

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

State Budget: Hearings for HB 96, the state biennium budget bill continue next week with the testimony of DODD's Director Hauck. A panel of representatives from our budget coalition will also be testifying that day, with public testimony on DODD services the following week. Earlier today we sent budget templates and instructions for submitting written testimony to Agency CEOs (agency contact list). That information can also be found here on the [OPRA State Budget Resource Page](#).

Employment Services: Following the events of the past few weeks, DODD is no longer moving forward with Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) as part of the July waiver amendment. This decision comes after weeks of stakeholder feedback and concern about DODD's latest rule proposals, which abandoned planned rate enhancements for Group Employment Supports and included new definitions for 'community integration' in BEST that we and other stakeholders believed would restrict access to community-based prevocational services. At this point, we have no indication if/when DODD plans to reconvene a stakeholder group to pursue policy changes that support people on their paths toward integrated employment. Please contact [Scott](#) with questions or additional feedback.

DD Coalition letter to Ohio's Congressional Delegation: Earlier today, we sent a letter emphasizing the importance of Medicaid to Ohioans with disabilities and asking our Congressional Delegation to protect Medicaid. [The letter can be found here.](#)

Workforce Event: DODD is hosting a Workforce Symposium on Wednesday, March 26 from 9:00 – 4:30. Many members of the OPRA community will be featured. More info and registration [here.](#)

Medicaid Week of Action: Given [potential proposed cuts to the Medicaid program](#) in the upcoming Federal budget, our partners at ANCOR have organized "a [Week of Action to protect and strengthen Medicaid](#)". The #SaveMedicaid week of action will be February 24-28. ANCOR will be providing "simple yet impactful actions to ensure members of Congress hear about the importance of Medicaid." Given the importance of Medicaid in funding disability services in Ohio and across the country, we also encourage members to [contact your representatives in the US Congress](#) to share your story and emphasize the importance of funding for disability services.



Members of the OPRA team had the opportunity to attend The Alpha Group's Laugh and Luck Review Raffle Mystery Dinner Theater fundraiser. Congratulations to Liz Owens-Detillion and her team for a great event



Last week, the OPRA team volunteered at the [Mid-Ohio Food Collective](#) as part of our #OPRAGivesBack efforts. Thanks to Rachel for organizing this great time of giving back to the community.



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 upcoming 'disability community talks', the DODD Workforce Symposium, New Resources for Behavior Supports and a FEAR Factor Training Session for Medicaid Buy-In and Workability.



TARRYTOWN EXPECARE PHARMACY

COMPLIMENTARY INVITATION

NAVIGATING DIAGNOSES AND NEW THERAPIES IN IDD & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2025 SYMPOSIUM SERIES

(4.0 NURSING/QIDP CEs)

Attendance Limited to Nurses, QIDPs, Prescribers, and Leadership

GRADUATE BY HILTON CINCINNATI
151 GOODMAN ST, CINCINNATI, OH

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2025 | 9:00am - 4:00pm
(Registration and Hot Breakfast Buffet open at 8:00am)

Proud Sponsors:



FREE Registration • FREE Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks • FREE Parking
4.0 CEs for Nurses and QIDPs • Network with Industry Experts • Door Prizes and Raffle



Enjoy a full day of education, entertainment, nourishment, and networking!
Join Nanette Wrobel, RPH and other IDD and behavioral health experts to better understand anxiety, bipolar, seizure disorders, and the medications that treat them.

SESSIONS INCLUDE

Seize the Day! | IDD Drug Buzz
Anxiety Antics | Bipolar Balance
Tardive Dyskinesia: Screening, Diagnosis, Treatment

PRESENTER:
NANETTE WROBEL, RPH
AADMD EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Scan or Click to RSVP Now

REGISTER TODAY!

We are Family

TARRYTOWN EXPECARE PHARMACY

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

3/3/25: OPRA QIDP Network Lunch & Learn Series

3/3/25: OPRA District 1 Virtual Meeting

3/3/25: OPRA District 7 Virtual Meeting

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

"Senate adopts \$340 billion budget blueprint"

"Column: Celebrating and advocating for people with developmental disabilities"

"Lawsuit that could dismantle disability protections draws public backlash"

"Governor DeWine Announces Launch of Enhanced Ohio Long-Term Care Quality Navigator"

