

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

JANUARY 31, 2025

EVV: The Ohio Department of Medicaid has released their long-awaited roll out plan for claims denials related to electronic visit verification (EVV). [This formal announcement](#) states that claims denials for covered DODD services will begin on 10/1/25. With the rollout of claims denials, ODM is re-establishing their EVV stakeholder group for associations. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for next month. Christine will be the OPRA liaison for this group. If you have any questions, thoughts, or otherwise would like to share your EVV grievances, [please reach out](#).

Federal Funding: During this whirlwind week, we saw several parties bring lawsuits against the Trump administration to halt the funding freeze announced Monday evening. A federal judge issued a temporary stay to prevent the order from taking effect until a hearing could be had on Monday, 2/3/25. Following this ruling, [the administration rescinded Monday's memo](#). This means there will be no immediate freeze on federal funding for the covered grants and programs. We will be keeping a close eye on these reviews and will share updates as we get them.

Art Studios: Last Friday, DODD held a meeting for providers of art studio services, partly to navigate the future of these services, especially given the rule proposals for BEST and Group Employment Supports. These meetings will be ongoing and we look forward to the continued dialogue on these important and meaningful services.

ICF Trade Association Meeting: This week we participated in the Ohio ICF trade association meeting with both the DODD as well as ODH. During the meeting, ODH stated that they will be focused on completing ICF recertification surveys. Over the last year ODH has worked to clear the complaint backlog from the pandemic. This year they will work to complete around 30 surveys per month beginning February 1st. Additionally, during the call DODD shared that they will be reconvening the ICF reimbursement group around March.



OHIO PROVIDER RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Ohio's Operating Budget

A GUIDE FOR OPRA MEMBERS

State Fiscal Year '26-'27

Budget Guide: OPRA has released the newest version of the State Operating Budget Guide for OPRA members. [You can view the guide here](#). In the guide you will find information on the process, list of important General Assembly committees, and a directory of members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate. Now is a great time to introduce yourself and your organization to your members of the General Assembly, especially if your members serve on either the House or Senate Finance and Medicaid committees. We are happy to assist in setting up meetings and happy to join any legislative meetings and tours you and your team sets up. As we move through the process, we will be sharing more resources on talking points you can use in your meetings, resources you can share with your staff and board on what is in the budget, and how to participate in committee hearings.



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 an update on the ITMS enhancements, the Human Trafficking Data Dashboard, the Ohio Supported Decision Making Toolkit, and a number of OISP-related training and events.

DCY Grant: On Jan.29, The Dept. of Children and Youth will be releasing a grant application for public/private partnerships to expand childcare access. [To learn more, click here.](#)



Although registration just opened, 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'.

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

2/6: OPRA Day Array Committee Meeting

2/10: OPRA CFO/Business Manager Network
Lunch and Learn

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

News & Resources

"White House budget office rescinds federal funding freeze memo"

"Creating a more inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities"

"Ohio once again aims to add work requirements to Medicaid"

"VKC produces new tool kit on informed consent process for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities"

