



## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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Executive Director

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Division of Disability Determination

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Vocational Rehabilitation Providers,

OOD would like to thank you for your engagement over the past year in regard to the proposed Vocational Rehabilitation Fee Schedule. We appreciate your level of participation in this process and your willingness to provide not only comments, but recommendations for changes. We believe that the additional time spent gathering your feedback and adjusting the proposed fee schedule accordingly resulted in a product that will best meet the needs of individuals served by the VR program. On February 13, 2017, OOD filed the proposed rule revision (OAC 3304.2.52) along with Appendix A to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) and on April 17, 2017 the changes were approved.

At this time, OOD is planning on an **implementation date of October 1, 2017**. This implementation date will avoid confusion of changed service definitions and rates in the middle of summer youth programming, will allow ample time for training of both provider and OOD staff, and will coincide with the start of the new federal fiscal year. We are currently planning and developing the training for OOD staff and providers on the updates to the fee schedule. These trainings and informational sessions will take place throughout the summer leading up to the October implementation.

OOD has also formed a workgroup of staff and providers to work on updating the report templates to reflect the changes in the fee schedule. The first meeting earlier this month was very productive and a good first step in making changes that will improve the information provided to OOD as well as streamline some of the report writing requirements that are currently in place. We are optimistic that the changes in fee structures in the new fee schedule will allow for simplification of reporting and billing requirements for providers and OOD staff. The reduction of administrative burden associated with reporting, in particular for hourly rates, mileage and reporting, was an important objective of the revised fee schedule. We appreciate the provider staff who are investing time in helping OOD to make revisions to our report templates and we look forward to rolling them out on October 1.

Again, thank you for your partnership throughout this process. Your commitment to serving individuals with disabilities in Ohio is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Miller

Executive Director

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