have any questions about the funding bill or how a shutdown could potentially affect Medicaid providers, please contact [Christine](#).

**HB 236- Never Alone Act:** Earlier this week, Governor DeWine signed [HB236, The Never Alone Act](#). The bill allows residents in a congregate care setting to designate and have access to an advocate, ["especially during a health emergency"](#). OPRA has prepared a presentation on the law and its requirements. You can access the powerpoint on either the [ICF or Residential Waiver Committee pages on the OPRA website](#). Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any additional questions.



The OPRA team would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas next week. We know the holidays can be a stressful time, so we hope you are all able to find some time to relax and celebrate the year. We are so appreciative of the OPRA community and for you all as members. Members can also check out the 'Growing the OPRA Community' flyer attached to this email to know more about what's in store for 2025. Please have a happy and safe Christmas and holiday week and we will see you on the member call next Friday!



# 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 Family Medication Administration Reminders, Employment Outcome-Based Payments Updated Frequently Asked Questions, and Nisonger and OhioISP Partner to Provide Side-by-Side Training on Assessment.

**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](mailto:ssummers@opra.org)

## Upcoming Events

12/25: Merry Christmas!

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

"DOL Proposes End of Program Allowing Employers to Pay Disabled Employees Subminimum Wage"

"Ohio parents of kids with developmental disabilities take legal action against state agency"

"Ohio moves to reinstate Medicaid work requirements: What it means for thousands"

