



## IN EDITION 14

- 2015 DSP Recognition Week
- Ohio DODD preps for new Certification Rule
- Medicaid payments for ICFs
- DOL rule on Companionship Exemption
- Member Spotlight: Homewatch CareGivers
- ADVANCE 2015-2016
- ROUNDUP submissions
- Golf Outing benefits HOPE Fund
- RHDD/Morgan CBDD
- Ohio's in 6th place
- RFP for ICF Employment Pilot
- ANCOR - Did You Know?
- New Avenues honors DSPs
- OADSP Training Bulletin
- OPRA 2015 Annual Awards
- Office 365 FREE for nonprofits
- 2015 HOME Choice Conference
- DODD trainings
- Just One More Thing...

### Events

**2015 DSP Recognition Week** — At OPRA's request, and as he has done every year during his tenure as Governor, John Kasich has proclaimed September 13–19, 2015, as "DSP Recognition Week." Additionally, both of Ohio's U.S. Senators - Republican Rob Portman and Democrat Sherrod Brown - have voiced support for DSP Recognition Week. On September 16, Ohio Alliance for Direct Support Professionals hosts the DSP Recognition Event. For details, [click here!](#)

### Governmental

**Ohio DODD prepares to implement new Provider Certification rule** — The DODD is making ready for Rule 5123:2-2-01, which goes into effect October 1, 2015. This rule establishes procedures and standards for certification issued to providers of supported living services, including home- and community-based services provided to individuals enrolled in Medicaid waivers. Informational materials available include:

- a [memo](#) highlighting the most significant changes to the rule, including timelines for implementation of the new requirements;
- the proposed new [rule](#); and
- a list of the new core [training requirements](#) for certified providers.

**If you are a certified provider, these changes affect you directly: review these materials carefully,** and direct any questions to the Department's Support Center at 1-800-617-6733.

## MADE YOU LOOK!

OPRA's **ROUNDUP** HAS A  
MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF  
**NEARLY 2,000**  
INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

**YOUR NEXT CLIENT  
JUST READ THIS!**

Call 614-224-6772 and ask for  
Mark Watson,  
or email [mwatson@opra.org](mailto:mwatson@opra.org)

### Updates

**Medicaid payments for ICF providers** — Direct bill is now in effect for ICFs. In order to get paid, facilities must submit claims beginning with July 1, 2015, dates of service to Medicaid through the MITS portal; please make sure claims are submitted via the new process. Claims will no longer automatically generate for payment. The Ohio DODD reports that that only about half of ICF providers have submitted billing; please check Medicaid remittance files to confirm that facility claims have been billed. Payments will not be made until claims have been billed. If assistance with billing claims is needed, please contact [ICF.IID@Medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:ICF.IID@Medicaid.ohio.gov) with provider number and contact information. [OPRA Vice President Anita Allen](#) is also available to assist.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit [upheld the U.S. DOL rule on companionship exemption](#). ANCOR and OPRA are reviewing the Court's decision and will provide more information as available.



**What We Can Do For You** — Homewatch CareGivers is an industry leader in home care, and has been providing exceptional services since 1980. Committed to keeping those living with disabilities as independent as possible, Homewatch CareGivers utilizes community based waiver programs provided by the Ohio DODD as well as County Boards of DD.

**We Provide and Accept** — Homemaker Personal Care; HPC Transportation; Community Inclusion; Job Development; Job Coaching; and Respite Care services. We accept Level 1; IO; and SELF waivers.

**Our Culture** — We pledge to continue to provide exceptional, reliable services and support to people living with disabilities through their life span regardless of issues of aging, health care changes or other increasing challenges that may become apparent or develop as a person ages.

**Our Staff**— HWCG brings together exceptional people with education, experience, skill, and motivation to deliver outstanding services. A potential DSP is not permitted to submit a walk-in-application. Upon hire, our DSPs go through a minimum of 8 hours of training that includes: CPR & First Aid; Universal Precautions; HIPAA; Client Rights; MUI Reporting; Medication Administration; and Eden Principles to Combat Loneliness, Boredom & Helplessness. Additionally, all DSPs are bonded and insured.

**What Makes Us Different** — we have staff available 24 hours a day and our scheduling is flexible to the days and times requested; our families have access to a live staff member on our 24-hour phone line any time they need us; our dedicated team of DSPs is managed by office staff with 75 years of combined experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities; and our staff is experienced, reliable, respectful, and compassionate. Most important, Homewatch CareGivers is 100% community based: we work 1-to-1 with our consumers at their home environments, and assist them getting to activities of interest, as well as to medical appointments in the community.

**Homewatch CareGivers of Beachwood** — This franchise branch opened in 2006, and provided solely elder care and private pay services. It became Medicaid-certified in 2011, and started providing waiver services in 2012. We assist 25 individuals on Level 1, IO, or SELF waivers, and 1 individual with job coaching.

from [www.homewatchcaregivers.com/northeast-ohio-cleveland/beachwood](http://www.homewatchcaregivers.com/northeast-ohio-cleveland/beachwood)



**ADVANCE 2015-2016 series** — ADVANCE is OPRA's comprehensive executive leadership program written and designed to cultivate the skills and attitudes of individuals identified as future leaders by their employing organizations: direct support provider agencies. The second year of **the series begins September 17**. Applicants accepted into the program will meet every other month through the summer of 2016, learning about and discussing the mechanics of management in general, and the finer points of captaining a provider agency in the DD field. Specifically, the ADVANCE curriculum focuses on the historical knowledge and context required to achieve success in the provider sector. It highlights core competencies, including management skills, Board development, fundraising, strategic planning, finance, state and local political advocacy, and marketing. If you are interested in learning more or applying for the 2015-2016 ADVANCE series, please contact [Policy & Operations Coordinator Mark Watson](#).



**Provider Resources Group - [www.providerresourcesgroup.com](http://www.providerresourcesgroup.com)**

**Register Now for PRG's Monthly Business Conversations!**

**The next one is October 13 — Why Risk It?**

Stay with us for **After the Conversation** to talk about what's going on in your business

**Exclusive discount for OPRA Members!**

**REGISTER ONLINE, OR CALL 855-787-1641 AND ASK FOR KRISTEN**



### Interested in submitting an article to ROUNDUP?

OPRA is very excited about the opportunity to share ROUNDUP readers' events, success stories, employee news, retirement information, promotional programs and human-interest stories. ROUNDUP's circulation is close to 2,000 recipients, and requests are coming in weekly to join its distribution. For submitted articles, please include a short narrative (who, what, when, where, and why), and a photo, if possible (the organization submitting materials is entirely responsible for gathering the appropriate releases). Send all to [Mark Watson](mailto:Mark.Watson@opra.org) ([mwatson@opra.org](mailto:mwatson@opra.org)). If you have any questions regarding articles or joining the emailing list, please do not hesitate to contact Mark!

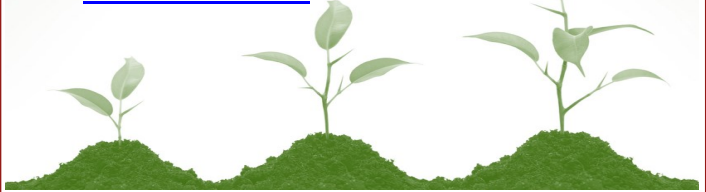
**RFP for ICF Employment Pilot now open** — The overall objective of this RFP is that DODD-certified Intermediate Care Facility providers support transformation of the organizational structures and service-delivery models (from facility-based to

community-based) with a focus on community-based employment and adult day services for individuals with complex needs. During the grant agreement period, the outcome will include the expectation that a targeted number of adults with I/DD with complex needs obtain individual community employment and receive wrap-around integrated community day services. RFP submissions are due September 23, 2015. Information on this RFP and the pilot is on the [Ohio Employment First website](#). This is a wonderful opportunity for ICF provider members. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [OPRA Director of Employment Services Jason Umstot](#) ([jumstot@opra.org](mailto:jumstot@opra.org)).

**Golf Outing to benefit HOPE Fund** — On September 21, at Canton Brookside Country Club, Siffrin hosts its 10th Annual Golf Outing - sure to be the organization's biggest and best yet! 100% of the golf outing proceeds benefit the Siffrin HOPE Fund, which supports people served by Siffrin with developmental disabilities in financial need. For more information, and to register, [click here!](#)

**Cooperation in action** — OPRA Provider Member [RHDD](#) has partnered with Morgan County, and is processing the County's recycling, employing 9 individuals with DD. This opportunity arose when the County Board's "privatized" day services gave one week's notice before closing its doors, leaving many individuals without job or a place to go. In one week, RHDD hired all of the individuals, plus three more, and reopened the recycling operation. RHDD's initiative is another fantastic example of how private providers step up to the plate when given the opportunity. Well done, [RHDD](#)!

**Ohio's looking good** — 6th best state in growth for LTSS. [Learn more here!](#)



**Did You Know?** For OPRA Provider Members with \$3 million or less in total operating expenses, a membership with ANCOR is free! Get online today at [www.ancor.org](http://www.ancor.org) to contact the Network's membership department.

### Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals - [www.oadsp.org](http://www.oadsp.org)

*"OADSP provides professional development to human service professionals to strengthen their skills, leading to a recognized, quality workforce and improved outcomes."*

DSPaths Instructor, Portfolio Grader and Skill Mentor Certification,  
plus Provider Certification courses in September & October!  
Basic DSP Certification (part of the DSPATHS program) September—November!  
DSP Recognition Event September 16!

For more information, contact Training & Marketing Coordinator  
Katrina Sacay - [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org) - 866-862-2322 x5





# National Direct Support Staff Recognition Week 2015 September 11-18

NEW AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE, INC.

## New Avenues Honors our DSPs

You are the backbone of our organization, and we want you to know how much we appreciate the unselfish work you do for so many every day. So, New Avenues will be celebrating National Direct Support Staff Recognition Week 2015!



### Staff Appreciation Picnics

Main Campus kick off, Friday 9/11	12PM—2PM
Clifton Home, Monday 9/14	2PM -4 PM
Perry Home, Tuesday 9/15	11AM -2 PM
Heisley Home, Thursday 9/17	5PM – 7 PM
Ashtabula, Friday 9/18	12Noon -2PM



### Ohio Statewide Recognition Event—

DSPs are invited to this statewide event on September 16th in Columbus! This years' program includes a humorous and motivating keynote speaker, other presentations, and an array of inspirational and fun activities. Lunch is provided, as are souvenir bags and other goodies. The program will focus on DSP's, by imparting ideas on how to live happier, reduce stress, and improve their own health and well-being. *Peggy Davis, Valerie Eutsey, Deastia Tarver, Latonia Benton, and Coleen Lloyd* will be representing New Avenues this year!

In a press release from early August, the American Network of Community Opportunities and Resources (ANCOR) announced that members of the U.S. Senate introduced a resolution designating the week of September 13th as "National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week". This is the eighth consecutive year of celebrating and recognizing this crucial workforce.

Join us this week to celebrate with good food, good people, and *random drawings for fabulous gift cards!*



NEW AVENUES TO  
INDEPENDENCE, INC.  
The Path to Dignity and Achievement



**OADSP Training Bulletin** — Why participate in OADSP programs? Because everyone wins! At OADSP, the mission is to provide high-quality training to elevate the professionalism of the Direct Support workforce. Collectively, a highly-skilled human service workforce can teach and inspire those with disabilities to live self-directed lives. With the help of well-trained staff, people with disabilities gain the opportunity to live to their highest personal potential.

### ***Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP)***

The DSPATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) is a course of study that focuses on developing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of the DSP. The DSPATHS CIP Program requires sixty (60) hours of classroom instruction. In addition, candidates are required to demonstrate their proficiency in specific competency areas through the development of a professional portfolio.

9/23/15 - 11/25/15 Pickaway County Board of DD: [click here for more information & to register!](#)

9/23/15 - 4/27/16 Westlake: [click here for more information & to register!](#)

### ***DSPATHS Credentialing Certification Training***

This one-day seminar certifies and prepares individuals to become a DSPATHS Instructor, Portfolio Grader, and Skill Mentor. Who should register? CIP/CAP Graduates, Current Portfolio Graders, active CIP/CAP Instructors; and Skill Mentors

10/15/15 Columbus: [click here for more information & to register!](#)

11/18/15 Westerville: [click here for more information & to register!](#)

For more information about these and other programs, contact [Katrina Sacay, Training & Marketing Coordinator](#) ([ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org)), 866-862-2322 x5.



**Nominations are open for OPRA's 2015 Annual Awards** — The nomination process for the 2015 Annual Awards is officially open, and submissions are requested for individual, team, and/or organizational Award consideration. **Nominations are due September 24.**

Since 1991, OPRA has annually recognized individuals and teams from Provider Members that have demonstrated outstanding service and achievement in the DD field, and whose work has significantly impacted the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities; in 2014, the Association introduced organizational awards serving the same purpose. OPRA calls attention to “the best of the best” at the Annual Awards Luncheon, held this year on November 4, the second day of the 2015 Fall Conference. Award winners are selected from a large pool of nominees submitted by Provider Members from every corner of Ohio, and the Awards Committee encourages

*continued on page 7 >>*

**Good deal** — With the Office 365 Nonprofit donation, [qualified nonprofits](#) get Office 365 for free or at a significant discount. [Office 365](#) will reduce costs, increase organizational capacity, and foster better team collaboration, so organizations can do more good and create more impact. Get the **latest tech**, like real-time tracking and multiple authoring on documents. Impress the most **important stakeholders** with business class email, virtual board meetings and going paperless. Foster **team collaboration** with video conferencing, instant messaging, and a customizable Yammer site. Access board reports and grant applications **anywhere, anytime**, with remote file sharing. Work seamlessly **across devices**, like iPads and PCs. Get **comfort and security** with the Office products your organization already knows and loves.

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**2015 HOME Choice Conference: Celebrating 25 Years of Empowerment through the ADA** — The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council (HCCAC) is proud to present its 3rd annual HOME Choice Conference. This year's conference focuses on the journey of empowerment over the past 25 years since the inception of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the dream of what lies ahead.

### ***Details***

**When** November 5, 2015      **Where** Hilton Columbus Downtown  
8:15am – 3:30pm      401 N High St Columbus OH 43215  
**Why** Breakfast/Lunch provided; network; workshops; guest speakers; exhibitors; and CEUs offered

### ***Featured Speakers***

**Morning** Joshua Rogers came to the Department of Justice through the Honors Program in May 2005 after graduating from the University of Mississippi and completing a one-year clerkship on the Mississippi Supreme Court. During his ten-year tenure in the Civil Rights Division, he has enforced federal voting rights laws and federal laws protecting citizens with disabilities. In Mr. Rogers' work for the Department, he has participated in civil and criminal trials, and he has argued before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals 19 times. He is a trial attorney in the Special Litigation Section, where his caseload focuses the Americans with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead* matters.



**Luncheon** Al Condeluci has been an advocate, a catalyst for building community capacities, and a leader in understanding social culture since 1970. He was born and raised in the steel town of Pittsburgh - and still makes his home there. Mr. Condeluci received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Youngstown State University, and his Masters in Social Work and his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Since 1973, he has worked as an attendant, caseworker, advocate, planner, program director and now, CEO of his organization, Community Living and Support Services (CLASS). CLASS has created a family of corporations and is dedicated to its mission: working toward a community where each belongs. Under Mr. Condeluci's leadership, CLASS has grown to become the third largest disability-specific agency in southwestern Pennsylvania, with a budget of \$26 million, and a staff and payroll complement of 700. CLASS was listed among the 50 "Best Places to Work" in Allegheny County in both 2007 and 2011.

**HOME CHOICE**  
Consumer Advisory Council  
Empowering Community Living

### ***Registration Information***

#### **REGISTRATION IS DUE BY OCTOBER 16**

Due to high demand, organizations are requested to limit the number of people attending from their respective locations to 5. [Register here, ASAP!](#)

#### **IF YOU NEED A HOTEL ROOM, REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 30**

Please email [homechoiceohio@gmail.com](mailto:homechoiceohio@gmail.com) with the names of those requiring accommodations, and you will be put on the list to receive the discounted rate. Please do NOT contact the hotel directly; attendees must reserve rooms through HCCAC. A limited number of hotel rooms are available free of charge for individuals with disabilities who either live more than 100 miles from the conference location, or have accessibility needs that require overnight accommodations the night before the conference.

#### **REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS DUE BY DECEMBER 10**

Both attendance and mileage reimbursement is available for individuals with disabilities, and forms will be available the day of the conference. All requests for reimbursements MUST be received by mail or electronically by December 10. The mileage rate is \$0.52 per mile, and personal attendant services are up to \$11 per hour (if less than 12 hours), or \$150 (for an overnight stay, which is a 12- to 24-hour period).

For more information, or if you have any questions, please [contact HCCAC via email](#).

<< *continued from page 5*

all Provider Members to submit nominations, and represent their respective [OPRA Districts](#). Nominators are asked to provide a statement that carefully outlines what makes their nominees worthy of statewide recognition. To assist in that process, [review the current Awards' descriptions](#). Interested in knowing who's won in the past? Please see the list below.

The Awards have included:

Innovative Member of the Year  
Community Member of the Year  
Volunteer  
Behind-the-Scenes  
Team  
Frontline Supervisor  
Direct Support Professional  
Maureen Corcoran Award, for a PATHS-Credentialed DSP

Previous Years' Awards Recipients:

[2014 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2013 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2012 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2011 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2010 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2009 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2008 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2007 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2006 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)  
[2005 OPRA Awards Recipients](#)

Congratulations to all winners from previous years – and best wishes to future nominees! If you are ready to submit a nomination, [click here!](#)



Great learning resources are available through the Ohio DODD's training calendar: [check it out here](#), and register by clicking on the "website" tab under each training announcement.

***"Just One More Thing..."*** — Among the many benefits that OPRA Members enjoy is participation in various Committees and their corresponding listserv groups. All operate with the intention of providing a forum for individuals to share their experiences and to learn from each other. One such unit is OPRA's IT Workgroup, which provides updates and elicits feedback on issues related to technology. Currently, the Workgroup is designing and reviewing technologic elements to develop an interactive "Gadget House," premiering at the 2015 Fall Conference. The House will display tools that aid individuals in living more independently, and could be used for training and provider marketing events. Two standing projects for the IT Workgroup include researching and reviewing group discounting opportunities for OPRA Members, and surveying Members for training and services needs. If you are interested in joining the IT Workgroup, please contact group chair [Carol Parcell](#) ([cparcell@josinalott.org](mailto:cparcell@josinalott.org)), 419-866-9013; to join the IT listserv, please contact [Policy & Operations Coordinator Mark Watson](#) ([mwatson@opra.org](mailto:mwatson@opra.org)). If you're not yet an OPRA Member, [please contact the Association today!](#)

Ohio Provider Resource Association  
614-224-6772 • Fax 614-224-3340 • 800-686-5523  
1152 Goodale Blvd • Columbus, OH 43212  
[www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)

Mark Davis, President, x113	Anita Allen, Vice President, x110
Jeff Davis, Director of Government Relations, x114	Jason Umstot, Director of Employment Services, x117
Emily Bach, Member Services Coordinator, x116	Mark Watson, Policy & Operations Coordinator, x111
Carey Grund, Administrative Assistant, x115	Pete Thompson, Account/Bookkeeper, x112
Christine Touvelle, Intern, x118	