

OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

HB 225: The Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee held an Interested Party meeting this week regarding HB 225, a bill to phase out the payment of sub-minimum/commensurate wage to people with disabilities. The meeting was intended to discuss language recently amended into the bill and discuss a path for the bill out of committee. The bill still has many technical issues which would impact the potential phase-out period and viability of proposed tax credits. The amended bill language primarily intends to address some of the potential consequences of an elimination of 14c or commensurate wages. [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.

Rules for Review: Earlier this week, DODD released a slew of rules to be amended, with feedback/comments due by 3/11. As we've discussed, DODD communicated their intent to open up the Adult Day Support rule to primarily address physical and environmental hazards found in last year's [OIG report of Ohio's Adult Day Centers](#) (including many centers providing services through the Ohio Dept. of Aging). However upon review, the rule/s contain far more proposed elements than just those OIG findings. The ADS/VH rules also contain new definitions of 'integrated community settings', which don't seem to apply to ADS, nor have been vetted with the relevant stakeholder groups. All of the rules proposed contain references to the InterRAI assessment, which also seems premature and problematic. [The rules can be found here.](#) Reach out to any member of the OPRA team with feedback on this rule package.

HB 581- This week, the Ohio House Medicaid Committee heard sponsor testimony on HB 581, also known as Connie's Law. The bill, sponsored by Reps. Lett and Odioso, would change how unearned income is considered in determining eligibility for Medicaid for people in the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities program. [You can read the House's press release on the bill hearing here.](#) You can read the [bill language and testimony here.](#) You can [watch the testimony here.](#)

EVV: The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) hosted their monthly EVV stakeholder meeting this past Monday. The meeting focused primarily on EVV in aging and MyCare services. ODM shared an update on the claims matching for DODD services. ODM claims that 99.9% of claims have a matching visit in the Sandata system. You can review [the slides from the meeting here.](#)

Residential Committee: We are also looking for new co-chairs for the Residential Resources committee, and you can apply by filling out the [application here](#) and sending back to [Rachel](#) by 3/16.

Don't
Forget!

OPRA's CEO/CFO regular bi-weekly networking meetings start this Monday, March 2nd from 11-11:45am. [The zoom link can be found here.](#) Also, our regional discussions on 'Whats next for Ohio DD' start next week in districts 4 and 6. [Check out the OPRA calendar to learn more and register.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: DODD did not publish a Memo Monday this week (At least not one that hit our inboxes!), so we do not have our regular update here. We are still waiting for a formal announcement on the GES/BEST proposal's withdrawal and the status of the GES grants.

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!](#)

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.](#)

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

"Home represents hope for people with developmental disabilities"

"Administration Prioritizes Affordability by Announcing Crackdown on Health Care Fraud"

"Uber Expands Options For Riders With IDD"

"Amid drastic Medicaid cuts, Ohio Department of Health director lays out rural program funding plans"



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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