



# The OPRA Review

February 14, 2013

## Governor Kasich Releases Proposed State of Ohio Budget

Governor John Kasich's FY 2014-2015 projected [State of Ohio Operating Budget](#) was introduced on February 4th and proposes to shift the tax burden by expanding the base over the next three years.

The proposed \$63.3 billion budget, which includes lowering taxes overall by \$1.4 billion over the next three years, providing healthcare coverage to an estimated 275,000 Ohioans, and adding \$1.3 billion to education, is sure to be the center of much debate as it makes its way through the General Assembly in the coming months.

## Waiver Rate Increase Remains OPRA's Budget Waiver Priority Number One

With the [January 11th letter to Director John Martin](#), OPRA declared a waiver rate increase as its State budget waiver priority. Since that announcement, OPRA staff and members have been communicating with the administration and legislature about the critical need to address the current waiver rate. We are pleased that in announcing the 2014/15 DODD budget Director Martin identified \$2 million in FY 15 as new match monies committed to a rate increase (see DODD Budget on page 3). "More is possible" he added, depending on the speed and savings associated with continued DC downsizing. While this is a genuinely appreciated beginning it remains OPRA's goal to add additional general revenue monies in this budget in FY 14 and FY15. Join us in this effort! Please call or contact Jeff Davis at [jdavis@opra.org](mailto:jdavis@opra.org) or (614) 579-9957 to talk about how your personal involvement can help make the difference!

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## Medicaid Expansion—A Good Idea?

With the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March 2010, states are now faced with the decision of whether or not to expand Medicaid. States can decide whether and when to implement the expansion, however the timeframe for 100% federal funding is fixed.

So what does this mean for Ohio? According to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio's (HPIO) [Medicaid Expansion Study](#), Medicaid expansion

would have an impact in several areas, including Ohio's budget, economic growth, jobs, number of people with Medicaid and with/without health insurance coverage, and county revenue.

In an article published January 16, 2013 in the Columbus Dispatch, Catherine Candisky shared the results of the recently conducted non-partisan study that is reportedly consistent with other research and findings, suggesting that Medicaid expansion "is a good deal for

*"The timelines of the study results seem apropos as Governor Kasich decides whether or not to include Medicaid expansion in the two-year budget plan he plans to release in early February".*

### What's Happening at OPRA

- February 18, 2013  
President's Day—office closed.
- February 19, 2013  
10:00am—2:00pm  
OPRA Policy Committee at OPRA
- March 1, 2013  
Supported Employment Info Session 1:00pm—4:00pm at OPRA
- March 5, 2013 IT Workgroup 12:00pm—3:00pm at OPRA

both Ohio taxpayers and the uninsured".

Candisky reports that according to the study, expanding Medicaid will save the state of Ohio an estimated \$1.4 billion by the year 2022, while at the same time, drastically reducing the number of uninsured Ohioans by almost 450,000.

The timeliness of the study results seem apropos as Governor Kasich decides whether or not to include Medicaid expansion in the two-year budget plan he is expected to release in early February

To read more of the HPIO's publication on the issue of Medicaid expansion, policy considerations, and

a summary analysis of the costs and benefits of such an expansion [click here](#).

We are called policy wonks.  
Data crunchers.  
Forecasting fanatics.  
Logic model lovers.  
Even health policy know-it-alls.  
We are also called non-partisan.  
Independent.  
Creative conveners.  
Health policy experts.

<http://www.healthpolicyohio.org>

## A Look at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' Budget

The initial glimpse of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD) budget reflects Director John Martin's stated budget priority of continued system rebalancing. The Department's goal of further downsizing state operated developmental centers and downsizing (and converting) private ICFs is supported by a variety of proposed reimbursement changes, language amendments and allocation of new general revenue funds.

General Revenue Funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$520.2 million (or a 1.3% increase from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$525.9 million (or a 1.1% increase from fiscal year 2014). All funds funding for fiscal year 2014 is \$2.5 billion (or a 6% increase from fiscal year 2013). Funding for fiscal year 2015 is \$2.7 billion (or a 6.3% increase from fiscal year 2014).

Continued on page 6.



*The Trusted Voice for Providers Serving Ohioans with Disabilities*

### 2013 OPRA Spring Conference

The OPRA Spring Conference will be held at the [Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin Ohio](#).

Dates for the conference are April 16th and 17th, 2013.

Keep your eye on the OPRA website at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org) for [registration information](#) when it becomes available!

### Exhibiter and Sponsor Information

Visit the OPRA website at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org) to register and select your Sponsor/Exhibit package.

For more information, contact Teri Derry at [tderry@opra.org](mailto:tderry@opra.org) or call 614.224.6772.

**See you at the  
2013 OPRA Spring  
Conference!!**

## Important News!!

Be sure to look for the "OPRA Review Spotlight" in each issue of The OPRA Review! In each publication, we will highlight an interesting person or organization doing innovative and exceptional things in the DD field!

If you have suggestions for the "OPRA Review Spotlight" article, please contact Leslie Minnich at [lminnich@opra.org](mailto:lminnich@opra.org) or Jeff Davis at [jdavis@opra.org](mailto:jdavis@opra.org) or call 614.224.6772.

## OPRA Review Spotlight—**Siffrin Inc.**

[Siffrin, Inc.](#), a non-profit services agency serving more than 300 individuals with disabilities in eight counties across Ohio, has taken a unique approach in how they serve individuals through its Employment Support Services (ESS) and Day Services programs. An example of a great initiative focused on ESS is their Project SEARCH program which began in 2009 with the Aultman Hospital in Stark County. Project SEARCH is a school-to-work program focused on employability skills training and workplace



internships for developmentally disabled high school students and young adults transitioning into the workplace. The program differs from similar school-to-work models by focusing on integrating classroom training with real work experience and quickly moving youth into jobs matched to their skills and interests. Rather than limiting them to simple, repetitive, low-skill jobs, participants in the program learn life skills associated with the work culture and can immediately test those skills through internships.

The [Siffrin](#) Project SEARCH program emphasizes a work/study concept where individuals team up with a job coach and spend the entire day at the hospital. Over several months, participants progress to individualized worksite rotations or internships throughout various departments within the hospital that simulate real-world employment.

"The success of our Project SEARCH program is a great example of the community and individuals with disabilities working together and achieving great things. Our goal is to break down the physical and attitudinal barriers and provide opportunities that help build upon a person's strengths and integrate them into the community as much as possible," said Brad Vincent, Executive Director at [Siffrin, Inc.](#)

Since the start of the program, more than 84 individuals have participated in the Project SEARCH internship initiative with [Aultman Hospital](#) and 26 have gained employment by the hospital or other employers as a direct result of this effort.

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*"A big part of enhancing and encouraging growth for individuals is to provide volunteer opportunities for them to contribute to the community and assist others who may be in need"*

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Siffrin plans to expand the Project SEARCH program into other Ohio counties and hopes to establish partnerships with other businesses and organizations very soon. To learn more about Project SEARCH, view this inspirational video [here](#).

In addition to Project SEARCH, Siffrin's Day Services programs, The Bridge, help adults focus on enhancing self-esteem and increasing involvement in the community. As part of this effort, [Siffrin](#) offers opportunities for individuals to volunteer and help others within their communities on a variety of levels. "We feel it is inherent in every person, disabled or not, to want to help their fellow man and use the gifts they have been given to give back to the others. A big part of enhancing and encouraging growth for individuals is to provide volunteer opportunities for them to contribute to the community and assist others who may be in need. From helping to deliver Meals on Wheels to seniors, gathering toys for the Toys for Tots program, setting-up soup kitchens for the needy, to maintaining our parks through various clean-up and maintenance activities, volunteering allows individuals to take pride in supporting their community and give back what they have to offer," said Vincent. "It also helps to breakdown those barriers that people may have about persons with disabilities. "We want to viewed as giving a hand, not having our hand out."

To learn more about [Siffrin's](#) unique services and approach to helping individuals they serve, [click here](#).



Siffrin Inc.



## A Look at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' Budget (cont'd)

According to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the proposed budget will fund the following objectives:

- Provide funding for the Individual Options waiver, serving approximately 18,500 individuals (currently 17,179)
- Provide funding for the Level One waiver, serving approximately 14,400 individuals (currently 12,005)
- Provide funding for the SELF waiver, including 100 state-funded slots for children with intensive behavioral needs and 1900 locally funded slots for adults (currently 50)

Funding for these would come primarily through the commitment of additional county board match.

In addition, DODD's plan to budget for downsizing and conversion will include several factors. For the Developmental Centers, DODD has again publically stated their plan to reduce its DC census by at least 180 over the next two years. This would bring the number of individuals served to about 850 in ten centers. Unlike previous efforts the primary vehicle this time for moving individuals will be the Department development through RFP of 20 small licensed ICFs of 6 beds or less strategically located throughout the state. The Department (with provider input) will look to control admissions and discharges and will offer follow-along services such as medical and behavioral assistance. For those individuals leaving the DCs and moving into a waiver setting the Department has committed to make

permanent a rate increase of \$2.08 per hour for HCBS waiver providers. (This will also apply if the individual was previously a resident of a public hospital or converted ICF). The current cost of a developmental center resident exceeds \$185,000 per year and will likely increase over the biennium as \$6 million plus was added to the DC GRF operating budget in 2014 to account for a combination of contractually obligated salary and benefit increases and required additional state Medicaid match obligations.

In regard to Private ICF's, citing Olmstead and the Department of Justice as primary drivers (Ohio has more 16 beds and above private ICFs than any other state), DODD is proposing a number of statutory language changes that will change the reimbursement structure for private ICFs.

For large facilities (9 & greater), in FY15 DODD proposes to:

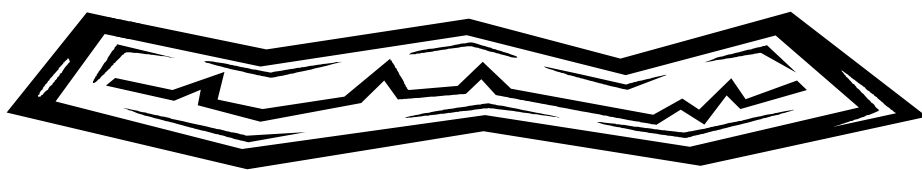
- Reduce the indirect efficiency incentive maximum from 7.1% to 3.55% of the maximum rate for the large peer group under the capped methodology
- -Reduce the capital efficiency from 37.5% (1/2 at 50% and 1/2 at 25%) to 18.75% (1/2 at 25% and 1/2 at 12.5%) and bring non-extensive renovations under the capital ceiling
- Eliminate return on net equity

These changes are projected to save \$1 million in FY 15 (cont'd on page 7).

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For all ICFs, DODD proposes to establish a flat rate beginning in FY15 for residents who are in the “typical adaptive needs” and “non-significant behavior” category (Level 4). This is projected to save \$4 million in FY15

In addition DODD proposes that ICFs who downsize or convert will be able to submit a 90-day cost report, to report accurate costs remaining after facility changes, and eliminate undue lag time in necessary rate adjustments. This is projected to add costs of \$500,000 in FY 14 and \$2.5 million in FY 15.

It is assumed that if the above changes are implemented coupled with the new GRF monies allocated in FY15 then monies saved will provide financial incentives for downsizing and conversion of private ICF’s and \$2 million will be available for a modest waiver rate increase.

The give and take is more clearly understood if viewed from the overall FY14 and FY15 budget assumptions:

FY14 Budget Assumptions	FY15 Budget Assumptions			
	Estimated Savings		Increased Expenses	
DODD received an additional \$6.5 million	FY15 Large Facility Changes	\$1 million	SELF Waiver (100 kids)	\$1 million
Approximately \$5 million FMAP adjustments	Flat Rate Level 4s	\$4 million	90 Day Cost Reports	\$2.5 million
Approximately \$500,000 for 90 day cost reports	Total Estimated Savings	\$5 million	Waiver Rate Increase	\$2 million
\$1 million for Employment First	New Money	\$5.7 million	Decrease in FMAP/lost FFP	\$1 million
			Debt Service	\$200,000
			ICF Rollback Reduction	??
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10.7 million</b>	<b>Total Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>\$6.7 million</b>

And finally, DODD’s plans around Employment First are clear. The Executive Budget authorizes additional strategies to eliminate barriers to employment. It improves data collection, makes permanent the Governor’s Employment Task Force, and creates an assumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work unless determined otherwise. The budget also encourages local county boards to create Employment First policies and creates a new Employment First line item in DODD to fund these efforts. \$1 million in GRF is provided in both FY 14 and FY15.



## Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)

### OPRA's Mission:

To support and provide advocacy for community-based service providers to ensure the availability of programs, services and funding adequate to support and assist individuals with developmental disabilities as they strive to achieve a life of increasing independence, productivity and integration.

## Who is OPRA?

OPRA is Ohio's largest statewide trade association representing providers of services to Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Currently, OPRA's membership consists of more than 150 organizations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, providing services to more than 15,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities. OPRA represents approximately 70% of the state's community-based providers

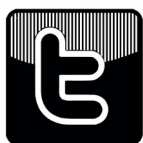
### Our Core Objectives:

- To work with legislators, administrative agencies and other stakeholder groups, including families and community-based organizations, to shape public policies that deeply affect people with developmental disabilities.
- To protect the right of individuals and families to choose where and how their loved ones are cared for and supported, and our highest priority is providing and sustaining high-quality services for all Ohioans with disabilities.
- To promote the creation of a statewide structure that is rational, equitable, fair and effective.

## Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)

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