



The OPRA Review

February 21, 2013

OPRA Board Votes to Support Medicaid Expansion

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Board of Directors voted today to support Governor Kasich's initiative to expand Medicaid coverage to adults up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

The Administration cites core concepts such as reducing the cost of uncompensated care, improving health and safety, boosting Ohio's health care economy and keeping Ohio's tax dollars in Ohio as major reasons for the proposal.

Implementation of Medicaid expansion would cover approximately 275,000 additional low-income Ohioans currently uninsured. In addition, it would strengthen local mental health and addiction services by freeing up over \$100 million in local levy dollars and free up an additional \$404 million in state spending over two years.

Human service advocates worry that removing Medicaid expansion from the budget will cause significant budget holes in a carefully crafted administration budget. "Not only are we supporting a position that will benefit thousands of Ohioans by providing them with health care coverage", says OPRA President Mark Davis, "but we are also protecting our providers from the potential of rate cuts if the state is faced with over \$400 million in lost revenue." Janice Hall, President of the OPRA Board added "We had a frank and candid discussion of the pros and cons of Medicaid expansion and believe that this initiative makes the most sense not just for Ohio but for our members, their staff and the people we serve."

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Governor Kasich Delivers State of the Union Address

Governor John Kasich delivered his third [State of the State Address](#) in Lima, Ohio yesterday and asked the Republican majorities in both houses of the legislature to support Medicaid expansion.

Governor Kasich also spoke about Ohio's economic turnaround and his specific workforce development and tax reform initiatives in his two year state budget proposal (H.B. 59).

"I can't look at the disabled, I can't look at the poor, I can't look at the mentally ill, I can't look at the addicted and think we ought to ignore them," Kasich said. "For those who live in the shadows of life, for those who are the least among us, I will not accept the fact that the most vulnerable in our state should be ignored. We can help them."

What's Happening at OPRA

- March 1, 2013
Supported Employment Info Sessions
9:00am—12:00pm and 1:00pm—4:00pm at OPRA (*full)
- March 5, 2013 IT Workgroup 12:00pm—3:00pm at OPRA
- March 5, 2013 DD Awareness & Advocacy Day 8:30am—?? at the Ohio Statehouse
- March 12, 2013 OPRA HR Committee 10:30am—2:00pm at OPRA

Governor Kasich's Executive Budget Recommendations—Testimony of Director Tim Keen, Ohio Office of Budget and Management

Curious how a state budget is put together? Ohio Office of Budget and Management's (OBM) Director Tim Keen kicked off budget deliberations with his [testimony](#) before the House Finance and Appropriations Committee on February 5th.

Although 68 pages long it is fascinating reading for anyone looking to better understand the intricacies of how an administration crafts a complicated two year budget.



Director Timothy S. Keen

Ohio House Of Representatives Finance Health & Human Services Sub-Committee

Tuesday Feb 26 at 4pm – Hearing Room 313

Department of Aging
Department of Health
Department of Developmental Disabilities
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Wednesday Feb 27 at 9am – Hearing Room 313

Department of Job and Family Services (non-Medicaid)
Department of Insurance

Thursday Feb 28 at 9am – Hearing Room 313

Department of Medicaid
Governor's Office of Health Transformation

Possible Panel Discussions are scheduled March 6th, 9am, March 7th, 9am, March 12th, 4pm, March 13th, 9am, and March 14th 9am, all in Hearing Room 313. Times are subject to change Check with the chair's office at 614.466.4847. Persons wishing to testify should submit copies in advance to micah.derry@ohiohouse.gov and supply 25 copies when testifying.



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 for [registration information](#) when it becomes available!

Exhibiter and Sponsor Information

Visit the OPRA website at www.opra.org to register and select your Sponsor/ Exhibit package.

For more information, contact Teri Derry at tderry@opra.org or call 614.224.6772.

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

Get Featured!!

Be sure to look for the "OPRA Review Spotlight", which will be included in every other issue of The OPRA Review!

In the "Spotlight", OPRA 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 or Jeff Davis at jdavis@opra.org or call 614.224.6772.



Employment First Initiative

Governor Kasich's Employment First Workgroup is completing its second phase of implementation recommendations. Under DODD's leadership the Training workgroup is finalizing recommendations to assess training needs of counties and providers and provide an outline of definitive next steps.

Focusing on the core concepts of "one size does not fit all" and "local collaboration" the workgroup will propose the creation and facilitation of community level implementation sites.

Chosen by RFP these local collaborative teams will be made up of county DD boards, private providers, RSC representatives, schools, employers and other stakeholders with an interest in furthering the objectives of the Employment First Initiative. Each of the selected Teams will have an assigned

1st, OPRA will be hosting two, 3-hour sessions, that will provide participants with: an overview of Ohio's Employment First Initiative; an opportunity to review DODD's Provider Qualification Requirements for both 5123:2-9-15 (Supported Employment-Community) and 5123:2-16 (Supported



1 Governor Kasich asks Micah Hettrich to help sign the Executive Order on Employment First.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST



facilitator/s with the intent that funding will come through Employment First funds.

The purpose of the "local collaboration" will be to coordinate activities among the Team participants including; completion of a self assessment, including initial and on-going training needs and the preparation and implementation of an action plan for continued professional development.

In addition, a questionnaire, gauging current attitudes, awareness and professional development needs is likely to be sent out by DODD over the next few months to help establish a baseline and development of additional next steps.

Many Medicaid Waiver providers have expressed interest in starting Supported Employment programs. On Friday, March

Employment Enclave); an overview of supported employment services; and suggestions for taking the next steps to include SE-C and SE-E in your array of services offered. This training will be very basic and will be used to determine next steps regarding additional training needs meeting those needs.

The training is set for Friday, March 1st, from 9am - 12pm and a repeat session from 1pm - 3pm. They will be held at the OPRA offices, 1152 Goodale Boulevard, Columbus, OH 43212. (Please note: both training sessions are FULL).

If you have further questions or interest please contact Jeff Davis (jdavis@opra.org) or Teri Derry (tderry@opra.org).

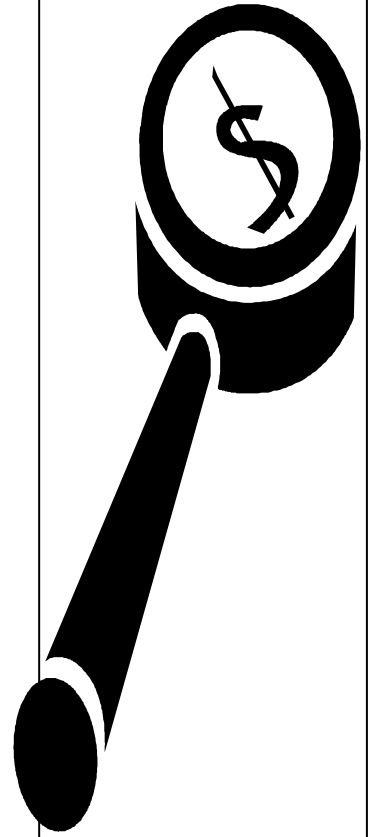
DODD Re-Instates Money Management Work Group

In 2010, The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) convened a work group to develop recommendations regarding the management of consumer funds in non-licensed settings. A **Money Management Guidelines Information Notice** was released in October of 2011.

After reviewing feedback from the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD), DODD asked OPRA to convene an internal work group to develop recommendations for DODD's consideration. OPRA's work group began meeting in 2012 and developed [Best Practice Guidelines](#) for both the management of consumer funds and [Representative Payee Services](#).

In addition, a memo was drafted regarding the [disposition of the personal funds](#) of deceased consumers. This memo was for DODD's use and has not been distributed.

After meeting with DODD to discuss our progress, DODD re-convened their work group to begin work on a money management rule for non-licensed settings. The group will be meeting frequently during the next 3 months. OPRA will send the draft rule to the membership for comment as soon as it ready.



"Our message is simple: Please keep Medicaid Expansion in the budget, we can't afford not to expand coverage".

Medicaid Expansion— A Message from OPRA and Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF)

Yesterday the OPRA Board voted to support Medicaid expansion (see related article on page 1). We ask that you join us today in contacting your state representative and sharing the importance of keeping Medicaid expansion in the budget. Thank you for your efforts.

SHOW SUPPORT FOR EXTENDING HEALTH COVERAGE TO 275,000 OHIOANS

Call your state representative today (Thursday, 2/21). Please join the Ohio Provider Resource Association and Advocates for Ohio's Future for a statewide day of action tomorrow.

Our goal is to show members of the Ohio House of Representatives that there is broad public support to extend health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans in the state budget.

Our message is simple: Please keep Medicaid Expansion in the budget, we can't afford not to expand coverage.

Details for the call in can be found [here](#). Please share this action opportunity with your networks (feel free to copy and paste from the link above). The Ohio House of Representatives needs to hear our support!

Medicaid Expansion—Your Efforts Are Important!!

In a message from [Advocates for Ohio's Future](#) State Director Will Petrik, "We already have over 220 emails into lawmakers from over 75 districts in the House to support extending health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans, so we're generating a lot of activity for the day of action today". But we must continue to act!

"Please keep Medicaid expansion in the budget, we can't afford not to expand coverage".

It is important to remember that absent the inclusion of Medicaid Expansion, the current state budget as introduced would have a \$400 Million budget hole. It is unlikely our system would escape without budget cuts.

If you haven't shared the info with your networks or made calls to active people in your networks, please make 2 or 3 calls today to engage your best leaders/and their networks. Join [Advocates for Ohio's Future](#), supporters and organizations across the state by calling and emailing your State Representative today to support extending health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans in the state budget. The goal is to show the Ohio House of Representatives that Ohioans support Medicaid expansion.

Step 1: Email your State Representative

[Click here.](#)

- Fill out your zip code (and address if needed).
- Edit / personalize the form email. It makes your message more effective.

Step 2: Call your State Representative

Use [this link](#) to find out your Representative's phone number - just fill in your zip code and address to get his / her number.

- Call the number and use one of the following sample scripts:

One Sentence Message:

"Please keep Medicaid expansion in the budget, we can't afford not to expand coverage."

Extended Message:

"I'm calling to urge Representative (insert Rep's name) to keep Medicaid Expansion in the budget. If we choose not to extend Medicaid, Ohio taxpayers will pay an additional \$404 million over the next two years, lose \$2.4 billion (\$13 billion over seven years) of Ohioans' federal tax dollars to support Ohio's priorities, and put at risk local mental health and addiction services. We can't afford not to extend Medicaid in the state budget."

Step 3: Log Your Call

Click [here](#) to log your call so we can track how many calls House members received in support of the extending health coverage in Ohio.

The DODD IAF Reconsideration Process—OPRA’s ICF Committee Meets to Discuss

On February 14, 2013, OPRA’s ICF Committee convened to discuss the IAF Reconsideration process ([see presentation here](#)). Main topic of discussion: providers have indicated that they do not know exactly *what* to appeal. DODD assessors have only provided preliminary score sheets at the facility exit and mail the final RAC summary score sheet at a later date. Providers report that they are not given access to the final IAF scoring/answer sheets that are in DODD’s possession. This presents a problem because providers do not know exactly what to appeal, since preliminary scores may not be the same as the final scores.

We understand that DODD has, in some cases, changed the scores/answers since the time of the assessors’ exit from the facility. OPRA has asked DODD to resend all notices of final scores with the scoring/answer sheets to providers so that everyone is on notice of the IAF final scores/answers. DODD has so far refused this request, and instead have indicated that providers can, facility by facility, ask for the final IAF facility scoring/answer sheets upon which the final RAC scores are based.

Providers should use the [IAF Document Request](#) form for requesting IAF score/answer sheets if they do not have an appeal yet to file (because they have not yet received your notice letter from DODD), and/or the [IAF document and Reconsideration Request](#) form which can be used at a provider’s discretion when asking for both the IAF score and answer sheets. The form also describes a proposed way to request reconsideration generically for the facility. Providers should do what they are

comfortable with, and may want to consult their own legal counsel about various approaches as OPRA is not providing legal advice, only processes for consideration.

It is our understanding that DODD is giving providers who have filed a generic appeal with a request for the IAF scores/answers an additional 15 days in which to appeal once they receive the IAF score/answer sheets. **But you must ask for the IAF score/answer sheets.** We do not think at this point that DODD is going to send out any new notice containing the score sheets. This could change, but, as of today, this has been the practice of DODD.

Due to the possibility of score modifications after your facilities review, we suggest that you request your final score/answer sheets to know your organization’s underlying scores/answers with certainty to ensure that what you are appealing is accurate. Another advantage of asking for this information **after** you receive your notice is that it extends the timeframe for appeal by an additional 15 days from time you receive the final IAF scores/answers. This helps because: 1) you will know with certainty what you are appealing and 2) you will have more time in which to appeal as the information needed to rebut the DODD scores can be labor intensive and lengthy to compile. If DODD changes its mind and starts sending out the final IAF score/answer sheets on a going forward basis, you should file timely as instructed in the DODD letter.

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

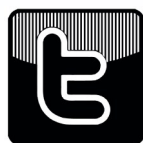
Our Core Objectives:

- 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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The OPRA Review, February 21, 2013

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