

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

APRIL 11, 2025

State Budget: This week the Ohio House passed House Bill 96, the state budget bill, sending the budget process over to the Senate. Primarily, and for our purposes, the omnibus bill looks mostly similar to the substitute bill introduced by the House Finance Committee a few weeks back. Most notably for providers, the latest version of the bill includes EVV language that allow providers to review and correct claims, prohibits claim denials solely based on EVV data, and bans audits based only on EVV records. The bill maintains the funding levels for DD services as proposed through Governor DeWine's executive proposal and the substitute bill introduced weeks back. There is much advocacy to be done as the budget heads to the Senate and we will keep members informed on ways they can get involved in the advocacy process. Please reach out to [Christine](#) with any questions.

[You can read more about the bill here.](#)

[You can read the full budget bill text here.](#)

Federal Budget: This week, the US House of Representatives [passed a concurrent budget resolution](#), advancing the process for budget reconciliation with the US Senate. Of greatest interest/concern in regards to Medicaid funding, the resolution still instructs the House Energy and Commerce Committee (which oversees Medicaid funding) to cut \$880B over the next decade, while the Senate's instructions only call for \$1B in cuts. These two sets of instructions will still have to be reconciled and ultimately match in a final budget bill. Given that both House and Senate committees will begin their work to find those reductions, the advocacy around the importance of Medicaid to disability services is more important than ever.

Medicaid Resource Center: Given the above, we wanted to provide the links again to [ANCOR's Medicaid Resource Center](#). Here you will find social media toolkits, the ANCOR Amplifier, FAQs and other educational resources, expert analyses and many other resources to aid in your education and advocacy. We encourage members to continue to advocate on the importance of Medicaid to your services and in the lives of the people you support. Please reach out to the OPRA team if you have any questions or need any assistance in contacting your members of congress.

HB 225: This week saw the introduction of [House Bill 225, The 'Employment First and Greater Opportunities Act'](#). The bill, sponsored by Reps Dontavius Jarrells and Tom Young looks to eliminate commensurate wages over 5 years, while also supporting a tax credit to entities that purchase from qualified non-profit agencies that employ people with developmental disabilities. The bill is currently pending referral to the Commerce and Labor committee. Please reach out to [Scott](#) or [Christine](#) with any questions.



We had the opportunity to attend last week's Franklin County Legislative Advocacy day. This year's event was held at The Columbus Metro Library and featured a panel of Ohio legislators including Senators Andrew Brenner, Bill DeMora and Hearcel Craig, Minority Leader Allison Russo and Rep. Dontavius Jarrells. Thanks to our friends at Franklin County for the invitation and for their continued advocacy .



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 an extension of the reporting period for the Outcome Tracking System, Training Resources for supporting people with complex needs, The Southern Behavior Support Workshop and more.

Compliance Tool: DODD recently shared the updated review tools for agencies, ICFs and IPs. This new review tool is set to go into effect on June 1st. OPRA has been involved in the stakeholder process and we appreciate any feedback you have. [You can find the tools here.](#)

EVV: We recently provided an update on the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM) EVV stakeholder meeting. ODM shared resources from the meeting this week. You can send EVV questions to [Christine](#).

Meeting Slides and Resources: You can view the March 20 meeting slides [here](#).

- [EVV Live-In Caregiver Exemption Request Online Form](#)
- o Please reach out to EVV@medicaid.ohio.gov if you have questions about the form.
- o Please note, ODM is currently prioritizing live-in caregivers in the phases immediately impacted by claims denials. ODM will process DODD exemption request forms after they get through the phases before DODD's. You do not need to resubmit a request form unless instructed to by ODM staff.

- [Register for Sandata office hours](#)



Calling all IDD Supervisors! Join us for a webinar series:

Mastering Team Leadership

Guiding Supervisors to Build Trust, Confidence, and Resilience in Service



You'll Walk Away With:

Key insights to elevate your leadership skills, foster a culture of collaboration, and lead your team to success – no matter the challenge. These webinars:

- Equip frontline supervisors with tools to strengthen their leadership approach and communication.
- Foster a resilient and supportive team environment through trust-building strategies.
- Provide supervisors with the confidence to manage diverse personalities and resolve conflicts constructively.
- Enhance coaching skills to help supervisors guide their teams toward optimal performance and continuous growth.

Session Topics & Schedule:

Each 2-hour session builds on the last.

Session 1: Understanding Your Management Style - The Key to Building Trust and Connection
April 23 • 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Session 2: Leading with Confidence - Cultivating Emotional Intelligence in Your Role
May 7 • 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Session 3: Navigating Conflict with Confidence - Understanding and Managing Conflict Styles
May 21 • 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Session 4: Coaching for Success - Unlocking Your Team's Full Potential
June 4 • 9:30 -11:30 a.m.



REGISTER TODAY!

Per Session Pricing: Members: \$35 per session • Non-Members: \$60 per session
Full Series Pricing (All 4 Sessions) – Save \$20
Members: \$120 full series • Non-Members: \$220 full series

Upcoming Events

4/16: OPRA Residential Resources Committee

4/17: OPRA Healthcare Committee

Click here for a full list of upcoming DODD training events

News & Resources

“Ohio House passes state budget. Here are the highlights.”

“House Approves Trump Budget Blueprint After Winning Over GOP Holdouts”

“CMS Refocuses on its Core Mission and Preserving the State-Federal Medicaid Partnership”

“Kennedy says HHS will determine the cause of autism by September”



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Sessions



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