



MODERNIZING OHIO'S DD SYSTEM

A Path to Better Value,
Better Lives

Safe Place Statement

We would like to thank you for attending this meeting. This meeting, like all OPRA Committee meetings, are designed to offer a safe place for OPRA Members to share thoughts, opinions and ideas. The OPRA Team and the OPRA Board relies on these discussions to inform our efforts to provide Advocacy, Information and Resources. We are respectfully asking you, as a participant, to assist us to make this a safe place for professionals to openly share without fear. It is important that when personal experiences are shared, there is an assurance that what is shared stays within this group. We are looking forward to an open and honest conversation and we would like to thank you for being a part of this important meeting.

Goals for Today

1. Share modernization framework we've developed for next administration.
2. Gather your feedback.
3. Identify what support, tools, and messaging you need from OPRA to confidently talk about these concepts with local leaders and gubernatorial candidates.
4. Shape clear, consistent talking points.
5. Strengthen alignment and shared purpose across our membership as we prepare for system change.

Mission & Vision

Mission: To build and serve a community of great providers.

Vision: All people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who rely on supports get them from great providers.

Our Why: Better Value, Better Lives

When people and families are supported by great providers, they experience:

- **Services aligned with what truly matters** — their goals, preferences, and priorities, not just what's available or fundable.
- **Consistent, compassionate, skilled support** from professionals who know and care about them.
- **Collaboration across teams** — families, case managers, and communities working together to support the whole person.
- **Dependable, high-quality experiences** — no matter where they live or who they choose.
- **A system that keeps improving** — evolving to meet needs, close gaps, and strive for better outcomes every day.

The Inputs

- Board Retreats
- Member surveys
- Policy Committee
- Focus Groups
- Learning Labs
- Partnership Forums
- External “Experts”

System Snapshot

People

- **110,000+ served statewide**, with rising acuity and complexity.
- Access and experience **vary widely by county**, driven by local funding differences.

Providers

- **13,600 total providers** — 1,500 are agencies, the rest are independents.
- **Small scale, high turnover, and low DSP wages (\$17/hour)** limit capacity and quality.

Pressures

- **Spending up 8.5% annually**, outpacing state revenue growth.
- **Reliance on local levies (0–60% match)** drives inequity and fiscal instability.

Poll #1

How prepared do you feel to talk with policymakers about the need for system-level reform?

Current State

- Large, **locally fragmented** system with **uneven access, funding, and quality**.
- Many people rely on higher-cost settings because **needed supports aren't available**.
- **Oversized but uneven provider network** — 13,000+ providers, including thousands of independents.
- Rules exceed state and federal requirements, **emphasizing compliance over outcomes**.
- **Workforce shortages, outdated rates, and administrative burden** strain capacity.
- **Limited data and transparency** hinder accountability and informed decision-making.
- System is **reactive, costly, and increasingly unsustainable**.

Provider Reform Requires System Reform

Providers are ready to do their part — but a system this fragmented can't deliver consistent value without changing the way it works.

- **Payment and oversight drive behavior.** When rules reward compliance, not outcomes, providers can't innovate.
- **Inconsistent local structures limit improvement.** Providers can't deliver predictable quality when expectations and resources vary by county.
- **Administrative complexity drains capacity.** Layers of paperwork and approvals pull time and focus from people.
- **Systemic workforce barriers persist.** Sustainable wages and stability depend on policy and funding reform.

Future State

- **Coordinated, predictable, and value-driven** system statewide.
- People enter through a single, consistent “**no wrong door**”.
- Payments and planning guided by **one statewide assessment**.
- **Shared and regionalized administration** reduces duplication and cost.
- **Risk-based compliance, technology, and workforce investment** build capacity.
- **Data and transparency** drive decisions, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- System delivers **better value, better outcomes, and better lives**.

The Must Haves: Guardrails for Reform

People & Families First – Voices of those served drive decisions.

Statewide Continuum – Ensure access to the full range of services everywhere.

Cabinet-Level Leadership – Keep DODD visible and accountable.

Practical Federal Alignment – Balance rules with real-world sustainability.

Workforce & Infrastructure – Invest in people, data, and technology.

Fiscal Responsibility – Reinvest savings into workforce and innovation.

Quality & Compliance – Focus oversight on outcomes and learning.

The Path to Value: Policy Levers

- Ohio's DD system must shift from fee-for-service and rule-driven oversight to a **value-based model that rewards outcomes, efficiency, and predictability.**
- Moving from fragmentation to value requires aligned policy levers. Each lever strengthens one of five system priorities — **Access, Case Management, Sustainability, Quality & Accountability, and Efficiency** — creating a modern, high-trust system that reinvests savings into people, workforce, and innovation.

Access

Goal: Ensure people can enter and move through a consistent statewide continuum of supports.

Policy Levers:

- **Establish Centralized Eligibility and Level of Care** – Create a single, statewide entry and determination process.
- **Implement 1915(b)(4) Selective Contracting** – Build coordinated provider and service coordination networks that guarantee access based on need, capacity, and performance.
- **Adopt Readiness Reviews and Provider Hubs** – Require small and independent providers to affiliate with regional or administrative hubs that ensure oversight, data reporting, and quality support.
- **Launch Value-Based Purchasing** – Align payments with outcomes, quality, and predictability to sustain access and capacity statewide.

Impact: Predictable access to the right service, at the right time, anywhere in Ohio.

Case Management

Goal: Align case management with value, quality, and outcomes.

Policy Levers:

- **Adopt a Single Statewide Assessment** – Drive eligibility, planning, authorizations, and consistency.
- **Transition to PMPM Payments** – Replace unit-based billing with predictable, performance-based funding.
- **Establish Tiered PMPM Rates** – Tie payment levels to individual acuity and measurable performance.
- **Define SSA-Managed Care Roles** – Clarify boundaries and coordination as ABD populations transition to managed care.
- **Implement Quality Indicators for SSAs** – Track outcomes like stability, satisfaction, and community connection.

Impact: Predictable funding, consistent expectations, and **case management that delivers measurable results.**

Sustainability

Goal: Build a financially stable, efficient system that supports predictability and reinvestment.

Policy Levers:

- **Shift ABD Population to Opt-Out Managed Care** – Move from fee-for-service to managed care as the default for acute care services.
- **Acuity-Based Provider Rates and Outcome Incentives** – Tie reimbursement to the complexity of needs and measurable results.
- **Administrative Consolidation / Minimum Covered Lives** – Achieve economies of scale and reduce overhead through regional administration.
- **Reinvest Savings** – Redirect efficiency gains into workforce, technology, and innovation to strengthen capacity and quality.

Impact: Predictable growth, coordinated care, and sustainable funding — freeing resources to reinvest in people, workforce, and innovation.

Quality & Accountability

Goal: Move oversight from rule citation to outcomes and learning.

Policy Levers:

- **Adopt Risk-Based Oversight & Representative Sampling** – Focus reviews and monitoring on risk and performance, reduce administrative burden.
- **Align Rules with Federal Minimums** – Eliminate excessive requirements and focus on outcomes that matter.
- **Establish a Stakeholder-Led Quality Council** – Define shared measures, transparency standards, and continuous improvement goals.
- **Launch Public Quality Dashboards** – Report key performance metrics to promote accountability, learning, and informed choice.

Impact: Quality defined by results that matter — transparency, trust, and improvement.

Efficiency

Goal: Reduce duplication and administrative burden so dollars flow to direct support.

Policy Levers:

- **Invest in Technology & AI** – Automate assessments, authorizations, and reporting to reduce manual workload.
- **Standardize Tools and Processes Statewide** – Replace county-specific systems with consistent forms, workflows, and documentation.
- **Simplify Reporting and Data Collection** – Align data requirements across agencies to eliminate redundant reporting and monitoring.
- **Create a Professional Registry** – Establish a single, cross-sector system for background checks, training, and credentials to streamline onboarding and mobility.

Impact: Less paperwork, more care — **efficiency that sustains value.**

Breakout Room

What parts of the framework resonate most with you, and where do you still have questions or need more clarity?

- *What feels “right” or aligned with your experience in the system?*
- *What feels unclear, confusing, or too new?*

Poll #2

What would be most helpful from OPRA as we engage candidates and policymakers? (PICK YOUR TOP THREE)

- **Short talking points / scripts**
- **Visual one-pagers**
- **Deeper dives on the concepts (webinars)**
- **Data to support messages**
- **FAQ or “plain-language” explanations**

Phased Approach

Next Fourteen Months

- DODD
- ODM
- Legislature
- Campaigns

Next Administration

Whiteboard

If Ohio Could fix just one thing FIRST, it should be ...?

Poll #3

After hearing the overview, how clear are the core concepts of the framework?

- Very
- Mostly
- Somewhat – still processing
- Not clear – need more explanation