



The OPRA Review

October 18, 2013

Governor Kasich Announces Intent to Proceed with Medicaid Expansion

The Ohio General Assembly is back in session, and Medicaid reform is once again the critical issue at the top of the agenda. Still hanging in the balance is the question of whether Medicaid health insurance coverage will be extended to some 275,000 Ohioans.

As I shared last week, the Controlling Board will vote on Monday, October 21st on the authorization of the appropriation for Medicaid extension. This decision will impact 275,000 Ohioans without health coverage, including many of our direct support professionals. It will also provide relief to OPRA members who employ DSP's - from the ACA mandate for employer-sponsored health care coverage. As I'm sure you know by now, that mandate will cost OPRA members an estimated \$20 million per year without Medicaid extension.

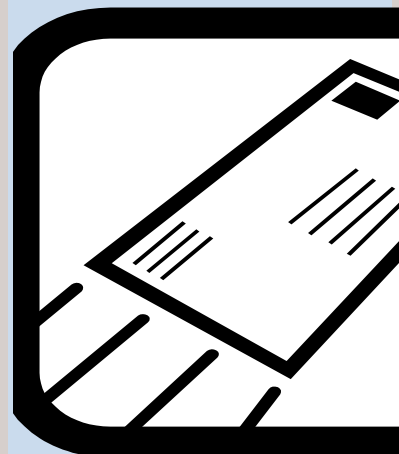
A successful vote on Monday may not signal the end of this battle. A core group of House Republicans and their supporters have indicated a willingness to sue Governor Kasich over the legality of taking Medicaid expansion to the Controlling Board. Please see the following link to Thursday's Columbus Dispatch article "[GOP may sue over Medicaid expansion](#)". I asked our attorneys to prepare a brief on the legality of the Controlling Board strategy and they found it to be legal ([click here](#)). This was mentioned prominently in the Dispatch story. We are in this fight and your involvement is making a difference.

OPRA, on behalf of its members, has been active and aggressive in pursuit of Medicaid expansion for low-wage workers from the beginning. This is

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Background Check Requirements

The requirements for background investigations for employment were changed January 2013. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has developed a guide to help you understand the changes to the background check process. It covers new definitions for who is required to have or conduct background checks, disqualifying convictions for employment, the process of completing a background check, and more.

For more information, visit the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov or click [here](#) for a copy of the presentation.

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)
1152 Goodale Blvd
Columbus OH 43212 614.224.6772

Did You Know...

...that the Ohio Provider Resource Association has been in existence since 1974! That's almost **40 years** of being the trusted voice for

40
Years

Providers serving Ohioans
with Disabilities!

We think this is pretty great,
and we think we should
definitely celebrate this
momentous occasion with
you, our OPRA members!

DODD Reimbursement Committee

DODD's ICF Reimbursement Committee re-convened on October 17 to begin working on the issues identified in the state budget *and* by stakeholders over the past several months. This was a general organizational meeting, resulting in the establishment of several sub-committees which will develop recommendations for consideration by the larger group. The sub-committees will be looking at County Board Certified Public Expenditures, outliers, new 6-bed (state admission and discharge) ICF's and direct care wages and benefits. The CPE group meets on October 18th. None of the other committees have been scheduled as of this printing. The larger Committee will be looking at potential changes to the RAC (IAF) groupings and downsizing/conversion efforts, including barriers to success.



JOIN US! MAIS Information Session

What

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) recently introduced changes to the Medication Administration Database. Please join us for an interactive session with Janet Winterstein, RN, DODD for an overview of the new database requirements, changes to Medication Administration/Delegated Nursing procedures and a Q&A.

When

Thursday, November 14, 2013, 2:00-4:00pm

Where

Ohio Provider Resource Association ([OPRA](http://www.opra.org)) Offices
1152 Goodale Blvd
Columbus OH 43212
614.224.6772 www.opra.org

Please RSVP directly to Anita Allen at aallen@opra.org so that we may ensure adequate seating.



The Trusted Voice for Providers Serving Ohioans with Disabilities

Save the Date! Future OPRA Trainings

- **Legal Issues in the DD System**, Partner, Suzanne Scrutton, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLC—December 13, 2013 at the OPRA Offices
- **State Budget Review: A Mid-Year Update**, Zach Haughawout, Deputy Director Legislative Affairs & communications, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Jeff Davis, Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). January (date TBD) 2013, at the OPRA Offices.

What's Happening at OPRA

- October 21, 2013 Policy Committee 9:00am—12:00pm and 10:00am—2:00pm at OPRA
- November 5, 2013 IT Workgroup 12:00pm—3:00pm at OPRA
- November 6, 2013 Companionship Exemptions Session 12:00pm—2:00pm at OPRA
- November 11, 2013 Veterans' Day—Office Closed
- November 12, 2013 HR Committee 10:30am—2:00pm at OPRA
- November 14, 2013 Program Directors Committee 10:30am—1:00pm at OPRA
- November 14, 2013 MAIS Information Session 2:00pm—4:00pm at OPRA
- November 18, 2013 Policy Committee 10:00am—2:00pm at OPRA

Visit our website at www.opra.org to view the calendar for more detailed information about these and other events!

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.



IT Spotlight: Remote Monitoring

In the recent OPRA IT Survey, many members requested information about Remote Monitoring services their creative uses in providing cognitive support.

Understanding Remote Monitoring

Remote Monitoring has been a hot topic in the past few years. Various types of sensor systems are installed into the home of a disabled individual with the goal of offering the ability to live more independently of onsite services and care. Remote Monitoring is highly customizable to the needs of the individual including sensors, video, audio and communications equipment. In some cases, this can offer the person the ability to live at home, interact safely, and lower the costs of care. At the same time, the person is being monitored from a remote managed location to ensure positive and safe outcomes. For the agency providing services, the net result is less onsite staffing required.

10 Cool Things That Are Available With Remote Monitoring

- Door Monitors: Collect real-time arrival / departure times for staff and visitors.
- Door Video Clips: Create a 10 second clip of all arrivals / departures, including the ability to identify key people.
- Video Clips: Create videos and / or collect other data for behaviors, i.e., to assist support team and behavior professionals.
- GPS Tracking Watches / Pendants: Useful for individuals or their families if they need quick assistance.
- Shock Sensors: Useful for individuals prone to seizures and can be used throughout the home.
- Seizure Mats: These pick up slight body movements that may be generated by seizure, even increased sweating.
- Biometric / Telehealth – Monitor blood pressure, weight, pulse oximeter, temperature and other "vitals".
- Rovio: A remote controlled robot that can be used to try to wake a person up (i.e. an individual who has passed out in another room).
- Flood Detector: Shut off water automatically – manually if that is needed.
- Appliance/Light Controls: For just about everything including stoves, refrigerators, and many other options.
- Specialty Sensors – include abilities to monitor toilets flushing, medication containers being opened / closed, incontinence, and even medication itself.

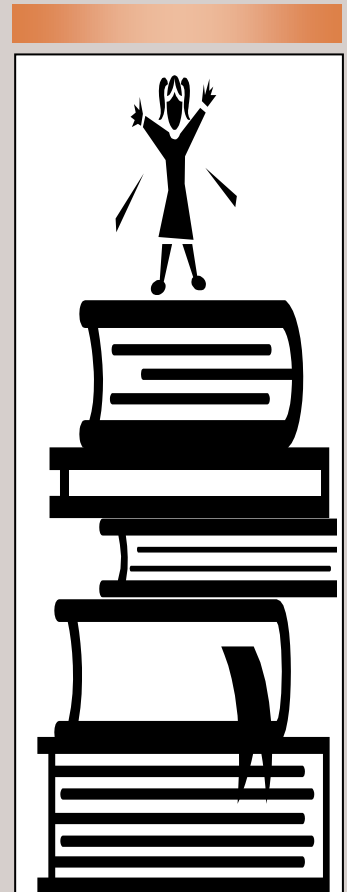
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DODD Releases a new MSS Technical Guide

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is pleased to announce the availability of the Medicaid Services System (MSS) Technical Guide. The guide is posted to the Medicaid page of DODD's website under the [Medicaid Services System link](#).

The guide provides step-by-step instructions for creating, maintaining, and utilizing the Cost Projection Tool (CPT) and Daily Rate Application (DRA).

Have you joined OPRA yet? What are you waiting for? Click [here](#) for more details! We're looking forward to working for you!



Raise Your Voice



"Strength in Numbers" at Work

**OPRA is the Trusted VOICE Representing Providers Serving Ohioans with Disabilities.
Join us and help us RAISE YOUR VOICE**



Get Featured!!

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Transitions DD Waiver and State Plans Claims Guide

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has issued a guide regarding the process for addressing issues related to claims for the Transitions DD (TDD) Waiver or state plan home health services. The guide provides contact information and instructions for submitting claims and what to do in the case of claims denial. Click [here](#) to access the guide or for additional resources and training related to billing through MITS visit the [Ohio Department of Medicaid's provider—training](#) web page.

Governor Kasich Announces Intent to Proceed with Medicaid Expansion (cont'd)

consistent with our successful budget efforts in securing a waiver rate increase to our continuing collaboration with DSPaths to create and offer meaningful training and growth opportunities for direct support professionals. Our system will never be as good as it can be if we don't find new ways of supporting our direct support professionals. Whether that is through enhanced wages and benefits or through better, more nurturing working environments. Our goal is to support individuals with developmental disabilities to live the best lives they can and this is best done through a passionate, caring and fully supported direct care workforce.

Many of you have personally been involved in the Medicaid expansion issue, talking with or emailing legislators, joining 2,500 Ohioans in the rain this past Spring at the Statehouse, and leaving the Spring Conference for a trip to the Statehouse again – 1,000 of us circling the Statehouse in silent support. And for this we are grateful. We know this is a controversial issue with understandable arguments on all sides. But please know your involvement is having an impact and OPRA as a membership organization is standing firmly in your support.

~Mark Davis, President, OPRA



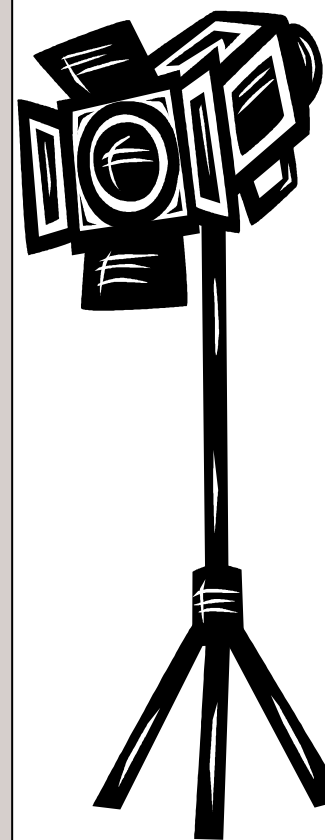
IT Spotlight: Remote Monitoring (cont'd)

Critical Considerations

- The Remote Monitoring staff should be HPC trained so that they can provide some cognitive support when warranted.
- Equipment must be highly reliable and customizable. No two situations are the same – everything should be based on the individual and their environment.
- Simplicity of the system is critical. It may be complex for the provider but must be very simple for the individual and their families.
- The smaller the footprint in their home, the better! Remote monitoring in some situations does create anxiety for the individual.
- Create an assessment plan. Sometimes the individual does not actually need remote monitoring and all the bells and whistles. A more simplistic solution may be needed, such a standard security system.

Be part of the OPRA IT Workgroup! Stay on the "cutting edge", share info with your fellow providers, learn how you can make better IT decisions!!

Contact [Carol Parcell](#) or [Leslie Minnich](#) for more info.



"We don't look at it as introducing technology into someone's life to replace staff. Our view of remote monitoring is that we are providing HPC services in the home just like any other provider. We just pick a different way to do that. Monitoring staff are fully trained HPC staff – some provide direct care as well. The individuals BLOSSOM!! They feel like they have some time alone and some privacy yet know they have help if they need it. " ~Vendor Testimonial – RSS Monitoring

"We utilize a wide variety of coordinated sensors to provide a complete package of custom monitoring tailored to meet unique individual needs. We continually monitor activity, or lack of activity, through our 24/7 Sengistix Response Center to ensure that individuals are safe." "Sengistix provides vulnerable individuals with safety and freedom of expanded choices for living with more independence." ~Vendor Testimonial – Sengistix

~David Roustio, HAVAR

HELP Foundation's Collaborative Success with Cuyahoga County Board of DD

A collaborative approach with regional partners has allowed [HELP Foundation, Inc.](#) to adapt, grow, and improve service quality across Cuyahoga County.

In the waning weeks of 2012 HELP Foundation was busily assembling a proposal in response to a Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) request for a private provider agency to assume operation of their Euclid Seniors Program. This program was started in the late 1990s to provide specialized day support for older adults who have developmental disabilities and is located in the beautiful Euclid Lakefront Community Center which is also home to the city's typical Senior Center. This synergy encouraged joint participation between the programs creating a beneficial atmosphere of conviviality and support for all



participants. As popular and successful as this program was CCBDD requested proposals from private providers to assume full control as part of their efficiency planning. With the very successful [HELP Adult Day & Vocational Support Program](#) located not more than a block away from the Seniors Program we enthusiastically threw our hat in the ring. We were honored to be selected as the agency to continue serving 23 consumers without interruption to the program's variety of activities, classes, and community-based outings. On the other end of the age spectrum HELP was also selected to assume operation of the highly regarded Lighthouse Summer Program which has been providing school-age children with a summertime program designed to prevent their loss of academic and personal skills during the summer months.

HELP Foundation's (cont'd)

This program concept fit very well with HELP's extant Summer Program which has for 42 years been providing summer-school style programming for more than 300 children and young adults. Adding the Lighthouse program represented a 30% capacity increase for this summer session and considerable logistical and administrative support. The [HELP Summer Program](#) is unique in Northeast Ohio in a number of ways but is noted for the broad reach of our collaborative partners in bringing it all together. This collaboration includes the continued support and confidence of CCBDD, provision of elementary school buildings by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, nutrition services provided by The Cleveland Catholic Diocese to insure breakfast and lunch for all participating students, robust participation from more than a dozen local school districts, and supplemental funding from Cleveland area foundations and donors.

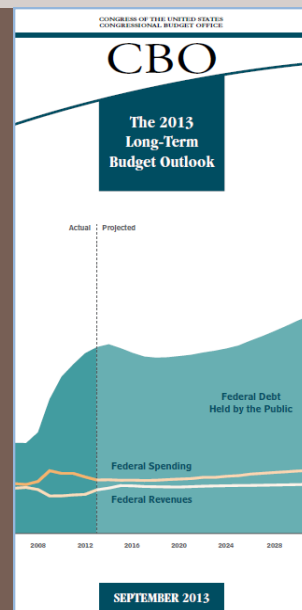
"This synergy encouraged joint participation between the programs creating a beneficial atmosphere of conviviality and support for all participants".

Thanks to all these valuable professional partnerships HELP has fostered we were able to make the transition for both the Seniors Program and Lighthouse into HELP's operation seamless and very successful. Collaboration and mutual support have been key to HELP's philosophy and success since our founding in 1965 and continues to drive our mission to provide consumers with all the means to live their best lives.

Congressional Budget Office Releases 2013 Long Term Budget Outlook

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a rather sobering report in September projecting federal budget deficits in the future. CBO projects that federal debt held by the public could reach 100% of GDP by 2038. This report serves as a backdrop to all of the discussions, tensions and controversies swirling in Washington and here in Ohio. The opposition to Medicaid expansion in large measure centers on its impact on the federal deficit. Far from simple, the complexities of these issues arguably demand the active interest and involvement of all advocates and policy makers across the country. Here in Ohio several lawmakers have introduced separate pieces of legislation aimed at reforming Medicaid. OPRA will take a close look at each bill and summarize its content and potential impact and report back to you in future issues. Stay tuned.

To read the full report please click [here](#).



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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