

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

State Budget: Earlier this week, Governor DeWine released his final proposed executive budget. Much of what is included in the Governor's proposed budget is not a surprise and in line with what we had been hearing from the administration for the past few months. Below are a few highlights. As a reminder, this is the very first step in the process. All of what is included in the Governor's budget proposal is subject to change during the legislative process.

A few DODD highlights:

- Funding for multi-system you will remain at current levels at \$5M in general revenue funds (GRF) for each year of the budget
- Employment First and Technology First will remain at current levels.
- The Medicaid services GRF line item appears to show a 12.2% increase the first year of the state budget from current funding and then a 1.2% increase between year one of the budget to year two of the budget. While the Blue Book does not necessarily explain what is happening here. Our understanding is that this increase is driven by growth in the waiver and ICF program, cost of living adjustments for workers at developmental centers, an adjustment to the PWD add-on in the ICF program during the first year of the budget, and back-filing ARPA funding that was used to fund some of the waiver rate increases from last budget.
 - There are no scheduled rate increases in the waiver program

To learn more about the state budget and the Governor's proposal, please visit the [OPRA State Budget Resource Page here](#).

Employment Services: Following stakeholder feedback requesting the continuance of an 'integrated community' rate in the upcoming Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) service, DODD has decided to not move forward with a planned proposal to enhance reimbursement rates for small-group Group Employment Supports (GES). DODD has communicated that they cannot move forward with both a Community option in BEST and the proposed changes to Group Employment Supports. We have been in touch with the rest of the Blueprint workgroup and continue conversations with DODD on these changes. We are still hopeful we can come to a solution that builds capacity in integrated employment services. Please reach out to [Scott](#) with any questions.

ICF Rules: The department is preparing to amend nine rules governing Intermediate Care Facilities. [Click here](#) for a complete listing of the rules being amended. Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions or if you wish to provide comment on the rules.

RVI Open House: This week Sonya and Rachel had the privilege of attending an open house at RVI. Laura Borows and her team have done a phenomenal job with their new location. RVI's Perrysburg location has moved to a new, nearly 10,000 square-foot space to better serve their community and support more individuals. Congratulations to RVI!!



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 updates to Specialized Medical Equipment Guidance, Electronic Visit Verification Rollout Dates, the RFP for Direct Support Professionals Learning Management System and more.

OPRA Vendor Partner Spotlight: Reidy Medical, a family-run supplier, provides PPE, incontinence, nutritional, and household items to ICFs and group homes with next-day delivery. Their sister company, Doyle Medical, offers the same supplies while billing Medicaid and waiver benefits—making it easy to get everything you need in one place!

Exclusive OPRA Member Discount Available!

Contact: Ted Stitzel, President, tstitzel@reidymed.com, 1397 Commerce Dr, Stow, OH 44224
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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

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

2/19: OPRA Residential Resources Committee

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

News & Resources

“Breaking down the priorities of Gov. Mike Dewine’s biennial budget”

“Ohio governor orders state employees back to in-office work 5 days a week starting in March”

“White House Preparing Order to Cut Thousands of Federal Health Workers”

“Governor DeWine Supports Bid to Bring 2030 Special Olympics USA Games to Cleveland”

