

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

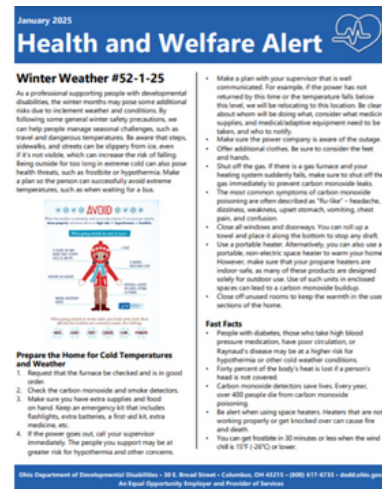
DECEMBER 12, 2025

OOD Authorizations: We spoke with OOD about what we are still hearing from members about changes, reductions and cancellations of OOD service authorizations following last month's federal government shutdown. We've identified offices and areas of the state that seem to be most misapplying the operational guidance and hope to see positive changes over the coming weeks. Please continue to reach out to [Scott](#) about your current authorization situation as we work to improve the situation with OOD.

ACA Premiums: This week the U.S. Senate moved to [vote on two competing health-care proposals](#) designed to address the rise in ACA marketplace premiums that will occur if enhanced subsidies expire at the end of 2025. Both the Democratic and Republican plans failed to reach the 60 votes needed to advance. Democrats had pushed for a 3-year extension of pandemic-era enhanced premium tax credits, while Republicans sought a 1 or 2 year alternative focused on direct support with different eligibility and benefit structures. Both Ohio [Senators Moreno](#) and [Husted](#) introduced plans that included 2 year extensions as well as other policy proposals.

Winter Weather: This week DODD released a Health & Welfare alert regarding Winter Weather. [Click here to review the alert.](#) "As a professional supporting people with developmental disabilities, the winter months may pose some additional risks due to inclement weather and conditions. By following some general winter safety precautions, we can help people manage seasonal challenges, such as travel and dangerous temperatures."

Job Seeker's Guide: DODD has contracted with EconSys to update the [Ohio Employment First Job Seeker's Guide](#). OPRA will be supporting this project by providing information and feedback to help develop the updated guide.



OOD shared this video, highlighting this year's Summer Youth Work Experience and sharing information about the program and services. "In collaboration with 935 distinct employers and 1,693 diverse job sites, each student was matched to roles that suited their unique abilities, all while receiving assistance from dedicated job coaches. Throughout the program, students earned minimum wage, gaining real-world experience that paves the way for future career success."



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

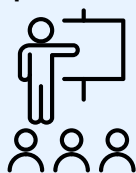
Memo Monday: Click here to read this week's [DODD Memo Monday](#), including info on the Medicaid Services System Soft Launch, ImagineIS Decommissioning, Charting the LifeCourse Side-By-Side Guided Implementation Series and new Self-Direction and Role of the Support Broker Training.

PSPP Resources: OPRA recently wrapped up our regional training series, 'People Skills for People Professionals'. Following up on the trainings, we've linked all of the [materials on the OPRA website here](#). The resource page contains 4 powerpoints from the training on topics like Team-building, Empathy-based Communication, Starting with Why, and Person-Centered Planning. These resources are available to all OPRA members, whether you attended the training or not. Please reach out to Scott with any questions on training or these resources.

CALL FOR SPEAKER PROPOSALS!!

Deadline to Submit is Monday, February 16, 2026

Cleveland is the city where rock & roll found its name—and where greatness is celebrated every day. Just steps from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, OPRA's 2026 Great Provider Summit invites you to Get Ready for Greatness. Join us as we turn up the volume on what it takes to lead in the next era of I/DD services—through strategic leadership, operational excellence, workforce investment, and advocacy that shapes the future of our field. OPRA invites you to submit session proposals that are practical, forward-thinking, and equipped with concrete tools and strategies to help providers reach Hall of Fame-level impact and performance. [Click to submit!](#)



ADVANCE

/Provider Leadership Training

Recognizing the critical importance of developing tomorrow's leaders, OPRA proudly offers the ADVANCE Provider Leadership Training, a year-long development experience for DD professionals. Registration is currently open for the training program, which begins in January 2026. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Upcoming Events

12/17: OPRA Residential Resources Committee

12/18: OPRA Healthcare Committee Meeting

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

News & Resources

“Representatives Torres and Rutherford Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Support Blue Envelope Programs Nationwide”

“No, guests with disabilities aren't skipping lines at Disney parks”

“DeWine outlines priorities for his final year in office: Ohio property taxes, education and more”

“Sedgwick December 2025 Safety Articles”

