



Core Committee Members: In-Person- Diane Beastrom, Dave Rastoka, Jeff Johnson, Jo Spargo Tim Neville; Online- Brenda Smith, Scott DeLong, Abbey Summers, Wylie Jones

1) **Provider Certification-** Dave Rastoka gave an update on the workgroup

**a) Minors**

- i) Initially, the DODD Workgroup was somewhat split over the idea of having minors work in the field without needing to get a waiver but the workgroup seems to be on the same page now.
- ii) This is currently happening now but agencies need to apply for a waiver. Removing the requirement would eliminate the need to apply for the waiver. This would remain a choice providers could make. It would not be a requirement providers hire minors.
- iii) If a family really doesn't want a minor working with their child they should address the concerns in the ISP.
- iv) If this is removed from the rule, as a best practice, providers may want to consider disclosing to families about hiring practices for minors.
- v) DSP Assistant-
  - (1) A potential solution to 16/17 year olds to work in the field if the workgroup remains divided.
  - (2) There would be a limit around what specific activities a DSP assistant could do such as limitations on intimate personal care activities. If this is adopted, the Policy Committee would need to discuss the pros and cons to defining what intimate personal care is. Would need to consider how this might limit siblings or minor family members from providing care or summer camp staff.

**b) CEO Training**

- i) Requirements for existing CEOs is likely going to get loosened but still working through this.
- ii) New CEOs will have to have only one year of human service experience as opposed to 4 years of DD-specific service.

- iii) Training requirement will hopefully be loosened to allow for more relevant topics.
- iv) Workgroup is discussing the possibility of requiring notification to DODD if you are serving as CEO of more than one agency and if you have served as CEO of agency that has been decertified in the last 5 years.

**c) New Providers**

- i) The workgroup has spent a lot of time discussing ideas around this. One idea includes needing to submit a business plan, but specifics need to be worked out.
  - (1) Could this have a role into the re-certification process of current providers? What legal authority does DODD and the County Board have to deny a business plan? What kind of appeal process would a provider have? What standards would be used to say a business plan was good or bad? What role would a county board have in this process?
  - (2) There is some hesitation within the Policy Committee that this may set precedent for bringing back contracting between county boards and providers.
- ii) Other ideas for new providers: Initial certification visit with a follow up review within a few months, submitting proof of \$25,000 capital and a certain amount of liability insurance (Policy Committee discussed if this should this be somehow tied to the number of individuals served or services provided?). DODD potentially limiting how fast a business can grow within a certain time frame although the Policy Committee it not sure how this would work. With all of these suggestions there is still the question on whether or not DODD have legal authority to impose these limits on entering the field and whether or not they have capacity to monitor this?

**d) Staff Training**

- i) The workgroup is still discussing this.

**e) ID Badge**

- i) At least one workgroup member is potentially proposing requiring DSPs to carry ID badges when working in a home. There are no recent MUIs on strangers posing as DSPs. OPRA is concerned about how realistic this would be with current turnover.

## **2) System-Wide Simplification**

### **a) Single Plan**

- i) The DODD Single Plan has met once and will have the second meeting later this week.
- ii) DODD has proposed aggressive timeline, will see if this timeline will remain. DODD has selected different providers and county boards to pilot the assessment and plan template the workgroup develops.

## **3) Residential Waiver**

### **a) EVV**

- i) Christine gave an update on the progress. Christine is holding call on Friday to listen to Membership obstacles to full implementation. OPRA encourages providers to continue to work through implementation and to share issues with Christine.

### **b) DSP Wage Increase**

- i) **Messaging-** the field continues to need messaging clarification on where the increase is going. The Committee believes more weight will be given to the letter if it comes from DODD. OPRA has been working with Director Davis to get this out ASAP.
- ii) **Wage Increase Verification-** Representatives from DODD, OPRA, the ARC, OHCA, OACB had first meeting to figure out how to implement verification that providers are passing down the rate increase to DSPs.
  - 1. Gary Brown and Clay Weidner from DODD are meeting to discuss potential avenues and share with the group in the near future.
  - 2. Overarching questions about how detailed the information to be shared should be, especially since these records would be public. Will it look like a short narrative attestation v. excel sheet of wages and benefits over time?

3. If DODD is planning to do a year-to-year comparison, then what will be the baseline? What if you increased wages now in anticipation and then it won't appear in numbers that compare now and in the future. What if you increase benefits instead of wages? More work is still necessary to properly do this.

#### **4) Day Array**

##### **a) CESP Update**

- i) Pete and Christine discussed the potential bottleneck on OOD supported employment job development due to a lack of CESP. OPRA is continuing to monitor the situation. OPRA will continue to work with OOD to find a solution if the issues become a significant obstacle to get appropriate service authorization.

##### **b) OOD Fee Schedule**

- i) The Fee Schedule is on track to be implemented on October 1<sup>st</sup>. OOD is offering training throughout the state during the month of September.

##### **c) Employer relations**

- i) If you have large employer that OOD has an existing business relationship with, what is your experience with working with OOD to get interested applicants to these businesses?

##### **d) Vocational Habilitation**

##### **i) The 50% of Minimum Wage CMS Rule**

- (1) DODD is convening a workgroup to start building an implementation plan for the new (Basic Employment Skills Training) BEST service, including writing of rules and guidance to the field. Right now the service will be allowed for two years and then can be extended on a year's basis.
- (2) As this service is built, OPRA and the Policy Committee need to consider how the potential removal of 14(c) certificates will impact the BEST service. Do we have capacity in the alternative day services when and if denials for the BEST service extension come? We don't yet know how the changes in the

voc. hab. services will change the other remaining day services and residential services if providers of day services aren't able to pivot their services to a changing service landscape.

(3) As BEST is developed, how can OPRA best help providers expand the business models and service lines?

**e) Setting the Vision for the Future of Day Services**

i) There are so many moving parts to this conversation. We need to know what is DODD's target for the broader vision of day service? OPRA would like the Policy Committee to provide some direction on what the future of the day service looks like and the rates that need to be paid to sufficiently support these delivery models.

**f) NMT and HPC Transportation**

i) Currently looking at a January 1, 2020 rule implementation and February 1, 2020 rate implementation. DODD needs time to ensure all of the IT infrastructure is in place. HPC transportation rule and rate implementation are scheduled for January 1, 2020.

ii) DODD continue to emphasize these changes are a step in a direction toward flexibility in community integration transportation. Might still have a few providers and county boards who may be resistant to the changes.

**5) DSPOhio Media Campaign**

- a) OPRA has released the commercial with Gary LaVox from the Rascal Flats. OPRA would like to have another media buy to aggressively push out the commercial but funds are needed to do this.
- b) Dave and Christine are meeting with a non-profit tomorrow that might be able to offer a grant for the media buys.
- c) OPRA will work on outlining exactly how to give. Questions for OPRA Staff- Are there unique ways to get people to give? Levels of giving? How can we make it easier to donate money to the campaign?

**6) DODD Waiver Workgroup**

- a) Lisa Mathis attended the DODD Waiver Workgroup and gave the Policy Committee an update on the Workgroup's progress.
- b) CMS will be in Ohio to review heightened scrutiny settings- most likely be in senior services but will likely also be in some DD settings.
- c) There are currently 7 rules up for review- comments due August 29<sup>th</sup>. OPRA will send out additional information later this week on the changes and ask for comments.

## 7) ICF

### a) **Quality indicators**

- i) Gina Kerman gave an update on the DODD Quality Indicators Workgroup that has been reconvened as part of the budget process.
- ii) DODD sent out survey to figure out what top 5 quality indicators – for guardians the top 5 indicators were- staff retention, person centered plan, community activities, staff ratio, and staff training. For OPRA Members the top 5 were- person centered plan, staff retention, staff training, community activities, tied staff mentors and staff ratio.
- iii) The recent state budget limited the indicators to five but DODD has indicated they may want to building upon them in the future. DODD has expressed that they don't want it to be cumbersome for providers or DODD and that they would like to incorporate a satisfaction survey. The incentive will now only 1% of DSPP.
- iv) The measurement of the indicators needs continued refinement. Do entities like CQL or CARF have tools that are tested and reliable so the system doesn't need to recreate the wheel? If DODD decides to only require an attestation be uploaded instead of the documentation as previously proposed by DODD, then what documentation will be needed to support the attestation in an audit?
- v) There is a meeting next week on August 29<sup>th</sup> and then on September 11th. DODD hopes to have the discussion wrapped up by the end of the year.

**b) Informed Choice**

- i) The “Informed Choice” amendment was a product of the state budget. It came as a result of parent advocacy to make sure county boards are telling individuals and families about ICFs as a valid service option. There were two different versions in the budget and the Governor signed the version passed by the House.
  - ii) OPRA is starting discussions on how this would look like in the real world.
  - iii) The issue presented by the parents’ advocacy effort won’t be solved by developing a brochure. Pete is committed to helping OPRA develop messaging around the wide array of services OPRA represents, including the role ICFs play in the continuum of care/specialized care.
  - iv) OPRA will be hosting an ICF Leaderships Meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 8) New Committee meeting date- beginning in January 2020 the meeting will be moved to the second Monday of the Month.
- a) There will be no meeting in October 2019 to accommodate for the Fall Conference.