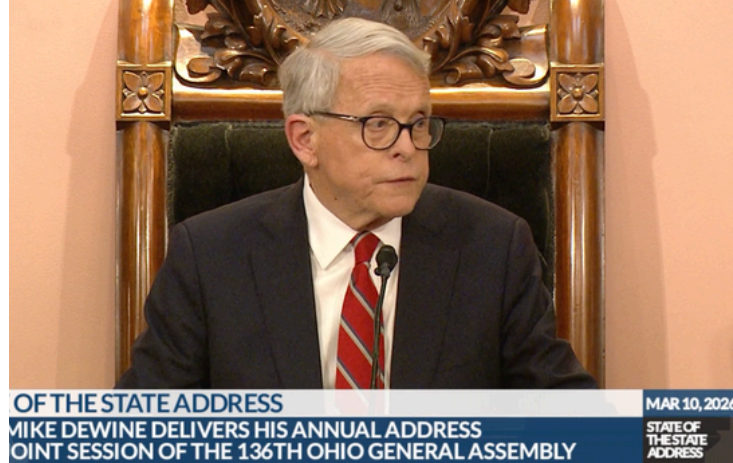


OPRA FRIDAY FIVE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

MARCH 13, 2026

State of the State- This week, Governor DeWine delivered his final State of the States address to members of the Ohio General Assembly. The Governor primarily reflected on the work his administration completed over the past seven years, focusing on issues like childhood literacy, decline of overdose deaths, and economic development in the state. Ohio's DD system and DSPs received a shout out in the first few minutes of the speech. [You can watch the speech here.](#)



Rule Comments: This week, OPRA submitted comments on a set of rules released for clearance recently. The comments highlight the contrast between what has been shared with stakeholders and system partners and what has been proposed in these rules. Several rules contain provisions not discussed with stakeholders or appearing significantly different than discussed in workgroup meetings. We submitted these comments with support of the Values and Faith Alliance (VFA) and the Arc of Ohio. [Click here to read.](#)

HB 141: The Ohio Senate Health Committee held the second hearing for HB 141 which creates prescribed pediatric extended care centers. This was the first hearing in the Senate on the bill. OPRA submitted this [written testimony](#) in support of the bill. You can watch a [recording of the hearing here](#). You can view bill language and all [submitted testimony here](#).



**GREAT PROVIDER
SUMMIT**
May 7-8, 2026 • Hilton Cleveland

Registration is open for this year's OPRA Great Provider Summit in Cleveland! [Click here to learn more about the event](#), including Wednesday's Pre-Conference training on Appreciative Inquiry. See you there!

Town Hall Tuesday: OPRA is pleased to announce an upcoming [Town Hall Tuesday](#) webinar on Tuesday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m., focused on SB 35 – Supported Decision Making. We encourage you and your staff to join us in this important conversation. We are excited to welcome Kristen Henry from APSI, who will provide an overview of the legislation and discuss its implications for providers and individuals served. If you currently have questions regarding SB35, please send your questions ahead of time to [Rachel](#) or [Christine](#). [Click here to learn more and register.](#)



In Case You Missed It...

Additional Updates From The OPRA Team and System Partners

Memo Monday: Click here to read this week's [Memo Monday](#), which includes info on a Preventing Misappropriation Webinar, the Innovation Summit 2026, the Tech Summit 2026, and the March Session of the 2026 Provider Training Series.



Check out [this video](#) from our friends at Brookhill Industries in celebration of Developmental Disability Awareness Month. 'We Are Everyday People!'

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.

We'd like to welcome our newest provider members to the OPRA Community!

Caring Hearts Residential Services

Finding Purpose

Phase 1 Home Care Services

You've Got This LLC

Upcoming Events

3/16: OPRA CEO/DOO/CFO/Business Manager Network

3/18: OPRA Business Operations Committee

3/19: OPRA Regional Meeting Districts 1 & 2

3/20: OPRA Regional Meeting District 3

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

News & Resources

"Committee hears testimony on issues with new developmental disabilities assessment tool"

"Ohio lawmakers are mixed on Gov. Mike DeWine's final State of the State"

"DOL selects participants for national effort to expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities"

2026 DD Awareness Month: We're Here: Then, Now, Always.





GREAT PROVIDER SUMMIT

May 7-8, 2026 • Hilton Cleveland

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HEALTHCARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Spring Conference

Difference Makers in Safety and Supports

April 15, 2026

9:00am to 4:00pm (registration begins at 8:15am)

Dwell Community Church
1394 Community Park Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Learn about Safety, Conflict Resolution, and Dignity of Risk

Featured speakers include:

- Dr. Stephen Sroka will speak on building relationships and provide tips to keep you, and individuals, staff and the community safe and healthy so they can learn more and live better lives.
- Dr. Wendi Patterson will speak on the importance of dignity of risk and the balance between autonomy and safety, conflict resolution, offering approaches and safeguards to support informed decision making.
- Detective Lieutenant Kristopher Shultz, Clark County Sheriff's Department will speak on safety in the workplace and schools and information to provide to law enforcement to ensure individuals' safety.

6. OBN CE's pending approval by the OBN approval unit of DODD OBN-010-93

6. DODD IA, SSA, and Superintendent hours pending

For questions regarding CE status call: 440-742-6017 or email debmaloy22@gmail.com

You must attend the entire conference and complete an evaluation to receive CE's and Contact hours

Registration Fee: \$75.00 - Continental Breakfast and Boxed Lunch included.

The temperature of the building may vary at times so please dress accordingly for your comfort.

Register online at: HAC Spring Conference Registration

<http://reg.planetReg.com/E3383422239177>

For registration problems, please call 937-631-7704

Registration is from March 4th 2026 to April 8th 2026 at Midnight

No cancellations will be accepted after April 8th 2026

The Healthcare Advisory Committee reserves the right to cancel this event. Registration fees will be refunded if canceled. Personal cancellations will be refunded minus \$10 due to committee costs.



StationMD

Telemedicine for Individuals with Intellectual
& Developmental Disabilities



StationMD, the Provider Perspective

Free Webinar
Tuesday, March 24th
11am - 12pm ET

Need help navigating Health Care Assessment Services?

Emily Martinez from StationMD will show you how to use the health care assessment service, answer questions, and give specific examples of how to use the service.

What We'll Cover

1. Health care assessment service
2. Benefits to individual
3. Support to providers
4. Changing times for county boards
5. How to help individuals obtain the service
6. Hear from Deb Rasmusson, Chief Operating Officer of Sunshine Communities, on how the service has helped those they serve

**LEARN MORE &
REGISTER HERE**



We're excited to share something special for the OPRA Great Provider Summit, Giv is hosting a furniture giveaway for OPRA members! We will select two winners for the raffle, the set of furniture and equipment is listed below:

Winner 1:

2 Couches, 2 retro spinning chairs, 1 coffee table, rug, and 4 throw pillows

Winner 2:

1 High Conference table with in-table power, 4 barstools, 2 monitors, keyboards, and mice.

Here's how to earn raffle entries:

- **1 entry** – Fill out the [giveaway form](#)
- **2 entries** – Sign up for Giv News for industry updates [Giv News](#)
- **10 entries** – Agency decision maker [completes a demo](#)

The winning agency must own at least one group home, and entries must include the company name to count.

We look forward to seeing you at the OPRA Great Provider Summit!

[Enter giveaway](#)