



Modernizing Ohio's Developmental Disability System

“Elevator Speeches”

Use the elevator speech when you need a quick, clear, 30–60 second explanation of OPRA's modernization priorities — especially in brief interactions, introductions, or informal meetings. It's ideal for conversations with legislators, candidates, campaign staff, local officials, county leaders, or anyone who needs a fast overview without detail.

Shortest: Modernization aligns access, funding, and quality statewide so providers can invest in workforce, expand specialized services, and focus on outcomes — not administrative fragmentation.

Shorter: Providers are supporting people with higher and more complex needs than ever, but they're doing it inside 88 different sets of processes, expectations, and funding structures. That fragmentation makes care inconsistent and funding unpredictable, and it shifts time away from direct support. Modernization aligns access, funding, and quality statewide so providers can invest in workforce, expand specialized services, and focus on outcomes — not administrative fragmentation.

Short: Ohio's DD providers are serving people with increasingly complex medical, behavioral, and support needs — but they're doing that work within 88 different processes, expectations, and funding structures. That fragmentation creates inconsistent experiences for families, unpredictable funding for providers, and an administrative load that pulls time, staff, and resources away from care. Oversight, too often, focuses on technical compliance instead of the outcomes people actually experience.

At the same time, providers are delivering more specialized supports than ever before — ventilator care, crisis stabilization, intensive behavioral health, complex community living — in a system that wasn't built for this level of acuity. **The structure hasn't kept pace with the reality of today's needs or the workforce required to support them.**

We can't solve today's challenges with yesterday's structure. Modernization aligns access, planning, funding, quality, and efficiency statewide so providers can invest in their workforce, build and sustain specialized capacity, and focus on stability, coordination, and outcomes. It gives people and families one clear way in, reduces duplication, and ensures oversight is centered on whether people are safe, satisfied, and supported — not on minor paperwork errors. In short, it creates one coordinated, outcome-focused system that supports the complexity of the people we serve today.



High Level Talking Points

Use the high-level talking points when you have more time or when the audience wants to understand what modernization looks like in practice. They're designed for meetings with legislators, policymakers, gubernatorial campaign teams, county leadership, Board members, or partners who need a simple but deeper understanding of OPRA's five-bucket framework and the "how" behind it.

OPRA's approach to modernization focuses on building one coordinated, statewide system that matches the complexity of the people we serve today — and aligns access, planning, funding, quality, and efficiency around outcomes, not paperwork.

ACCESS: One Clear Way into the System

- Modernization means building a single, consistent way for people and families to enter the system so the experience doesn't depend on where they live.
- It creates a true statewide continuum so specialized supports are available everywhere — not just in counties with more resources.

CASE MANAGEMENT: Focus on Stability, Coordination, and Outcomes

- We want case managers spending more time coordinating care, supporting stability, and preventing crises — and less time on redundant paperwork.
- Modernization creates a consistent statewide approach so people with similar needs receive similar levels of support, and so quality outcomes are measured and supported across all counties.

SUSTAINABILITY: Predictable Funding That Matches Needs

- A modern system ties funding to actual needs so providers can plan ahead, invest in staff, and sustain specialized services for people with higher medical and behavioral complexity.
- Predictability is what allows the workforce to stabilize and specialized capacity to grow.



QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY: Measure What Matters

- We need to shift oversight from citation-driven compliance to measuring whether people are safe, supported, and satisfied.
- Modernization creates a shared, transparent understanding of outcomes so everyone — families, providers, and County Boards — is working toward the same goals.

EFFICIENCY: Less Duplication, More Direct Support

- Today everyone does the same administrative work in different ways; modernization aligns and streamlines this so more resources go to direct care.
- Shared tools, simpler processes, and clear expectations reduce burden for providers and County Boards without compromising accountability.