

# OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

**GES/BEST:** Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's Day Array Committee, which focused discussion on DODD's proposal for Basic Employment Skills Training (BEST) and Group Employment Supports (GES). CMS has rejected the 'tiered' proposal in BEST, which would have allowed people 50 years and older to remain in the service free of time limits or monitoring. DODD still intends to move forward for implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup> of what will need to be a reworked rule proposal. We expect to see updated rule language in the coming days. [Click here to read OPRA's presentation on the current state of the rule drafts and proposals here.](#) Reach out to [Scott](#) with questions or feedback.

**Federal Government Funding:** This week, Congress passed a funding bill that ended the partial government shutdown that went into effect last week. The funding bill included funding for the Department of Health and Human Services and HUD. Included in the funding bill was an important policy change to permanently remove the upper age restriction on Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities. While Ohio voluntarily removed the age cap two state budget ago, this legislative change means Ohio cannot re-implement the age cap in the future. This has been a policy goal of OPRA for many years. [You can read more about the funding here.](#)

**Immigration:** This week, a federal judge halted the Trump administration's ending of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants. Recent media attention has focused on the impact of ending TPS for the Haitian community in Springfield and surrounding areas. Some providers may be impacted by these potential changes. Last year, we hosted Bob Harris from Vorys to share information about the intersection of immigration law, including information on TPS, and employment. If you would like the resources Bob shared, please reach out to [Christine](#).

**OIG Report:** Yesterday's Day Array Committee also included a presentation/discussion on last year's report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which found several of Ohio's Adult Day centers out of compliance with physical and environmental safety regulations. These findings will drive rule changes to DODD and ODA's rules for Adult services and wanted members to be informed and ready for any changes or regulations as result. [Click here to read OPRA's presentation on the report.](#)

**DODD Website:** DODD is currently in the process of removing PDF files from their website in an effort to come into compliance with updated federal Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 requirements by the April 2026 deadline. DODD states that "Our teams are exploring new ways to share information, such as posting content as text on webpages, instead of PDFs. Content is being reviewed in phases starting with our most viewed resources." OPRA is exploring solutions so members can easily access key files and materials as DODD looks to remove/alter these resources.

**Just Culture:** Thank you to everyone who attended this week's 'Just Culture 101' session in advance of this year's learning collaborative. [To review the presentation, learn more, and register for this year's collaborative, click here!.](#)



# In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

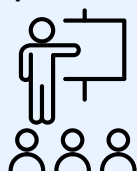
**Memo Monday:** Click here to read this week's [DODD Memo Monday](#), which includes the DODD Podcast on Keith's Law, Instruction Changes in the ICF Online Cost Reporting Tool, Topics for 2026 County Board Training, and more.

**Call for Celebrations!** In 2026, we're excited to close out our Friday calls with member celebrations, ending each call on a positive note and a bit of good news. If there's something you'd like Pete or the team to celebrate during a Friday call, we'd love to hear it! This could include retirements, milestones, big events, great stories, birthdays, or any other moments worth recognizing. Please email [Scott](#) with the subject line "OPRA Celebrations" and let us know what you'd like us to celebrate.

## 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!](#)



We are excited and grateful to welcome these **NEW Provider Members** to the OPRA Community in 2026!

Angels 4 Life

B.L.E.S.S.

Flatrock Homes

Higher Standard Home Health

JAS Developmental Disability Services

JRC

Malaika Care, LLC

Metzcor LLC

NewDay Health Services

Rest Assured

The Workshops Inc.

## Upcoming Events

2/12: OPRA Tech Townhall - Member "TED-Style" Talks

2/16: OPRA Residential Resources Committee

2/18: OPRA Healthcare Committee Meeting

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

## News & Resources

"DeWine warns abolishing property taxes could trigger major tax hikes..."

"The Science of Belonging for People With IDD"

"Press Release: Ciscomani's Medicaid Buy-in Legislation Passes House"

"Medicaid Spending on Home and Personal Care Is Rising Rapidly and Warrants Attention"



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