



## Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities

### Provider Meeting

**January 19, 2021**

1. Katelyn Willoughby's last day with the County Board was 01/06/21. We have begun working on finding her replacement. In the meantime, all Provider Development needs should be directed to Angela Brinker at [angela.brinker@warrencountydd.org](mailto:angela.brinker@warrencountydd.org).
2. WCBDD has a new COVID – 19 Resource page on our Website: <https://warrencountydd.org/covid-19-wcbdd-resources-and-support>
3. WCBDD has funds available that we want to use to reimburse certified providers for “unusual and/or extraordinary costs” related to COVID-19 that are not covered by Medicaid rates or any Medicaid funding received by providers. Information about these funds can be found [HERE](#). Applications for reimbursement can be found [HERE](#). The final day for application is January 31, 2021.
4. EVV January webinars
  - January 22 [Register](#)
  - January 26 [Register](#)
  - January 29 [Register](#)
5. New Toolkit: Intellectual and Developmental Disability Psychiatry [DODD](#)
6. Provider applications update [DODD](#)
7. Frontline forum January 20<sup>th</sup> [Register](#)
8. ICF/IID Quality Incentive Payment Program Webinar [View Slides](#)
9. Tips for staff social and emotional wellbeing [Memo](#)
10. 2021 HPC rate increase [DODD](#)
11. Waivers open for Public Comment
  - Level 1 [Public Comment](#)
  - Individual Option (IO) [Public Comment](#)
  - SELF [Public Comment](#)
12. Innovative Technology Solutions LADD Webinar
  - February 22, 2021 10am-11am [Register Here](#)
13. Appendix K Extension
  - DODD, in collaboration with Ohio Department of Medicaid, submitted a request to CMS for an extension of our current Appendix K to allow DODD to maintain current flexibilities available in

waiver services. CMS approved the request through the end of the public health emergency (PHE) declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human services (HHS). Services and flexibilities that previously had an expiration date of January 26, 2021, may now continue to be authorized, as determined appropriate through the person-centered, team planning process, to meet the needs of people we serve.

- The extension also includes an additional six months beyond the end of the PHE to allow for unwinding of the temporary flexibilities and the return to permanent/ongoing services.

Appropriate services should be determined through the person-centered team planning process to determine which permanent/ongoing service(s) best meet the needs of the person and to get the service(s) set up and in place before the end of the six-month unwinding period.

- The current PHE is scheduled to expire on April 21, 2021 unless extended by HHS, which means that the unwinding period will expire on October 21, 2021.

14. Upcoming trainings and meetings:

- January 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Certification
- January 28<sup>th</sup> Longevity Add-on Training
- February 4<sup>th</sup> Provider COVID Call
- February 11<sup>th</sup> Longevity Add-on Training

15. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

**Provider Meeting**

**February 16, 2021**

1. Governor DeWine Announces Executive Budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023

- [DODD](#) Communication
- Governor DeWine's [budget](#)

2. New DSP Webpage and Vision Paper [Launched](#)

3. [Registration](#) open for the 2021 Virtual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day March 2, 2021 at 10am

4. OSHA National News [Release](#)

5. BEST Service Implementation [Postponed](#)

6. DODD [new guidance](#) on day programs

- Department of Health [orders](#)

7. Innovative Technology Solutions LADD [Webinar](#)

8. [COVID-19 Indoor Air Quality Assistance Program](#)

- [Download the application](#)

9. DSP Investment and Compensation [Reporting](#)

10. Managed Care Plans Offer No-Cost Transportation Options

- [See Grid](#)

11. Upcoming [Trainings](#)

- February 24th – Annual training
- February 25th – DSPaths (longevity add-on)
- March 4th – DSPaths (longevity add-on)
- March 11th – Billing and documentation training

12. New Provider Development Coordinator

13. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

**Provider Meeting**

**March 16, 2021**

1. Communication with County Board
2. Licensure Reviews in ICF/IIDs
3. [Update](#) on Provider Network Management Module and Fiscal Intermediary Projects
4. Changes to the High School Diploma/GED Rule for Agency Providers [FORM](#)
5. Rent Assistance Available from Ohio Development Service Agency [List of Agencies](#)
6. Part Three of OISP Training
7. Registration Open for DSP Compensation Verification Survey Training [Register](#)
8. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will resume the required on-site (in person) visits effective march 8, 2021.
9. Data Office Hours [Available](#)
10. Trauma informed Care Toolkit [DODD](#)
11. Vaccination Mandate Guidance
12. Outcome Tracking System Deadline is Extended - [Resources](#)
13. 2021 Transformation Series Registration [Open](#)
14. Building a Meaningful Life: The Value of Work + Community for People with Developmental Disabilities March 16, 12pm-1p [Register](#)
15. Brianne Wilkerson with May We Help – Email: [workshop@maywehelp.org](mailto:workshop@maywehelp.org), Website: [www.maywehelp.org](http://www.maywehelp.org)
16. Keith Banner [Trainings](#)
17. Choking Prevention [Training](#)
18. Strong Families, Safe Communities Webinar [Series](#)
19. Upcoming Trainings
  - March 18 – Longevity Add-on Training

- March 24 – Annual Training
- April 1 – Longevity Add-on Training
- April 1 – Provider COVID call
- April 13 – Safe in Home Remote Supports Training – Managing My Medications
  - 10am - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85755029012#success>
  - 1pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88600133157#success>
- April 15 – Longevity Add-on Training
- April 28 – Empathic Listening Training [Register](#)

20. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

### **Provider Meeting**

**April 20, 2021**

1. Welcome Lindsay Graves, [lindsay.graves@warrencountydd.org](mailto:lindsay.graves@warrencountydd.org)
2. EVV Questions/Problems
3. Provider Requests and Filling out RPF's clearly
4. Outcome Tracking System Reporting [Period](#)
5. CDC Extend Eviction Moratorium [Again](#)
6. Tech [Summit](#)
7. April's Frontline Forum [Register Here](#)
8. Remote Support Webinar Rescheduled [Register Here](#)
9. Transformation Summit [Register Here](#)
10. Strong Families, Safe Communities Webinar Series [Register Here](#)
11. Trauma Informed Care Summit [Register Here](#)
12. Provider Certification Extension
13. Upcoming Provider Network Management Module [Rollout](#)
14. Upcoming Trainings [2021 Calendar](#) Empathic Listening [Register](#)
15. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

### **Provider Meeting**

**May 18, 2021**

1. Dual Diagnosis and The Dimensions of Wellness [Training](#)
2. [Ohio ISP](#)
3. Tech Summit [Register](#)
4. High School Diploma/GED Requirement and [Form](#)
5. PNM Update
6. Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Resources Available [Here](#)

7. Medicaid Seeks Input on EVV [Program](#)
8. Monthly Rate Calculator Reminder
9. Sign up for 1:1 Personalized Help with Sandata System [Here](#)
10. Health & Welfare [Alert](#)
11. FCC Launches Emergency Broadband Benefit [Program](#)
12. Free Choice of Provider [Rule](#)
13. Primary Solutions [Flyer](#)
14. Dose Health Assistive Technology [Training](#)
15. Public Health Orders will be lifted June 2<sup>nd</sup>
16. WCBDD Trainings
  - Longevity Add-on May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Annual Provider Certification May 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Longevity Add-on June 3<sup>rd</sup>
17. Provider Certification [update](#)
18. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

## **Provider Meeting Summary**

**June 15, 2021**

1. Fiscal Year-End to Affect Provider Payment Dates
  - Ohio Shared Services will be reconciling fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021). Fiscal year 2022 will begin July 1, 2021. Cut off will be at 12pm on June 16<sup>th</sup> for the JUN21D cycle. Payout will be issued between Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday June, 30<sup>th</sup>. The JUN21E cycle will be pulled Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Payout will be on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. New Data Field in Data Warehouse
  - PAWS Encumbrance has been added to the PAWS utilization and Claims data packages in data warehouse. This field is calculated using the base claim amount minus overtime amount and competency amount plus other payment amounts (patient liability). This new field accurately reflects the total dollars that come out of an individual's budget. This field will soon be added to the PAWS utilization reports. Users who subscribe to PAWS utilizations reports will want to update the schedules to the new reports.  
Please email [DAR@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:DAR@dodd.ohio.gov) with any questions. You can also schedule a [data office hours](#) appointment for questions.
3. Open Provider [Requests](#)
  - We have several open requests. If you submit your information for an open request and do not hear anything from the SSA, please contact us.

4. Updated COVID-19 [Guidance and Best Practices](#)

- On June 2, 2021, the Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation Services order expired and the ICF/IID order was rescinded on April 27, 2021. Replacement orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are not anticipated regarding Adult Day Support (ADS), Vocational Habilitation (VH) services, or Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF) settings. Though these and other ODH orders have expired, the general public should continue to follow the Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While there will no longer be any state-issued health orders in place, there is a summary of current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and CDC guidance that may apply to residential or non-residential services. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) strongly encourages providers to use the guidance documents to establish the best practices to support people in various service delivery environments. The CDC continues to recommend facial coverings for any person who is not fully vaccinated, meaning two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

5. Update on Fee Waiver for Initial Independent Provider Applications

- DODD is waiving the application fee for all initial applications received between June 14<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications must be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If there is an independent provider applicant chosen by a person with disabilities, guardian, or family member and the application needs expedited, please contact the provider certification department at [provider.certification@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:provider.certification@dodd.ohio.gov). Please include in the body of the email the person's county board SSA contact information, the potential provider's name, email, application number, and email contacts for the person, guardian, or family members.

6. EVV Resources – 1 date remaining- [June 23rd](#)

- The [EVV@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:EVV@medicaid.ohio.gov) email address has been retired and replaced by the new Zendesk Ticket Portal. The Zendesk Ticket Portal can be reached via email at [ODMEVV@sandata.com](mailto:ODMEVV@sandata.com) and online at <https://sandata.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>. The Zendesk Ticket Portal provides a single location to view all current and past tickets with Sandata that were submitted to the EVV Provider Hotline. Additionally, all questions and emails sent to ODM will go to the Zendesk portal. All your inquiries will be in one location to view. The new portal allows users to submit a new ticket or inquiry to Sandata and ODM directly from the portal. See EVV Monthly Newsletters [here](#).

7. DODD Convenes Ohio Workforce Crisis [Task Force](#)

- Recruiting and retaining the number of qualified professionals required to provide supports has become increasingly difficult. This leads to the ability to find the right DSP for the job and jeopardizes how and when these vital services are delivered. In response, the Department has created the Ohio DD Workforce Crisis Task Force (WCTF). The Task Force is comprised of members representing a broad section of Ohio's DD system and the meetings are public. The WCTF will provide strategic direction to meet immediate, short, mid, and long-term identified needs. Reports and action steps will be completed by the task force continually over two years to address immediate needs and future planning.

8. Update to Assistive Technology Service – [Technology First Page](#)

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities was notified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) that the Assistive Technology Equipment service cannot be used to cover internet services for the remote support service. This is effective July 1, 2021. Internet should not be authorized for other components of assistive technology including equipment, consultation, or support, as CMS has specifically indicated that states are prohibited from using Medicaid funding to pay for internet services.
- [Internet Resources](#)

9. Transportation [Survey](#) Open for People with Disabilities and Providers

- The Government Resource Center, with support from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is surveying Ohioans with disabilities, their families, and transportation service providers about transportation experiences and barriers. Ohioans with any type of disability, ages 19 and older, family, friends, caregiver, or other people helping respond on behalf of an individual should take this survey. The survey will ask you about type of transportations you use, finding transportation where you need and want to go, and how the pandemic has changed your transportation choices. The survey will take about 20 minutes. Your answers are private.

10. New Provider Trainings/Upcoming Trainings

- Longevity Add-on: June 17th, July 1st, July 15th (Zoom)
- Annual Provider Certification: June 23rd (Zoom), July 6th (Zoom), July 28th (In Person)
- Billing & Documentation Training: July 8th (In Person)
- CPR/First Aid: July 13th (In Person – At the Warren C. Young Center)
  - No Fee
- July's Monthly Provider Meeting will be held in person

11. [Virtual Reality Experience](#)

- Presented with a simulation using an Oculus headset, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) will observe and interact with four people with varied communication preferences, styles, and behaviors in their home and community. The realistic training allows users to practice and build

confidence, learn about communication, and refine their observational skills. The training is designed to support the ability of DSPs to notice, understand, and respect people with disabilities and their communication preferences, build better relationships with those they support, feel valued, and recognize the important impact they make by simply taking notice.

#### 12. Health and Welfare [Alert](#)

- Every year, children and vulnerable adults die in hot cars when left unattended. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a car's temperature can rise about 20 degrees in just 10 minutes. Even when there is an outside temperature of 70 degrees, the temperature inside your car can reach over 115 degrees. A child can die when his/her body temperature reaches 107 degrees. Last year, seven individuals died of drowning. In 86 percent of the cases, the victim drowned in a body of water (lake, river, pond, or swimming pool) after leaving the family home undetected. Sadly, 70 percent of those who drown were under the age of 5. By the time a person becomes thirsty, they are probably dehydrated, having lost as much as one to two percent of their body's water content. Approximately every 60 seconds someone in the U.S. sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment. During the summer, outside activities like campfires, grills, and fire pits pose additional risks.

#### 13. OISP Updates - [OhioISP](#)

- With a consistent plan for all Ohioans with developmental disabilities, providers, even if they offer multiple services or operate in multiple counties, will have a single plan to learn. No matter where they work or what services they provide, direct support professionals (DSPs) will know exactly where to find the information they need about the people they serve and the supports they are providing. An online platform will be available to teams throughout Ohio to access the assessments and plans for the people they support. All entities convert to the OhioISP between September 2021 - September 2022. Each entity will pick a date within this time. Once your date is selected, plans must be completed using the OhioISP going forward. All people receiving services must be in the DODD OhioISP system by September 2023.

#### 14. Tech [Summit](#)

- Tech Summit - The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, DODD and the Ohio State University Nisonger Center have partnered for the 2021 Tech Summit. The event will be held virtually July 22-23 from 9 AM to 12 PM. Hear from families and experts, engage with vendors, and explore a smart home. From smart homes and in-home remote support systems to independent options, this one-day event offers attendees a change to learn about different kinds of current and emerging technology options to support people with developmental disabilities who want more independence in their lives.

#### 15. Frontline Workers Recruitment [Kit](#)



- This toolkit is intended to recruit DSPs to support individuals with developmental disabilities. You can learn how DSPs work with individuals.

#### 16. COVID Indoor Air Quality [Assistance](#)

- COVID-19 Indoor Air Quality Assistance allows the following eligible Ohio non-governmental employers to receive financial aid-assistance on a reimbursement basis for eligible inspections, assessments, maintenance, and/or improvements to indoor heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to control the spread of COVID-19: licensed nursing homes, licensed assisted living facilities, adult day centers, licensed intermediate care facilities, licensed hospices, senior centers, licensed Class 2 and Class 3 Residential Treatment providers, residential waiver settings, and certified substance use disorder residential treatment centers. Eligible expenses are goods which are installed, operational, and put in service, and services received for these purposes, on or after March 1, 2020, and through June 30, 2021. Funding for this program is part of federal financial assistance provided to the State of Ohio from the US Department of the Treasury. Funds were awarded under the Social Security Act. You must complete all sections of this application. The completed application and all required documentation must be submitted to BWC by June 30, 2021. Required documentation includes all invoices, proof of payment, and receipts for eligible goods or services for which reimbursement is sought. Missing information will delay processing or result in denial of the application. If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-644-6292 or send your questions via email to [grants@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:grants@bwc.state.oh.us). Note that Section III (Statement of Agreement) requires a signature, employer's legal name, and principal business location. Once complete, print, sign, and email this entire application and all required documentation to [grants@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:grants@bwc.state.oh.us).

#### 17. OnSeen Transportation [Opportunity](#)

- Relative to disabilities transportation service, a large portion of the Ohio Disabilities Community is underserved. Individuals with disabilities often lack reliable, consistent access to quality transportation services. Specifically, many Ohio citizens with disabilities:
  - Find it difficult to get to work consistently on time,
  - Are limited from going to training, medical and educational appointments, and
  - Lack of mobility to get to activities and events outside their residence.
- Compounding the issue is the fact that Transportation Providers are struggling to generate a positive ROI on their investments in vehicles and driver resources as a result of:
  - Inefficient vehicle and driver utilization,
  - High cost of operations due to vehicle maintenance, insurance and driver staffing expenses, and

- Increasing capital requirements to finance vehicles.

#### 18. Provider Call Center Coming Soon

- Coming July 5, 2021, a new feature will be added to the DODD Call Center. Providers can call the call center 24 hours a day to check their payment status.
  - Independent Providers - Providers will need to know their contract number when calling in. They will enter their contract number and the last four of their social security or TIN Number.
  - Agency Providers - Agency providers can also use this new feature. They will need their contract number and the TIN number or last four of the CEO's social security number.
- Additional Information: If you have additional questions, please feel free to call our Support Center at 1-800-617-6733 option 3 or email us at [DODD.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:DODD.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

#### 19. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

### **Provider Meeting Summary**

**July 20, 2020**

#### 1. OADSP TV+ Launch Party September 13<sup>th</sup>

- OADSP TV+ Launch party, Monday, September 13, at COSI, in downtown Columbus. The evening will kick off with a few words from Zach Horvath, keynote for the next day's Recognition Event, followed by the premiere of an OADSP TV+ exclusive documentary, in one of COSI's state-of-the-art theaters. We'll also enjoy a cocktail reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music from Blue Spectrum. Tickets are available as part of sponsorship of the Recognition Event, and once all sponsorship positions are sold, any remaining tickets will be available for \$50 each. OADSP TV+ has videos on advocacy, best practices, DSPs, educators, frontline supervisors, HR resources, Leadership, and Student education. More information to come on tickets and how to sign up when as we receive it.

#### 2. OADSP Recognition Event September 14<sup>th</sup> 10am - 4pm,

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ei9yyp1e0bcae467&oseq=&c=&ch>

- OADSP Recognition Event, back together and in-person for our 12th Annual Recognition Event, at COSI, in downtown Columbus! Pairing perfectly with this great location is our 2021 theme: Direct Support Professionals LIVE A GREAT STORY® and Support Others to do the Same. The Event is Tuesday, September 14, from 10 AM to 3 PM, and it's cost-free for those DSPs and Frontline Supervisors who can attend.

This year's program includes a keynote address from Zach Horvath, creator of the international movement that inspired our theme, LIVE A GREAT STORY.® We'll also revel in live entertainment, and a social afternoon when attendees can network and visit two of COSI's active

exhibits. OADSP is also gifting attendees with special goodie bags designed by Mr. Horvath, in collaboration with the DSP and Frontline Supervisor Councils.

3. Frontline Forum [Register](#)

- Frontline Forum – DODD and OADSP hosted the second Frontline Forum in April. The agenda included an overview of DODD’s new virtual reality initiatives around communication, an update on OADSP activities, and a presentation on the STABLE accounts. The Frontline Forum is held quarterly and rotates between first and second shift to provide an opportunity for more people to be involved. The next Frontline Forum is July 21st from 10am-1130am. Click the link to register.

4. Regional Residential Crisis Support [Plan](#)

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the workforce crisis affecting supports for people with disabilities throughout the state, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has developed the Regional Residential Crisis Support Plan as a collaborative support model between providers, county boards of developmental disabilities, and DODD. This model brings together a support team of local and state representatives to support providers through COVID-related crises or other factors such as the lack of resources, staff, or residential capacity to meet the health and safety needs of people receiving their services. The Regional Residential Crisis Support Plan starts at the local level with the provider, county board, and individual team. If local efforts are unable to remedy the crisis, then collaboration begins between those local partners and DODD. The step-by-step Regional Residential Crisis Support Plan is available on the Updated COVID-19 Page. If the information included is found to be inaccurate for any reason, please contact the Provider Resources and Support CRC for the county and provide the accurate information for an update. Contact information will also be updated and maintained on the Residential Crisis Support Map.

5. Disability Information and Access [Line](#)

- On June 8, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the creation of the Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL), a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Administration for Community Living aimed at assisting people with disabilities in finding COVID-19 vaccine appointments and connecting to local services to support successful vaccination. More information is available here. DIAL is available from 9 AM – 8 PM ET Monday through Friday at 888-677-1199. In addition, the National Center on Disability in Public Health has launched an initiative to confront vaccine hesitancy in the disability community by facilitating COVID-19 vaccine conversations, identifying barriers to vaccine access, and increasing vaccine confidence.

6. Health & Welfare Alert – [Drowning Prevention](#)

7. Longevity Add-on [Training](#)

- The competency-based add-on has been altered to enable more trainings to be available to DSPs. County boards, COGs, providers, and other companies can now develop and apply for their training to be approved to count towards the competency-based add-on. An add-on rate is an amount added on to the regular rate of reimbursement available for certain services.

The Competency-Based Training and Longevity Add-On adds \$0.39 per 15-minute unit to the regular reimbursement rate for routine Homemaker/Personal Care, or HPC services.

Direct support professionals interested in obtaining the add-on rate must meet the following conditions to be eligible:

- Two years of paid full-time or equivalent experience providing support to people with developmental disabilities,
- Completion of 60 hours of applicable training.

The department has made more than 170 hours of applicable online training available through DirectCourse. DODD has developed a process to enable DSPs to take more training that can be counted toward the competency-based add-on. To learn about how to apply for a training to be approved for the competency-based add-on, visit [here](#).

The add-on is only applied when eligible direct service professionals provide routine HPC. The add-on does not apply to On-Site/On-Call, Participant-Directed Homemaker/Personal Care or any service other than routine HPC.

8. Virtual Reality [Training](#)

- Virtual reality training is now available. Presented with a simulation using an Oculus headset, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) will observe and interact with four people with varied communication preferences, styles, and behaviors in their home and community. The realistic training allows users to practice and build confidence, learn about communication, and refine their observational skills. The training is designed to support the ability of DSPs to notice, understand, and respect people with disabilities and their communication preferences, build better relationships with those they support, feel valued, and recognize the important impact they make by simply taking notice.

9. Big Red Safety [Box](#)

- The National Autism Association's Big Red Safety Box® is a free-of-charge safety toolkit for autism families in need of wandering-prevention tools.

The Big Red Safety Box is a program of the National Autism Association. Our current grant cycle is supported by grant 2020-J1-BX-0009 provided by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) under the OJP funding opportunity entitled "Reducing Injury

and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities – Proactive Programs.”

Please review ALL of the information below before submitting your application.

To apply for an NAA Big Red Safety Box®, you must:

- Be the primary caregiver of an individual with an autism diagnosis.
- Be 18 years or older and a resident of the U.S.
- Agree to the terms and conditions stated in the application.
- Be a first-time recipient. Previous recipients are not eligible to apply, orders will be canceled.
- Apply only once. Multiple requests will not be processed, limit one box per family.
- Allow up to 3 weeks for NAA to review your application and deliver your Big Red Safety Box.

The Big Red Safety Box® includes:

- Educational materials and tools, including NAA’s Be REDy Booklet
- Two (2) GE Door/Window Alarms including batteries
- One (1) RoadID Bracelet or Shoe ID tag. You will receive instructions in the box to submit your custom personalization order at <http://roadid.com/naa>
- Five (5) Adhesive Stop Sign Visual Prompts for doors and windows
- Two (2) Safety Alert Window Clings for car or home windows
- One (1) Child ID Kit from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The Be REDy Booklet can be downloaded for free.

NAA’s Big Red Safety Box® grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to all qualifying applicants while supplies last. You are not required to make a donation to receive one. You will receive instructions and a unique code in the box to personalize your free RoadID bracelet or shoe ID tag. Your ID will be quickly engraved and mailed to you from RoadID at no charge.

#### 10. Medication Administration [Certification](#)

- Medication Administration Certification Expiration Waiver Expires July 1, 2021. House Bill 404 extended the expiration period for all Medication Administration Certifications so that any certification that expired between March 9, 2020, and April 1, 2021, could remain in effect and be renewed until July 1, 2021.

Any certification that expired after April 1, 2021, is not valid for medication administration. Certification holders have up to 60 days to renew their certifications. After 60 days the initial certification class must be repeated to regain certification.

Personnel, employers, and delegating nurses can check the dates of medication certification by accessing the public register of certifications found on the Medication Administration page.

#### 11. Rapback Changes

- As of June 4, 2021, the Ohio Attorney General's Office has updated the Rapback system to a new system, which is called iRap. iRap had not been allowing external users to enroll new people (i.e., employees) into the system for a brief period of time but over the past few weeks, some agency providers have reported that it has started working. As an agency provider, you are required to enroll new employees into the iRap system within 14 days of hire or 14 days of receiving the employee's criminal records check, whichever is later. The Department understands that with iRap being down this was not possible as the iRap system would not permit you to do so but it was and still is strongly encouraged that you check daily to see if this functionality has been restored for your organization. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Office of System Support and Standards (OSASS) is aware of the issue for compliance review purposes.

#### 12. Changes to [SAM](#) online Database Check [Guide](#)

- The System for Award Management (SAM) recently launched a redesigned website. The website can still be found at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov), but the process for confirming an applicant for a direct services position is not excluded, just looks different. View this guide for using the new SAM website.

DODD encourages providers to consider utilizing the free service available through ARCS, which completes the seven required database checks at one time and can be used to fulfill the five-year requirement to check the database. If you would like information regarding how to enroll with the ARCS, please contact us and we will send you a user guide.

#### 13. SELF Waiver Transportation Update

- Independent providers who deliver Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) Transportation through the SELF Waiver and do not bill for other participant-directed services can now bill the service directly to DODD without going through Morning Sun, the Financial Management Service (FMS). DODD has completed an update to the Medicaid Services System (MSS) to allow this option.

During the planning process, independent providers who are providing HPC Transportation Modified/Non-modified Vehicle (Billing Codes STN and/or STO) will need to submit their mileage billing to DODD or the FMS.

Depending on the choice made by the provider, the County Board must enter the authorization into the appropriate page within MSS as follows:

- If the provider chooses to submit HPC Transportation claims directly to DODD, the County Board must add the provider to the Manage Budget page within MSS. This information will not be sent to the FMS and the provider must bill through DODD's electronic Medicaid Billing System (eMBS).
- If the provider chooses to submit HPC Transportation claims to the FMS, along with claims for additional participant-directed services, the County Board must add the provider to the Manage Participant-Directed Services page in MSS. This information will be sent to the FMS and the provider must bill through the FMS. Question may be directed to the MSS Support Mailbox at [MSSSupport@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:MSSSupport@dodd.ohio.gov).

#### 14. OhioISP [Implementation](#)

#### 15. Well-Informed Food [Safety](#)

#### 16. Statewide Behavior Support Workshop

- Statewide behavior support workshop was scheduled for July 20th from 12pm-23pm. They reviewed behavior support citations and RMN data. For questions contact Jenna Ward [j.ward@perrydd.org](mailto:j.ward@perrydd.org) or Laurie Martin [lmartin@rossdd.org](mailto:lmartin@rossdd.org).

#### 17. Governor DeWine Signs 2022-2023 Operating [Budget](#)

- Last week, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 110, the state's operating budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This bill includes funding for the next two years for initiatives that build on historic investments in the previous budget. Governor DeWine's first budget invested \$370 million of new funding, which was the most ever for Ohio's developmental disabilities system. This budget maintains every one of those investments and invests an additional \$173 million. In the latest Director's Corner, Director Jeff Davis discusses the new budget and what it means for the developmental disabilities system.

Investing in Workforce and Providers – Direct supports are the foundation of Ohio's system to support people with developmental disabilities. DODD has advocated, partnered, and led efforts to increase the recruitment and retention of direct support professionals (DSPs) and increased compensation for DSPs. The FY20/21 budget invested \$253 million targeted to increase the compensation of DSPs by increasing the reimbursement rate for homemaker/personal care services. This budget maintains those rates and, through significant advocacy efforts by stakeholders, invests an additional \$127 million to further increase the compensation of DSPs who provide support through residential waiver services as well as those providing support through adult day services. This budget also invests \$34 million into the intermediate care facility rates building on an investment of approximately \$50 million in the previous budget. This amounts to a 4% increase for each service option.



**Investing in Young Children** – This budget continues the investment of the previous budget that doubled the state’s commitment to the Early Intervention program. This continued investment of approximately \$24 million in Early Intervention will help families of children ages 0-3 with developmental delays get in-home supports. The increased funding supports the expanded need for services at the local level and allows for expanded eligibility for children diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and Elevated Blood Levels (EBLLs). These supports are critical to ensuring that children get the best possible start in life.

**Investing in Multi-System Youth** –The budget invests more than \$10.5 million in DODD’s efforts and role in supporting youth with complex needs who are supported by multiple service systems. Governor DeWine’s budgets and administration have prioritized collaboration, investments, and new initiatives to support these youth and their families. This funding will help youth remain with their families whenever possible through in-home services by trained professionals, provide support for the whole family, provide specialized training for providers when respite or out-of-home placement is necessary, and have funding available for county boards of developmental disabilities to better support youth through local programs for household expenses, family support, and provider support.

**Investing in Technology Supports** – DODD is encouraged by the use of technology in helping people lead better lives throughout Ohio. More can be done, and this budget invests in these possibilities. The budget establishes the Technology First Task Force to bring together state agencies for a coordinated approach to incorporate technology in service options for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The budget invests \$1.6 million to strengthen the DODD efforts in the use of innovative technology for more Ohioans with developmental disabilities to be more fully integrated into their community and live with greater independence.

Director Jeff Davis commented on the passage of the budget, “I am grateful for Governor Mike DeWine’s and the Ohio General Assembly for their continued support of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and our professional support system.”

He continued. “This budget builds on Governor DeWine’s historically successful first budget and allows us to continue to move forward together on our initiatives. I am appreciative that we are now able to keep and build upon provider rates as they battle a workforce crisis. We are also excited to be able to continue investments in our early intervention program, to create further investment in youth with complex needs, and to invest new funds and energy into technology supports.”



- Open provider requests are listed on our website. There are several open requests for Non-Medical Transportation (NMT). If you do not have NMT on your certification and would like to add it, we can assist in this process.
- When searching for requests via our website, it is recommended that you only select on criteria at a time.

#### 19. DSP Appreciation Week September 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

- We are planning several events for DSPs during DSP appreciation week. Including the Annual DSP Dinner and a Provider Fair. We will send out more information when we have specifics.

#### 20. PNM Update

- The Ohio Department of Medicaid is postponing the Provider Network Management (PNM) and Centralized Credentialing Phase 1 go-live – originally scheduled for July 26, 2021. We are committed to ensuring that the PNM and Centralized Credentialing functionality will support our goal to reduce the administrative burden on providers, allowing you to spend more time providing quality care to Ohio Medicaid members.
- Please check the [PNM / Centralized Credentialing webpage](#) on [managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov](https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov) for additional updates. You can also contact us at [Credentialing@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Credentialing@medicaid.ohio.gov) with questions.

#### 21. DODD Curriculum for DSP Training Now Available

- Curriculum for DSP Initial and Annual Training is available for download on [DODD MyLearning](#). This curriculum is for agencies or other organizations who wish to provide DSP training in-person or through their learning management system.
- For issues with OH|ID or logging into DODD MyLearning, email [itscallcenter@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:itscallcenter@dodd.ohio.gov). For questions about the curriculum, email [training.team@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:training.team@dodd.ohio.gov).

#### 22. Trainings

- July 28<sup>th</sup> – Annual Training (In-person)
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – Longevity Training (Zoom)
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Training (Zoom)
- August 5<sup>th</sup> – Bridges Out of Poverty (In-person)
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Longevity Training (Zoom)
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Provider Meeting (In-Person and Zoom)

23. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)

## **PROVIDER MEETING NOTES**

**8/17/2021**

### **1. Updates to DODD MyLearning Rescheduled**

- DODD MyLearning will be unavailable for 5 days beginning Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, in order to bring users updates and new features to improve the DODD MyLearning experience. Enhancements include better tracking of annual certifications, improved certificates and transcripts, and easier navigations. The upgraded MyLearning will be available for users by 9am on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **2. Federal Public Health Emergency Officially [Renewed](#)**

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recently renewed the determination that a federal public health emergency (PHE) continues to exist. This was previously scheduled to expire on July 20, 2021. The declaration lasts for the duration of the emergency or 90 days but may be extended by the secretary.
- When the Appendix K was approved, it included an additional 6 months beyond the end of the federal public health emergency to allow for unwinding of the temporary flexibilities and the return to permanent/ongoing services. Appropriate services should be determined through the person-centered team planning process to determine which service(s) best meet the needs of the individual and to have the service(s) set up and in place before the end of the 6-month unwinding period.
- The current PHE is still scheduled to expire on October 18, 2021, unless extended by HHS, which means that the unwinding period will expire April 18, 2022.

## **3. Providers Will Resume Full Compliance With [Rules](#) That Apply to Hiring And Training DSPs.**

- During the pandemic, DODD has granted certain flexibilities to certified providers and ICFs regarding the hiring and training of DSPs.
- Effective September 1, 2021, providers will be expected to resume full compliance with all rules applicable to the hiring and training of DSPs, except for flexibilities around initial training and First Aid/CPR.

## **4. Requests for Proposals – Building Innovative Service Models [Grant](#)**

- DODD is seeking proposals from eligible applicants to work with selected DODD certified provider agencies to create an assessment, plan, and roadmap to expand innovative business strategies that adjust and align current business practices. The overall objective of this RFP is to support providers as they transform their organizational structures and fiscal strategies from facility-based to community-based service deliver models, including a focus on technology and assistive technology strategies in creating innovative practices, with an emphasis on supporting people with complex needs. DODD has a new grant opportunity available. DODD is requesting proposals for the Building Innovative Service Models Grant.
- Proposals must be received by 12pm on 9/22/21

## **5. New Scheduling Tool for Data Office [Hours](#)**

- Date users will be using a new tool to schedule data office appointments. This new tool will automatically send calendar appointments and set up the teams link for each scheduled appointment. Users will be able to select the appointment type (general questions, MUI specific, or RMN specific) and the day/time that works best for their schedule.
- When booking the appointment, please add questions or the reason for the appointment in the notes section.

#### **6. DODD Curriculum for DSP Training Now Available**

- Curriculum for DSP initial and annual training to match the new provider certification rules is available on DODD MyLearning. This curriculum is for agencies or other organizations who wish to provide DSP training in-person or through their learning management system.

#### **7. New Provider Certification Rule – Live Chats Available.**

- Provider certification rule for Agency Providers and Independent providers will be replaced effective September 1, 2021. DODD is delaying some requirements.
- DODD has a live chat August 18, 2021 at 12pm-1pm. Representatives from divisions across DODD will be present to answer questions you have regarding the new rules and implementation schedule.
- September 1st Provider Certification updates with Rob Capaldi. We have broken down the meetings into two sessions. The first is at [10:00 for Independent Providers](#) and the second at [11:00 for Agency Providers](#).
- Crosswalk of changes – [Agency Providers](#)
- Crosswalk of changes – [Independent Providers](#)

#### **8. WCBDD Updates and Events**

- Things that go – August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1030am-12pm at the Warren C. Young Center
- Family fun day – September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am-2pm at Miracle Field
- Miracle league fall annual mum sale

#### **9. DSP Appreciation Week is September 12<sup>th</sup> – September 18<sup>th</sup>. Theme is Difference Maker!**

- DSP annual dinner is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8pm
  - Drive in style
  - Dinner
  - Awards
  - Speakers
- DSP Swag
- Annual provider fair to take place at annual family fun day
  - RSVP for booth space – email [Lindsay.graves@warrencountydd.org](mailto:Lindsay.graves@warrencountydd.org)

- DSP yard signs for your yard or business

## **10. Regional Support for OhioISP Coming [Soon](#)**

- DODD is working diligently to test the OhioISP online system to correct known issues before implementation and to prepare for external testing to begin. Once testing is fully completed the next steps will occur.
- When we move closer to implementation of the online system DODD will provide advanced notice on when the system is available. Any agency, county board, or ICF will be able to start using the system once that occurs.
- Beginning in September 2021, DODD will be offering regional opportunities to support OhioISP authors. These gatherings will support plan authors to become familiar with the paper version and the to use the online system by focused discussions on
  - How the OhioISP will initiate a culture shift and the approach needed to enhance the effectiveness of the assessment and planning process
  - What the standardized OhioISP format is and how it will be used for assessing and planning purposes
  - Why the work must be approached differently
- Onboarding [checklist](#)

## **11. New DODD Grants [Available](#)**

- DODD competitively awards grants for work that supports Ohio's developmental disabilities system and the department's mission of continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.
- DODD have grant opportunities listed on their website.
- All questions and application materials must be submitted to [dodd.grant.applicaitons@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:dodd.grant.applicaitons@dodd.ohio.gov). The subject line on the email must contain the applicant's organizations name and the project name identified on the request for proposal, RFP

## **12. Outcome Tracking System – OTS**

- Thank you for a great reporting period for 2020! A total of 34,285 questionnaires were completed in all of Ohio. DODD is analyzing the date and will share once it is completed.
- We need to start preparing for the upcoming reporting period. OTS will open for data entry October 1, 2021.
- In preparation of this reporting period, county boards, developmental centers, and ICFs must update their data that will pull into this reporting period prior to the 15 day pull. The pull date is September 15, 2021
- Data that needs updated is

- Places on the path to community employment
- Services and supports
- Failure to update this data prior to the pull will result in that data not being pulled into OTS for the reporting period. The reporting period captures a “snapshot” of data.
- If you need training, they will host an upcoming virtual training.
  - [8/17 2pm-4pm](#)
  - [8/20 10am-12pm](#)

### **13. Open Provider [Requests](#)**

- We have several open provider requests. You can see them on our website at the link on the agenda.
- You must fill out all the information, name, agency, phone number, etc.
- If the information is handwritten, it must be legible.

### **14. Provider Network Management (PNM) Phase 1 [Update](#)**

- The Ohio Department of Medicaid is postponing the PNM and centralized credentialing phase 1 originally scheduled for July 2021. They are committed to ensuring that the PNM and centralized credentialing functionality will support the goal to reduce the administrative burden on providers, allowing you to spend more time providing quality care.

### **15. Listen and Learn**

- Warren County has been identified as a “hot spot” for the DSP provider staff shortage. OACB along with OPRA will be holding a listen and learn session with WCBDD providers, applicable families, and individuals served. The date for this meeting will be September 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am and will tentatively be scheduled here at the WCYC. We will pass on the information as we know more.

### **16. Ohio Department of Medicaid Hosting [EVV Webinars](#)**

- ODM and Sandata are hosting EVV webinars this month. The webinars focus on EVV data entry. The intended audience are agency providers, non-agency providers, and DSPs that utilize Sandata.
  - August 26<sup>th</sup> 930am – 11am
  - August 31<sup>st</sup> 130pm – 3pm

### **17. Upcoming Trainings and Meetings**

- Longevity Training – August 19<sup>th</sup>
- Annual Training – In Person – August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Longevity Training - September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- WCBDD Closed – September 6<sup>th</sup>

- Annual Training – Zoom – September 7<sup>th</sup>
- Longevity Training - September 9<sup>th</sup>
- Billing & Documentation Training - September 9<sup>th</sup>
- Next Provider Meeting September 21<sup>st</sup>

## **Provider Meeting Summary**

**9/21/21**

1. Regional support for Ohio ISP starts September 20<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, [Register Here](#)
  - a. DODD will be offering regional opportunities to support OHIO ISP authors to begin using the online system by showing
  - b. How the Ohio ISP will initiate a culture shift and the approach needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process
  - c. What the standardized format is and how it will be used for assessing and planning purposes
  - d. Why the work must be approached different
  - e. 2-hour virtual sessions
    - i. 9/21 at 2pm
    - ii. 9/23 at 11am
    - iii. 9/30 at 9am
  - f. 2-hour in person session for Region 3 will be held in Montgomery county on 9/20
2. Accreditation Office hours – [Register Here](#)
  - a. DODD Office of System Support and Standards (OSSAS) began hosting accreditation office hours in June 2021. These will continue through November 2021. Each monthly session includes a presentation on a topic, time to answer general questions about accreditation reviews, and rules. Sessions are scheduled for Fridays at 8am.
  - b. Currently you can only register for the Environmental Modifications session
  - c. Upcoming sessions are
    - i. September 24<sup>th</sup> – Environmental Modifications
    - ii. October 22<sup>nd</sup> – MUI/UI
3. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issues COVID-19 vaccination immunization memo for clients and staff in ICFs. See memo [Here](#)
  - a. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, CMS issued a memo that details the requirements of this rule and provides insight into how CMS will enforce this rule in future state surveys of ICFs. The memo also encourages ICFs to report COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutic treatment information to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network
4. Supreme court rules to end eviction [moratorium](#)

- a. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the supreme court rules to end the eviction moratorium. The lifting of this does not prohibit access to the emergency rental assistance program (ERAP) funding. Individuals facing eviction, who formerly qualified for a stay due to the moratorium, should apply for ERAP to assist with back rent. For a list of organizations that distribute the fund, go to the link in your agenda and search by county.
5. A [guide](#) for nursing services in Ohio is now available
  - a. A new booklet calls “A Guide to Nursing Services in Ohio” is now available for people with disabilities, families, and SSAs. The guide was created by members of the Ohio Nursing Collaborative, with families at the lead, through Cincinnati UCEDD’s Ohio Family to Family Health Information Center. This booklet is intended for Ohioans who have medical needs. It provides explanations of complex terms and systems, information on what people need to know about different ways to get and pay for nursing services, and resources with more details, including how to apply. A Spanish version is coming soon.
  - b. The content was a collaborative effort and approved through the Ohio Nursing Collaborative of which DODD has a representative. Questions about the publication should be directed to Amy Clawson of the Ohio Family to Family Health Information Center by phone at 844-644-6323 or email at [ohiof2f@cchmc.org](mailto:ohiof2f@cchmc.org)
6. Director of operations initial and annual courses now available
  - a. Per the new agency provider certification rule directors of operations (formerly called CEOs) must complete initial training and two hours of the annual training through DODD MyLearning.
    - i. DOO training for initial certification
    - ii. DOO annual training
7. Outcome tracking system (OTS) upcoming reporting period will be available to those adult day and employment providers, ICFs, DCs, and county boards beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. OTS users will enter data for those whom they provided services to in the month of September 2021. Users will have 6 months to enter data. If you are new to OTS, or you would like a refresher training, please join the upcoming virtual training. No registration is required, just click the training you want to join.
  - a. [9/16 1p-3p](#)
  - b. [9/17 12p-2p](#)
  - c. [9/20 1p-3p](#)
  - d. [9/21 1p-3p](#)
  - e. [9/24 1p-3p](#)
  - f. [9/28 9a-11a](#)
  - g. [10/1 1p-3p](#)
  - h. [10/6 1p-3p](#)

i. [10/14 1p-3p](#)

j. [10/20 9a-11a](#)

8. Charting the LifeCourse and PCT [Training](#)

- a. Charting the LifeCourse framework supports and empowers people with disabilities, families, and professionals. Learn how to use Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) to complete SSA functions including assess, plan, coordinate, review, identify services and supports, and assist to select providers. Led by Ohio Ambassador and National CtLC team member Barb Sapharas. This session will provide an overview of the framework and tools. The training is open to anyone. The training is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm and 3 hours of DODD CEU credits are available.

9. Registration for Future is Now Events Available

a. [Family Webinar: Moving Forward](#)

b. October 6<sup>th</sup> 1pm-230pm

c. October 6<sup>th</sup> 530pm-7pm

- i. Planning for a good life for your loved one is a journey. Carolyn Wheeler, who has spent too many hours around the kitchen tables assisting families o plan for the future, will highlight five areas to figure out as families plan as well as tools that may be useful along the way. Also hear from family members, including siblings, who know the future is now and have taken big and small steps to plan for a good life for their loved ones.

d. Webinar: Promising Practices for Professionals Supporting Older Caregivers and Family Members with Developmental Disabilities

e. October 6<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm

- i. Join colleagues in the fields of aging and DD who have spent the last five years developing practical ways to cross-walk systems to better support senior caregivers of people with developmental disabilities. Learn about the Future is Now curriculum adapted for these families to foster focused planning discussions. These conversations are critical to ensuring families intentions are voiced and captured. Also hear from facilitators who further adapted the series for younger families. Finally, outreach efforts the work best to engage al families in these important conversations will be discussed.

10. SW Ohio Regional Forum Discussing Transportation and the DSP [Workforce](#)

a. October 5<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm

b. Sponsored by the Regional Autism Advisory Council of SW Ohio. This 2-hour forum will address 2 main topics important to people with developmental disabilities and their supporters: Transportation and the DSP Workforce. Questions can be directed to Anne Tapia, Regional Autism Advisory Council of SW Ohio at [anne.tapia@cchmc.org](mailto:anne.tapia@cchmc.org)



11. Provider certification rule for Agency Providers and Independent providers have been replaced effective September 1, 2021.

attached are the crosswalks for both [independent](#) and [agency](#) providers on agenda.

Discussion/Questions.

## 12. Upcoming Trainings

- a. Annual Training – In Person – September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- b. Longevity Training - Zoom - September 30<sup>th</sup>
- c. Annual Training – Zoom - October 5<sup>th</sup>
- d. Longevity Training – Zoom - October 7<sup>th</sup>
- e. First Aid and CPR – In Person - October 13<sup>th</sup>

## 13. Provider Toolkit Updates

- a. Monthly provider training/meeting [calendar](#)

# Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities

October 19, 2021

## 1. HRSA- Provider Relief Fund [Application](#) open for Phase 4.

- Qualified providers of health care services and supports may receive Provider Relief Fund payments for healthcare related expenses or lost revenue due to COVID. These distributions do not need to be repaid to the US government, assuming providers comply with the terms and conditions.
- The application will close on October 26, 2021 at 11:50pm. Application will undergo a number of validations checks before financial information is submitted so providers are encouraged to begin applications ASAP to ensure they meet the deadline. Information on the documents needed to apply can be found on the link
- APR Rural is open to providers who serve rural patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- See a detailed list of eligible provider types [here](#).

## 2. Grant Opportunity: Ohio Family Network (OFN) [Expansion](#)

- The goal of the project is to leverage the knowledge, diversity, and strengths of people with developmental disabilities, as well as their families and siblings, along with public and private resources, to establish an Ohio Family Network of services is are deeply integrated with neighborhoods and local communities. The deadline to submit an application/proposal is 12:00PM, November 19, 2021. Funding will be made available for two grants of \$69,300 each with the project period of January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

## 3. CHANGES TO ADS/VH rules to take effect in October 15<sup>th</sup>.

- The following is a summary of changes being made to the ADS and VH rules that will take effect on October 15, 2021.
- Beginning October 15, 2021, ADS and VH, including on behalf of services, will no longer be allowed to be provided in an individual's home. CMS has been very clear that ADS and VH are not residential services and should be provided in a non-residential setting, separate from the participant's private residence or other residential living arrangement. Recently, we have provided guidance that services provided in the home are HPC and must be provided and billed accordingly.
- Virtual ADS and VH Services
  - The amendments to the rules, that go into effect October 15<sup>th</sup>, continue to permit an individual to receive ADS and VH services provided through virtual support in their own home; see paragraph (D)(5) of rule 5123-9-14 and paragraph (D)(4) of rule 5123-9-17. These virtual services will continue to be reimbursed at the C Acuity rate for all individuals for services delivered through December 31, 2021. Virtual ADS and VH services delivered on or after January 1, 2022 will be reimbursed at the acuity rate of the individual according to their acuity assessment instrument (AAI).
- Community Integrated ADS and VH Services
  - Beginning October 15, 2021, the STEP service delivery method for ADS and VH will transition to ADS Community and VH Community. This will be a seamless transition that continues to allow for services to be provided in small groups in the community. These small group, community-based services will continue to be reimbursed at the C acuity, and the maximum group size remains at five for services delivered through December 31, 2021. For services delivered on or after January 1, 2022, the maximum group size will be restored to four. Please see Appendix A of rules 513-9-14 and 5123-9-17 for additional information on the reimbursement rates.
- Community Integration Add-on
  - As of October 15, 2021, there will no longer be community integration add-on rate for ADS and VH services due to the new ADS Community and VH Community services being available to support individuals in small groups in the community. DODD will be in touch with counties that currently have the add-on authorized to work through the next steps.
- If you have questions regarding any of these changes please reach out to the Waiver Policy team by emailing Kelly Schuck at [kelly.schuck@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kelly.schuck@dodd.ohio.gov)

#### **4. Update on fee waiver for initial independent provider applications**

- DODD will continue to waive the application fee for all initial applications for independent providers at this time. DODD will provide a 30-day notice before the fee is reinstated.

## **5. Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness in October**

- Check out [OODWorks.com](https://oodworks.com) or [Employment First webpage](#) for more employment information
- October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am, [Save the date: 3rd Annual Symposium: Celebrating Disability Employment Awareness](#)
- [Proclamation from Governor Mike DeWine](#)

## **6. COVID 19 Vaccination Resources**

- Natalia Eckerson, Mom, Caregiver, Disability Advocate gives information about the COVID Vaccine
- [COVID Monoclonal Antibody Therapy](#)
- [Additional Dose for COVID-19](#)

## **7. Mental Health and Health [talk with Dr. Gentile](#)**

- Dr. Laura talks with Dr. Gentile about the importance of mental wellness and its importance to a person's overall health.

## **8. Guidance on COVID-19 booster dose and additional dose**

- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has issued [guidance](#) on COVID-19 vaccine booster doses, which have been authorized for certain recipients of the Pfizer vaccine to prevent serious outcomes from the COVID-19 illness. Eligibility for booster doses is currently limited to individuals at the highest risk for severe COVID-19 based upon their age, certain underlying medical conditions, or occupational/institutional settings. [Click here](#) to see booster dose eligibility requirements.
- At this time, booster doses are authorized only for fully vaccinated Pfizer vaccine recipients who are at high risk for exposure to COVID19 or the complications from severe disease.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will review data and determine if and when booster doses are needed for each COVID-19 vaccine product. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will offer guidance for booster dose use.
- Right now, recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines do not need booster doses, but this could change based on ongoing evaluation.
- Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine for Those Who are Immunocompromised
  - People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and may not build the same level of immunity to the two-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised.
  - According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC, a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered to immunocompromised people following the completion of the Pfizer or Moderna two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. [Click here](#) for a complete list of immunocompromising conditions and requirements.
- Difference Between the Booster Dose and the Additional Dose

- Booster Dose is used to strengthen waning immunity and bolster protection against serious outcomes, including hospitalization and death.
- Additional Dose is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their initial vaccine series.

## **9. Dr. Gentile Discusses Biopsychosocial Formulation**

- Biopsychosocial formulation is an approach to understanding a patient that takes into account biological, psychological, and social perspectives
- [Learn from Dr. Gentile](#)

## **10. Regional Support for OhioISP continues**

- [Registration](#) for the October gatherings is now available. Join other plan authors in your region to take a deeper dive into OhioISP. Registration is available for in-person and virtual sessions by region.
  - In-person 10/18-10/22
  - Virtual 10/25 10/29
- What to expect?
  - Plan authors will complete sections of the OhioISP assessment
  - Continue to address common questions and share new resources
- You can register on the training tab of the OhioISP [website](#)
- Currently the registration link is not working, DODD is aware and we will let you know once it is working

## **11. Sexuality and IDD Training Available Hosted by [Butler County](#)**

- SSAs, Providers, DSPs, Teachers, and other professionals are invited to join us for this exclusive, 3-part training led by Colleen Mercuri-Johnson, MSW, LISW-S focused on sexuality and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **12. Health and Welfare Alert**

- [Flu Prevention](#)

## **13. New options for recruiting qualified employees to provide direct supports**

- Due to the statewide workforce crisis, DODD is offering agencies and licensed facilities two options to assist with recruiting qualified employees to provide direct supports. These options include the temporary waiver of the requirement for DSPs to have a high school diploma or GED and the temporary approval of Direct Support Assistants. These options will be in effect from 9/17/2021 through 9/30/2022. Providers will be required to report information regarding those employed under either of these options to determine long-term effectiveness.
- Waiver of High School Diploma/GED Requirement

- Agency providers and licensed facilities will be permitted to hire DSPs who do not meet the educational requirements without requesting either an agency or DSP-specific rule waiver from OSSAS. Agencies and facilities hiring DSPs under this temporary waiver must ensure the following:
  - DSPs without a high school diploma or GED are not certified for medication administration and do not administer medication. DSPs without a high school diploma/GED cannot be certified to administer medication.
  - DSPs must meet all other requirements in rule.
  - The agency/facility must have a method for tracking DSPs working under a waiver of the education requirement to ensure the agency/ facility employs a sufficient number of DSPs to meet medication administration responsibilities.
- At the end of the temporary waiver period, DSPs who have maintained employment with the same agency/licensed facility will be permitted to continue working for the same provider without an additional rule waiver. This includes DSPs who were working under an agency or DSP-specific education waiver issued to the provider prior to 9/17/2021.
- Direct Support Assistants
  - In addition to temporarily waiving the education requirement for DSPs, DODD will temporarily permit agency providers and licensed facilities to employ qualified 16- and 17-year-olds as direct support assistants.
- Agencies and licensed facilities must meet the following conditions when employing a 16- or 17-year-old as a direct support assistant
  - Direct support assistants shall only work when another employee, who is at least eighteen years of age and meets the requirements of Ohio Adm. Code 5123-2-08 or Ohio Adm. Code 5123:2-3-01, is physically present at the service location.
  - Direct support assistants shall undergo a background investigation for employment in accordance with O.A.C. 5123-2-02.
  - Direct support assistants shall not provide intimate personal care such as dressing, showering, bathing, toileting, or changing undergarments.
  - Direct support assistants shall not transport individuals in a vehicle.
  - Direct support assistants shall not administer medication or perform health-related activities.
  - Direct support assistants shall not perform any care or task expressly forbidden by the individual.
  - The agency/licensed facility must obtain consent for services to be provided by a direct support assistant.
  - Direct support assistants must meet the training requirements found in O.A.C. 5123-2-08 Appendix C or O.A.C. 5123:2-3-01 (F) (1) (e-g).

- In addition to the conditions above, agency providers and licensed facilities must establish procedures to ensure unexpected circumstances, such as DSP absences, are addressed in a manner that ensures direct support assistants are not working alone without other qualified staff present.
- Please contact DODD at [OSSAS@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:OSSAS@dodd.ohio.gov) with questions.

#### **14. Billing Service**

- Looking for a billing service? Primary Solutions can help you. Their team ensures that your billing is done on time and accurately. Their team will help navigate your billing with ease and find any unpaid claims
- They centralize your data by using their own software. This makes it easier to access historical records, rebill, or reconcile records.
- [www.primarysolutions.net](http://www.primarysolutions.net)

#### **15. OTS (Outcome Tracking System) Update**

- Angie will be reaching out to day programs regarding this tracking system.

#### **16. COVID Exposure**

- If someone is exposed or suspected of being exposed to COVID, notify their work or ADS before sending them. There may be policies and procedures in place by that company that need to be adhered to.

#### **17. DSP Crisis Letter Update**

- This letter was sent out to families of individuals served by WCBDD explaining the current staffing shortage/workforce crisis and what WC is doing to assist during this time. In addition, it also touches upon other possible options needed to protect the health and safety.
  - Temporary housing to aid providers in staffing consolidation
  - Individuals returning to family homes on a temporary basis.
  - Utilizing remote supports
  - Utilizing natural supports

#### **18. DSP SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS NEEDED!**

- Please send Provider Development Nominations for DSP's as we highlight them monthly! Each DSP will be sent a small token of appreciation from WCBDD!

#### **19. WE NEED PICTURES!**

- Please send us pictures of your staff/individuals. We will be displaying them on a board in our hallway celebrating all of our Difference Makers in Warren County.

#### **20. Future Trainings**

Longevity Add-on Training: October 20<sup>th</sup>

Annual Provider Certification – In-person: October 27<sup>th</sup>

Annual Provider Certification – Zoom: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

CPR/First Aid: November 9<sup>th</sup>

Longevity Add-on Training: November 10<sup>th</sup>

WCBDD Office Closed: November 11<sup>th</sup>

Monthly Provider Meeting: November 16<sup>th</sup>

## **Provider Meeting**

**November 16, 2021**

### **1. CMS and OSHA COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates**

- On November 4, 2021, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [rule](#) requiring employees of Medicare and Medicaid participating health care facilities to be vaccinated for COVID-19. On the same day, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an [Emergency Temporary Standard](#) (ETS) mandating vaccination for COVID-19 for all employees of large employers (employers with 100 or more employees).
- Both the CMS Rule and OSHA ETS have aligned compliance dates starting with a phase 1 date of **December 5, 2021**, with final phase 2 compliance required by **January 4, 2022**. CMS and OSHA, the agencies who promulgated the rules, will be solely responsible for the enforcement of these rules.
- The CMS regulations can be found [here](#). A list of frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

### **2. Frontline Forum**

- The Frontline Forum is a virtual gathering that is designed to provide updates and information directly to DSPs and frontline supervisors, as well as provide a space for connection through facilitated large and small group discussions. The last Frontline Forum of 2021 is Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1130am. [Register Here](#).

### **3. Reidy Medical [Supply](#)**

### **4. DODD Encourages Individualized Emergency Strategies to be Used**

- In the face of a national workforce crisis, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities encourages county boards of developmental disabilities to have important conversations with people receiving services and their teams to develop individualized emergency strategies that will ensure health and safety in the event of a staffing emergency. Having preemptive discussions now will bring some level of ease knowing there are strategies in place and provides instant action steps when emergency staffing situations arise.
- Local teams should consider the use of technology, the capacity of the provider to redeploy DSPs, appropriate staffing ratios to maintain health and safety, and other providers, community, and natural supports available for short-term solutions due to emergencies.

- Read more about individualized emergency strategies, including a sample template on the [DODD website](#).

## **5. DODD Provider Certification Updates**

- Over the last year, DODD has processed close to 6,000 applications- both initial and renewals.
- DODD is requesting that providers that are renewing to submit very early in the process and be patient as they get processed. Specific issues that require an immediate intervention in an urgent situation can be handled individually. DODD is finding it very difficult to keep up the pace due to a surge in renewals and they are also down one reviewer.
- The timelines are taking longer than expected due to high volume and the delays in BCI checks
- PLEASE to try to submit your renewals 45-60 days prior to expiration to prevent from certification lapsing.

## **6. Training updates to new Certification Rule**

- The provider cert application was updated in PSM in September to reflect new rule requirements. However, the new training requirements are NOT actually required or available until 1/1/22.

This is causing great confusion in the field understandably as the application form is asking for training that is not yet available.

- IPs should upload verification of the previous rule training (8-hour course in My Learning) until 12/31/21. In addition, DODD is requesting applicants upload a document that states “EVV training is waived at this time due to COVID in place of the EVV training certificate in order for the application to process. These steps should help these apps move more smoothly through the process over the next 6 weeks.
- The same workaround applies to recertification as well as providers should upload training that aligns with the old rule for now until 1/1/22

## **7. IBSRAO- Intensive Behavior Support Rate Add On- Application Q&A Posted**

- Questions and responses regarding the Intensive Behavioral Support Rate Add-On (IBSRAO) Application have been posted on the DODD website, along with the recorded Live Chat, which can be found [here](#).
- As a reminder, DODD is offering a second opportunity for providers to apply for the Intensive Behavioral Support Rate Add-On (IBSRAO) for certain youth who will be served in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFIID). This rate add-on is focused on youth ages 10 through 17 with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disability, violent and aggressive behaviors toward self and others, and a



history of significant trauma. ICFIIDs may apply to receive enhanced reimbursement through a per diem rate add-on for providing short-term, intensive behavioral support.

- For this round of applications, DODD has broadened the potential applicant pool to include the following models:
- Providers with experience serving youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have complex behavioral health needs. The selected provider will be expected to serve children throughout Ohio as referred by DODD. The provider will also develop relationships with the county board of the youth's residence.
- Providers with experience serving youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have complex behavioral health needs and plan to partner with a county board(s) of developmental disabilities. In this model, one or more county boards will collaborate to identify and refer youth residing in those counties to DODD who can be supported by the provider once approved by DODD to meet the criteria for the add-on.
- Applications will be accepted until 5 PM Friday, November 19, 2021. The rule and the application can be found on the [DODD website](#).

#### **8. New Provider Monthly Training Coming January 2022**

- Beginning January 2022, DODD's Office of System Support & Standards (OSSAS) will be offering monthly virtual provider trainings from 10 AM – 11 AM on the last Thursday of the month. Each month will have an identified topic and short presentation.
- January 27, 2022 – The Compliance Review Process
  - Target Audience – Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers
- February 24, 2022 – Background Checks & Training
  - Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs
- March 31, 2022 – Personal Funds
  - Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs
- April 28, 2022 – Service Delivery Documentation
  - Target Audience – Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers
- Registration information will be shared in December.
- If you have questions, please contact us at [ossas@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ossas@dodd.ohio.gov).
- For compliance resources, please visit [www.dodd.ohio.gov/ossas](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/ossas)

#### **9. DODD Provider Rate Increases**

- Ohio Department of Medicaid announced rate increases, in accordance with the budget bill adopted by the 134th General Assembly, for many of Ohio's fee-for-service home- and community-based services (HCBS) waiver programs supported through the Ohio Department

of Medicaid (ODM), which includes Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

- Rate changes are located in multiple Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules and may be located [here](#).
- We are still waiting on the final numbers and will send those out once received

#### **10. ODDP Ranges Available for 2022 Waiver Rate Changes**

- The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) funding ranges for the Individual Options waiver will be updated over the weekend of October 29 through October 30, in DODD's Medicaid Services System (MSS) to accommodate the waiver rate changes that will go into effect on January 1, 2022.
- The system will take the current active ODDP for each individual and end date it for 12/31/2021. The system will then create a new ODDP record with a begin date of 01/01/2022.

#### **11. Technology First Education Project**

- Ohio's Technology First priorities are to support technology to;
  - increase safety, independence, and control for people with developmental disabilities.
  - use technology as a solution to meet the needs of families, providers, and direct support professionals.
  - increase the use of technology across the lifespan for people with developmental disabilities.
- To meet the above priorities DODD understands it needs to develop the level of comfort, skill, and knowledge of county boards, ICF/IDDs, and providers to increase the use of technology in service delivery and business operations.
- DODD is pleased to announce the [Technology First Shift Education](#) project. This project offers a limited number of learner's access to Shift's online enabling technology education and credentialing programs at no cost.

#### **12. DODD Finalizing OSOC Tool**

- OACB is pleased to report that the long-awaited On-Site/On-Call (OSOC) statewide assessment tool is in the final stages of production at DODD. It is being tested by a number of county boards and should be ready for training and implementation in the coming weeks.
- You can access the PDF tool on DODD's website by clicking [here](#).

#### **13. WCBDD Updates to Workforce Crisis**

- WCBDD is committed to providing relief where possible. We have decided to introduce a DSP Workforce Support Program to help offset the increased costs that providers are facing while responding to the current staffing crisis.

- Letter was sent out on Constant Contact 10/28/2021 with specific areas in which WCBDD will be assisting and how to apply for the reimbursements.
- Click [here](#) for Letter

#### **14. Upcoming meetings and Trainings**

- November 18<sup>th</sup>, Longevity Training
- November 18<sup>th</sup>, Billing & Documentation Training
- November 24<sup>th</sup>, Annual Training – In Person
- November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> WCBDD Closed
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Longevity Training
- December 7<sup>th</sup>, Annual Training – Zoom
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, CPR/First Aid Training
- December 15<sup>th</sup>, Annual Training- In Person
- December 16<sup>th</sup>, Longevity Training
- December 21<sup>st</sup>, Monthly Provider Meeting

#### **15. Health and Welfare Alert Exploitation Prevention [#69-11-21](#)**

#### **16. Requesting Input for Appendix K Flexibilities**

- The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is seeking feedback from all stakeholders on the flexibilities provided through the Appendix K authority during the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE). Prior to the end of the PHE, the State of Ohio must make decisions about which, if any, flexibilities to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to keep permanently in the three 1915(c) waivers administered by DODD.
- Therefore, ODM and DODD are asking for public input on which flexibilities were effective. The specific flexibilities provided by Appendix K include, but are not limited to, shared living and homemaker/personal care on the same day, parents of minor children having permission to be paid providers, onboarding flexibilities, respite extensions, and prior authorization flexibility. The email addresses to send feedback are [HCBSpolicy@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:HCBSpolicy@medicaid.ohio.gov) and [waiverfeedback@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:waiverfeedback@dodd.ohio.gov).

If your organization has already given input, there is no need to provide again. We appreciate all input that has already been received to date. ODM and DODD will compile all input for consideration and will share feedback through various means.

#### **17. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)**

**Provider Meeting**

**December 21, 2021**

## **1. DODD Regional Residential Crisis Support Plan- Holiday Preparation**

- Providers should familiarize themselves with the [DODD Regional Residential Crisis Support Plan](#). The plan starts with the provider. Each provider should have a system in place to ensure that direct support professionals and front-line supervisors working over the holiday season have a way to contact leadership staff within their agency to report and triage any crisis. If the provider, including an ICF provider, is unable to address the crisis, the provider should reach out to their county board via the county board on-call system for additional support. Finally, if the crisis cannot be remedied, even temporarily, at the local level, the county board on-call person or the provider can reach out to the provider resources and supports representative for your county via phone and leave a message.

## **2. DSP Initial and Annual Training Reminders for Waiver Providers**

- Per the new provider certification rules (OAC 5123-2-08 and 5123-2-09), direct support professionals (DSPs) of waiver services and independent providers must complete the initial training and two hours of the annual training using DODD MyLearning or through an entity using DODD-provided curriculum. This does not apply to DSPs in ICF settings.  
For entities interested in providing training in-person or through their learning management system, the DSP Initial and Annual curriculum can be found on DODD MyLearning here. Entities can begin using the new curriculum now, but the new training is required to be implemented by January 1, 2022. Watch a video on how to use the curriculum here.  
The DSP Initial and Annual online courses will be available on DODD MyLearning January 1, 2022. DSPs at agencies and independent providers can continue to use the Eight-Hour Provider Training for initial certification and annual training requirements through December 31, 2021.  
If you have questions about the curriculum or DODD training, reach out to [training.team@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:training.team@dodd.ohio.gov).

## **3. Health and Welfare Alert----Arm Yourself Against COVID #70-11-21 & COVID 19 INFORMATION**

- [This alert](#) provides critical information to caregivers about additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccines for children.

Vaccines for Children ages 5-11

- Dr. Laura discusses the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine that is now available for children ages 5-11 in her latest [Medical Moment](#).

Vaccine Booster Shots

- The Ohio Department of Health provided this very helpful infographic located at [Coronavirus Vaccine Booster Chart 2021](#)
- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) remains dedicated to health and public safety as the department responds to coronavirus (COVID-19).

## **Resources**

### **Ohio Public Health Advisory System**

COVID CareLine: Call 1-800-720-9616 to connect with a behavioral health professional from 8 AM to 8 PM, seven days per week. After 8 PM, the CareLine will forward to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

### **What COVID-19 Means for Families**

### **What COVID-19 Means for DSPs**

[DODD support teams](#) are available to help county boards and providers.

DODD has a dedicated [web page](#) for department communications and links to helpful resources.

If you need PPE supplies, have staffing questions or have staff in need of work, please email [melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org](mailto:melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org)

For specific questions about COVID-19, [visit coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov), call your local health department, or call the Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-427-5634.

## **4. CMS COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate NEWS**

- During the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said that the nationwide injunction issued against CMS should not have been applied nationwide and partially overturned the injunction to apply to the 25 states that filed suits, including Ohio. Following the initial injunction weeks ago, CMS put out a QSO (Quality & Oversight Memoranda) stating they would not pursue implementation of the rule while litigation is ongoing. NO interim guidance has been issued as of yet.

The mandate cases are expected to eventually be heard by the Supreme Court, who so far have been “friendly” to vaccine mandates implemented by states for healthcare workers (with many regulations and exemptions) so the eventual outcomes are still very unclear. Providers should continue their policy planning and consulting their legal counsel as necessary.

## **5. Health and Welfare Alert- Staying Safe in the Winter #52-12-21**

- [This alert](#) provides critical information to caregivers about winter weather safety.

## **6. New Podcast About Blueprint Available**

- [Listen](#) as Director Davis discusses the work of the Blueprint Group with stakeholders and members of the workgroup in the latest DODD podcast.

## **7. New Technology First Rule**

- DODD recently shared a full update on [Ohio Technology First Initiative](#)

- As a Technology First state, Ohio is consistently working to advance technology solutions and ensure that they are available to Ohioans with developmental disabilities. DODD's latest effort is the creation of a [new Technology First rule](#). The rule was drafted with the help of technology experts and stakeholders. DODD believes this rule will further the technology objectives shared by the DODD, county boards, and private providers to increase access to technology across the state. The new rule will further the implementation of a Technology First policy throughout Ohio to ensure that Ohioans with developmental disabilities have increased opportunities to live, work, and thrive in their homes, communities, and places of employment.

## 8. Director Davis announces Retirement in December 2021

- On December 8, 2021 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), will retire effective December 31, 2021.
- DeWine appointed Kim Hauck, current DODD deputy director for the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, to serve as the department's director beginning on January 1, 2022.

[Read Full Press Release](#)

## 9. Changes Coming to DSP and Independent Provider Training on DODD My Learning

- On January 1, 2022, the training sections of the agency waiver provider and independent provider rules go into effect (OAC [5123-2-08](#) and [5123-2-09](#)).
- Due to this change of rule, six new role-based online courses will be available in DODD MyLearning on December 31. [Click here to view a screenshot of the new MyLearning homepage.](#)
- Through December 30, 2021, DSPs and independent providers can continue to use the [Eight-Hour Provider Training](#) for initial and annual training. The Eight-Hour Provider Training will be archived and will no longer be accessible the morning of December 31, 2021. **Learners should be sure to complete any needed courses and download needed certificates on or before December 30.** A record of completion will always appear on learner transcripts, available by clicking "Transcripts and Completions" at the top menu bar of MyLearning.

Note: DSPs who work at ICFs who previously used the Eight-Hour Provider Training, can use the DSPs at an ICF/IID Initial and Annual courses for certification and re-certification.

For help accessing DODD MyLearning or OH|ID, reach out to [ITSCallCenter@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ITSCallCenter@dodd.ohio.gov).

For other questions about DODD training, reach out to [training.team@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:training.team@dodd.ohio.gov).

## 10. REGISTER NOW for Monthly Provider Training with DODD

- DODD's Office of System Support & Standards (OSSAS) will offer monthly virtual provider trainings from 10 AM – 11 AM on the last Thursday of the month. Each month will have an identified topic and short presentation.

*~January 27, 2022 – The Compliance Review Process*

Target Audience – Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers  
[Registration here.](#)

*~February 24, 2022 – Background Checks & Training*

Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs  
[Registration here.](#)

*~March 31, 2022 – Personal Funds.*

Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs  
[Registration here.](#)

*~April 28, 2022 – Service Delivery Documentation*

Target Audience – Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers  
[Registration here.](#)

If you have questions, please contact us at [ossas@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ossas@dodd.ohio.gov).

For compliance resources, please visit [www.dodd.ohio.gov/ossas](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/ossas)

#### **11. Check out the Did You Notice? Training Module**

- Whether you are a brand new DSP or an experienced one, recognizing that behavior serves as communication leads to increased observational skills, knowledge, and empathy toward those we support. In the [Did You Notice?](#) training module, you will hear from people with developmental disabilities, DSPs, and experts on the importance of noticing that all behavior is a form of communication.

#### **12. Warren County Provider Workforce Support [Reimbursement](#)**

- DSP New Hire and Annual Renewal Training
- Longevity Add-on
- Half Time Reimbursement for Overtime
- Questions – contact Melissa Stall at [melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org](mailto:melissa.stall@warrencountydd.org)

#### **13. Medication Administration collaboration with RCC**

- Trainings to start in February
- Initial Medication Administration Certification 1- Virtual on Tuesday and Wednesday and in person Testing on Thursdays (most likely be the first week of the month)
- Certification 1 Renewal
- Certification 2 and 3 Training Quarterly as needed
- Classes will be up to 12 people per class

- RSVP to Provider Development – Lindsay and Angie at [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org) - they will then contact RCC with attendance list

#### **14. SW Ohio Virtual Regional Forum**

- The Southwest Ohio Regional Forum includes a panel discussion and Q & A concerning transportation and the DSP workforce crisis. It is sponsored by the Regional Autism Advisory Council of SW Ohio, with the support of DODD.
- The event is March 15, 2022, 10am-12pm
- This forum is for people who support those with the most significant communication, sensory and behavior challenges including families, caregivers, providers, SSAs, and other professionals. DODD CEUs and Certificate of Attendance are available.
- [Register Here](#)

#### **15. Future Trainings**

1/4/2022	Annual Provider Training	8:30-4:30
1/6/2022	Longevity Add-on Training	9:00-3:00
1/11/2022	CPR and First Aid	9:00-1:00
1/13/2022	Billing and Documentation	9:00-12:00
1/18/2022	Monthly Provider Meeting	10:00
1/20/2022	Longevity Add-on Training	9:00-3:00
1/20/2022	Medication Administration 101 and QA Process	9:00-12:00

#### **16. WCBDD Holiday Closure**

- WCBDD offices will be closed from December 23, 2021 until January 2, 2022.
- Staff will be checking emails/phones on at least 12/28, 12/29 and 12/30.
- Managers will be checking emails/phones more frequently.
- Emergency phone monitored 24 hours per day – 1-800-800-6847

#### **17. Back to Basics Sessions coming 2022!**

- One-hour sessions/informational topics
- Send ideas our way!

#### **18. January 2022 RATES UPDATES**

- Rates will change effective January 1, 2022.
- <https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-under-development/effective+dates+for+new+rules>

#### **19. Topics for future meetings? E-mail: [providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org](mailto:providerdevelopment@warrencountydd.org)**