

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 17, 2025

OISP Feedback: The department is asking for feedback regarding updates to the OhioISP template. Your feedback is key to ensuring that the OhioISP aligns with the needs, preferences, and choices for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. To that end, [you can access the survey here](#), and provide feedback based on your role in the system. We highly encourage members of your organization who work with OhioISP on a regular basis to provide their feedback through the survey. Additionally, the department will be hosting in-person sessions to share suggestions directly with DODD. You can register for the in-person sessions [here](#).

Pre-voc and Employment Services: Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to us over the past few weeks on the BEST, GES and Career Planning rule drafts. We've compiled and consolidated the feedback and sent it to DODD this afternoon. Our initial feedback document can be [found here](#). Discussions with DODD and system partners will continue as DODD looks to ready these rules/services for a July 1st, 2025 implementation date. We anticipate the rule proposals to evolve based on stakeholder feedback and will keep members updated as we see subsequent rule drafts. Thank you again for the feedback. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

136 General Assembly: Ohio Senate Committees have been assigned and can be [found here](#). Ohio House Committees should be finalized by the end of the week. More information should be available by next week.

Pay Stub Protection Act: Our partners at Vorys recently published a client alert about a new law signed by Governor DeWine earlier this year called the Pay Stub Protection Act. While we have not discussed this bill, it does apply to all employers and requires all employers to issue paystubs with certain required information to employees. [You can read more here](#).

OSHA: This week, OSHA announced the withdrawal of its proposed rule, "Occupational Exposure to COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings." As you may recall, an emergency temporary standard was put in place during the pandemic in January 2021, with plans to finalize it as a permanent rule. However, due to the end of the public health emergency, OSHA has decided to end this rulemaking process. OSHA has stated that they believe that infectious hazards in healthcare, including COVID-19, would be better addressed through a more comprehensive rule on infectious diseases. As such, OSHA will now shift to completing this broader standard. We will provide more information as it is made available.



Although registration just opened earlier this afternoon, in-person registration is already full for this year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day. [Online/virtual registration is still available](#) for the event on March 4th. This year's theme is 'Driving Towards Access'.



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 Implementing the Federal Access Rule, Ohio Systems of Care Project ECHO for Youth Involved in Multiple Systems, the OISP feedback survey and more.

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 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

1/20: OPRA CEO/DOO Network Meeting

2/6: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

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

News & Resources

"The National Organization on Disability's Redesigned Disability Inclusion Blueprint Now Open for Participation"

"Ohio to spend \$8.5 million on more housing for disabled adults, including two homes in Cuyahoga County"

"What we can learn from families of children with disabilities about inclusive family, school, and community engagement"

