

April 18, 2013



The OPRA Review~*Plus*!!

Ohio House Passed Budget Includes Monies for DD Waiver Rate Increase!!

\$5.4 MILLION (\$2M STATE SHARE) BEGINNING IN FY14 FOR IO WAIVER RATE INCREASE

For the first time since the inception of the Individual Options waiver reimbursement system in 2005, new state general revenue fund monies are appropriated for a rate increase. Thanks to your (OPRA membership) efforts, the Ohio House of Representatives has included in its recently passed budget (H.B. 59), an additional \$2 million (\$3.4 in FFP) beginning July 1, 2013 (FY14). This is a critically important first step in addressing our waiver needs.

NEXT STEPS

It is important to note that inclusion in the House passed budget does NOT necessarily indicate support from the Administration or the Ohio Senate. OPRA will work hard in the Senate to keep the \$2 million in GRF and with your help we will work doubly hard to increase it! Your efforts (as you proved in the House) were invaluable and are immensely appreciated. ***We will need to replicate those and more going forward.*** Thank you for all of your help! And congratulations!

WAIVER RATE INCREASE—HOW WILL IT BE ALLOCATED?

Although the budget process is far from finished and we are guaranteed nothing at this point, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has graciously indicated a willingness to convene discussion on how we might best incorporate new dollars into our current IO rate structure. Given that new monies (if appropriated) would be available for FY14, we agree that a proactive approach makes good sense. We expect initial conversations to begin shortly. We will keep you informed.

APPRECIATION FOR HOUSE MEMBER ACTION AND SUPPORT

While many House members were supportive of new monies for a waiver rate increase, there were several that were particularly helpful in their own way. We think it would be a nice touch from all of us to let them know of our appreciation. In the sidebar is a list of those members, with links to their email. Please take a moment to express your gratitude by calling them or sending them an email or short note. Remember to highlight that you are referencing the developmental disabilities waiver rate increase.

THANK YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN, FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT AS WE FIGHT FOR A LONG OVERDUE WAIVER RATE INCREASE!

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