

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

HB 225: The Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee held a hearing on HB 225, a bill to phase out the payment of sub-minimum/commensurate wage to people with disabilities. The committee did not take testimony, but instead offered an amendment to the bill. The amended bill language primarily intends to address some of the potential consequences of an elimination of 14c or commensurate wages. An invite-only interested parties meeting is being held next week to discuss the amendment. [You can read the amendment here.](#) You can read the [LSC analysis of the bill here.](#) You can read the [LSC comparison document here.](#) Reach out to [Christine](#) or [Scott](#) with any questions or feedback.

EVV: The Ohio Department of Medicaid is hosting their monthly EVV stakeholder meeting on Monday, February 23, at 2:30pm. The meeting will mostly not focus on EVV in DODD services, but ODM will be giving an update on claims matching percentages across the various implemented phases so far. [You can register to join the meeting here.](#)

APSI Institute: APSI will be holding their 'Institute' meeting on Effective Cross-System Collaboration, featuring a few OPRA members. "Learn about how guardians, families, DD professionals, probate courts, and individuals can most effectively work together to achieve their common goal of improving the lives of individuals with I/DD." [Learn more and register here.](#)

Residential Committee: Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in this week's Residential Resources committee. The recording of the meeting can be found [here on the OPRA website.](#) We are also looking for new co-chairs for the committee, and you can apply by filling out the [application here](#) and sending back to [Rachel](#) by 3/16.

GES/BEST: We are still waiting to see formal communication from DODD regarding their decision to not pursue the GES/BEST proposal. We still expect that DODD will reach out to applicants of the 'Building Capacity for GES' grants on whether they are still interested in the funding opportunity.



Joint Medicaid Hearing: On Thursday, the Joint Medicaid Committees held a meeting chaired by Rep. Jennifer Gross, who serves as chair of the House Medicaid Committee. The primary purpose of the meeting to hear invited testimony by new Director of the Department of Medicaid, Scott Partika, including a presentation on changes to Medicaid resulting from H.R. 1 and how those federal changes are expected to affect Ohio's Medicaid program. [Watch 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 a highlight of Alpha Group's Binable store, as well as info on the upcoming InterRAI Town Halls, MSS Transition, Alternate EVV Edit Reason Code Requirement and more.

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.

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.

Just Culture: Thank you to everyone who attended '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!](#)

Immigration: 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](#).

Upcoming Events

3/2: OPRA CEO/DOO/CFO/Business Manager Network

3/5: OPRA Regional Meeting - District 4

3/6: OPRA Regional Meeting - District 6

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

News & Resources

"NYT: Ohio's Covid Czar Hopes to Be the State's Democratic Governor"

"More Ohio property tax reform unlikely before 2026 midterm elections"

"New issue brief documents what's at stake if Medicaid HCBS are cut"

"HHS's reported AI uses soar, including pilots to address staff 'shortage'"



Are you a parent or family member of an Ohio adult with IDD?

You're invited to take a 10–15 minute survey about how families make decisions about guardianship and other decision-making options.



SHARE YOUR VOICE!



Get helpful resources for supporting your loved one.



Contribute to improving resources for families across Ohio.

Scan to begin:



👉 Take the survey: https://bit.ly/Family_Decisions

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