

1. Federal Public Health Emergency Officially Renewed

- On January 11, 2023, the US Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) renewed the determination that a federal public health emergency (PHE) continues to exist. This was previously scheduled to expire on January 11, 2023. The [declaration](#) lasts for the duration of the emergency or up to 90 days but may be extended by the HHS Secretary. HHS has said it would provide states 60 days' notice before the PHE is allowed to expire or end.
- When Appendix K was approved, it included an additional six months beyond the end of the federal public health emergency to allow for the 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 meets the needs of the person and to have the service(s) set up and in place before the end of the six-month unwinding period.
- The current PHE is now scheduled to expire on April 11, 2023, unless extended by HHS, which means that the unwinding period will expire on October 11, 2023.

2. Vendor Selected: DODD Waiver Redesign Initiative

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, has awarded a contract to Deloitte Consulting LLP to work on the waiver redesign initiative. This initiative will redesign Ohio's waiver services system that supports people with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve their vision of a good life.
- The result will be the redesign, modernization, and simplification of current processes related to assessments, funding, rate setting, data collection, and establishing individual budgets for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers administered by DODD.
- DODD's decision to take on this large initiative was in response to valuable input and feedback from our community and partners. This work will be a collaborative effort, and DODD will continue to listen to your challenges, wants for the future, and innovative ideas. There will be various opportunities for stakeholders to contribute and stay updated on progress in the coming months.
- Read the original announcement about the waiver redesign initiative [here](#).

3. 1099 Forms for Calendar Year 2022

- The OBM (Office of Budget and Management) Shared Services (SS) will be mailing tax forms by the end of January. They must have a valid mailing address to send documents to. Please verify your address with OBM Shared Services by using the Ohio Pays portal at <https://ohiopays.ohio.gov/>, by calling 1-877-644-6771, or by emailing at OBM.sharedservices@obm.ohio.gov.
- If a form 1099 is returned for any reason, your account will be made inactive in OAKS, which will prevent payment.
- Independent providers who made more than \$600 in 2022 and who are listed in the state accounting system [OAKS] under their Social Security Number will be issued an IRS Form 1099-NEC (Nonemployee Compensation) by the office of Ohio Shared Services (OSS).

- Agency providers may receive a 1099 depending on the type of contractor as listed in OAKS. A corporation (including a limited liability company (LLC) that is treated as a C or S corporation) generally does not receive a 1099 form.
- Any inquiries regarding taxes should be directed to your accountant or to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Providers are self-employed and have sole responsibility for taxes. Taxes are not withheld by DODD, and DODD cannot assist with questions related to taxes.

4. **Join the OSSAS Provider Training Series 2023**

- Join us for the OSSAS Provider Training Series - monthly virtual training opportunities. Training is held on the last Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- 1/26/2023 10 AM – Start 2023 Off Right Learn about the Compliance Review Process, the Top Citations in 2022, and Maintaining Compliance
- 2/23/2023 10 AM – Personal Funds Rule
- 3/30/2023 10 AM – Your agency is certified, now what?
- 4/27/2023 10 AM – Background Checks and Training
- Registration is open.
- Contact Us: OSSAS Compliance Page or ossas@dodd.ohio.gov

5. **Trauma-Sensitive Mindfulness 101**

- Trauma-Sensitive Mindfulness Training is back February 8 - March 15.
- In this six-week course, participants will learn the fundamentals of trauma, mindfulness, and resilience in a supportive, fun environment. The instructors will integrate simple practices into each session, ensuring that participants are immediately able to apply what they learn in their daily lives.
- Registration is required.
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

6. **Register for MI/IDD Training Series (New Topics Available)**

- The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMAS) and Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) are hosting a series of live webinars on best practices in supporting people who have both a mental illness and an intellectual/developmental disability (MI/IDD). DODD CPD and CEU units from nursing, psychology, counselor, and social work are available.
 - Aggression in IDD for Clinicians
 - Tuesday, January 10, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
 - Trauma and People with Intellectual Disabilities
 - Tuesday, January 17, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
 - Birth to Death: Providing Nursing for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
 - Tuesday, January 31, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

7. **Behavior Support Workshops**

- No registration is necessary, just click the link to join.
- [Southern Region Behavior Support Workshop](#) - January 17, 2023 from 1 PM - 3 PM or call in at 614-721-2972 with ID# 174 863 39#

- [Statewide Behavior Support Workshop](#) - February 14, 2023 from 10 AM - 12 PM or call in at 614-721-2972 with ID# 279 921 037#
- There will be a training that was presented at the OACB 2023 conference, "Myths & Misconceptions of the Rule, Blunt Suppression, Assessments, HRC Best Practices." This will be recorded and posted on the [Behavioral Support webpage](#).
- The dates and times for upcoming workshops will be posted under the [Behavior Support Workshops section](#) on the [Behavioral Support webpage](#).
- Have questions? Reach out to behavior.support@dodd.ohio.gov.

8. EVV Back to Basics Training offered- FREE!

- Join Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and Sandata Technologies on Thursday, January 19, from 10-11:30 a.m. to learn the basics of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). This webinar is open to anyone interested in learning more about EVV.
- This introductory webinar will cover:
 - What is EVV and who needs to use it?
 - Why and when is EVV required?
 - How does EVV work?
 - Where can you get more information about EVV?
- Bonus content for providers: Helpful reports within EVV that are free and available for access.
- [REGISTER HERE FOR BACK-TO-BASICS EVV TRAINING](#)

9. Medication Administration Classes Jan and Feb!

- Cert 1 RENEWAL: 1/17 10:30-12:30 Zoom Only
- Cert 1 RENWEAL: 2/7 10:30-12:30 Zoom Only
- Cert 2 RENEWAL: 1/18 10:30-11:30 Zoom Only
- Cert 2 RENEWAL: 2/14 10:30-11:30 Zoom Only
- Cert 3 RENEWAL 1/19 10:30-11:30 Zoom Only
- Cert 3 RENWAL 2/16 10:30-11:30 Zoom Only
- You must have camera access for Zoom course (tablet or computer)
- Please RSVP to Lindsay Graves prior to attending the course
- Limited slots available.
- Course provided by RCC
- Email address and phone number needed when registering for communication*

10. SAVE THE DATE MARCH 14, 2023 OPEN HOUSE- PROVIDER FAIR

- Information coming soon!

11. In-Person, Hands-On Tech Training in January

- “Innovative Person Driven Low/High Tech Accommodation Tools” is a 2-day, in-person training opportunity that examines the lens we use to define supports and accommodation tools, then incorporates the use of high and low-tech accommodations built with and by people with disabilities. Learn more [here](#).
- **Day 1: Innovative Person-Driven Low/High Tech Accommodation Tools**
- [January 24, 2023, 9 AM – 4 PM](#)
- *For people with lived experience, families, teachers, and agency professionals*

- Place: The Meridian event space at COhatch Polaris (1554 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240).
- **Day 2: Hands-on Training with Jennifer White**
- [January 25, 2023, 2 - 4 PM](#) or [January 25, 2023, 5:30-7:30 PM](#)
- 2 Sessions, Pick the Best for You
- For people with lived experience, families, teachers, and agency professionals
- Place: The Meridian event space at COhatch Polaris (1554 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240).
- The January 25, 2023 training focuses on hands-on, specific demonstrations and tryouts of tech. Learn more [here](#).
- Jennifer White, CEO, Able Opportunities, Inc., will be the facilitator. She is a subject matter expert for the Department of Labor, a corporate disability inclusion specialist and national technical assistance consultant. Her experience includes residential, community, and work support, university research, collaboration to honor and include the culture of first nation peoples, and cross agency projects serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health challenges, and multiple diagnoses.

12. Extension Granted for MUI Annual Reviews and Stakeholders

- Independent and agency providers will be required to complete the annual review by April 1, 2023, (previously January 31, 2023) and send it to the county board by April 28, 2023 (instead of February 28, 2023).
- County board and council of governments (when applicable) shall have a committee that reviews trends and patterns of major unusual incidents. The committee should meet in May 2023 (previously March 2023) to review and analyze data for the preceding calendar year.
- For questions, please contact the MUI office at 614-995-3810 or MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov
- For questions, please contact the MUI office at 614-995-3810 or MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov
- Additional resources:
 - [MUI Rule 5123-17-02](#)
 - [Agency Provider Annual Report Template](#)
 - [Agency Provider Tips for Annual Analysis of MUIs](#)
 - [Independent Provider Annual Report Template](#)
 - [Independent Provider Tips for Annual Analysis of MUIs](#)
 - [MUI Health and Welfare Page](#)
 - MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov
 - [OSSAS Compliance Page](#)

13. Virtual Town Hall from the Interagency Work Group on Autism

- The Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) is inviting Ohioans to join a virtual Town Hall on January 20 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM.
- For the January 20 meeting, the IWGA requests comments from the public regarding promising practices, barriers, concerns, and ideas specific to the targeted priorities outlined in [Pursuing Quality Lives 2022](#).
- Learn more here: <https://iwg-autism.org/>
- [Register Here](#)

1. PIG ABILITIES PRESENTATION

- Presented by Ann Myers- Community Navigator- Hamilton County DDS

2. 1099 Forms for Calendar Year 2022

- The OBM (Office of Budget and Management) Shares Services (SS) will be mailing tax forms by the end of January. They must have a valid mailing address to send documents to. Please verify your address with OBM Shared Services by using the Ohio Pays portal at <https://ohiopays.ohio.gov/>, by calling 1-877-644-6771, or by emailing at OBM.sharedservices@obm.ohio.gov.
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3. Join Professionals and Families Throughout Ohio for the CtLC Ohio Showcase

- Charting the LifeCourse is a framework created to help individuals and families of all abilities and ages develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Join the Family Resource Network of Ohio on March 17, 2023, in Westerville, Ohio, for a day-long celebration showcasing the use of Charting the LifeCourse throughout Ohio.
- Learn about the framework and hear stories from people with disabilities, families, providers, county boards, and organizations about how they've found success in supporting themselves and others with Charting the LifeCourse principles and tools. The keynote will be presented by Kerry Magro, Ed. D, an award-winning autistic professional speaker, best-selling author, and autism consultant for HBO's *Mrs. Fletcher* and Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum*. To learn more and register, visit this link: [Family Resource Network of Ohio](#).

4. Provider Resources and Support Team Information Sharing Sessions for DSPs, Front Line Supervisors, and Providers

- The DODD Provider Resources and Support Team is excited to announce monthly information sessions with topics of interest for those providing direct care services, those interested in getting certified to provide direct care services, and for local county board staff who support direct support professionals and

providers. Information sessions are held on the fourth Monday of each month from 11 AM – 12 PM

- Below are the upcoming information sessions for the first quarter of 2023. Registration is now open for the February session.
 - February 27
 - Ohio's Developmental Disabilities System: Where Do I Fit In?
 - March 27
 - History of Developmental Disability Services
 - April 24
 - The DSP Experience: Stories from the Field

5. Join the OSSAS Provider Training Series 2023

- 2/23/2023 10 AM – Personal Funds Rule
- 3/30/2023 10 AM – Your agency is certified, now what?
- 4/27/2023 10 AM – Background Checks and Training
- Registration is open.
- Contact Us: [OSSAS Compliance Page](#) or ossas@dodd.ohio.gov

6. Save the Date for Innovation Series 2023

- Save the date! The 2023 Innovation Series builds on the connections the Community Life Engagement Team has helped to spotlight and celebrate over the last 6+ years to improve person-centered planning, community membership, and employment opportunities for people across Ohio.
- The 2023 Innovation Series begins Tuesday, April 4, 2023
- [MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)

7. Outcome Tracking System Reporting Period 2022 Refresher Trainings

- The Outcome Tracking System (OTS) Reporting Period 2022 began October 1, 2022, for those Adult Day and Employment providers, ICFs, DCs, and county boards. OTS Users will enter data for those whom they provided services to in the month of September 2022. Users have six months to enter data, 10/1/2022 – 3/31/2023
- If you are new to OTS or would like a refresher training, please join us for an upcoming virtual training! No registration is required, just click the training you would like to join.
- Additionally, DODD has developed some resources and tools to assist Users throughout the Reporting Period: user guide, screencasts, recorded webinar, security access guide, and OTS definitions. You may also contact your [Regional Community Life Engagement Project Manager](#) for any questions you may have.

8. Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services Updates

- The Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services issued updates concerning the Blueprint Proposal target and implementation
- [VIEW DOCUMENT HERE](#)

9. Provider Resources and Support Team Announces Open Door Office Hours

- The DODD Provider Resources and Support Team is pleased to announce that we will begin offering bi-weekly Open-Door Office Hours. Open Door Office Hours are a time set aside for direct support professionals, provider agency staff, and county board provider support staff from around the state, to come together with staff from the Provider Resources and Support Team to network, connect, and discuss topics and issues related to the provider and direct service professional experience
- Sessions are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. To be accessible to as many direct support professionals as possible, the sessions will be held from 9 AM – 10 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and from 4 PM – 5 PM on the 4th Wednesday of the month. There is no need to register. You can join by clicking on the following links.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month 9 AM – 10 AM - Join 2nd Wednesday of the Month Session
- 4th Wednesday of the month 4 PM – 5 PM- [Join 4th Wednesday of the Month Session](#)

10. Introducing Remote Supports into the Conversation" February 22

- February 22, 2023, 1 - 2 PM, Amy Blair and Carrie Hayes from [SafeinHome](#) will be facilitating “Introducing Remote Supports into the Conversation.” In this webinar, they will share insights and approaches for introducing remote supports in conversation to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Amy and Carrie have been serving people with IDD for over twenty years and will share real-world information, including success stories about how remote support is changing lives and increasing independence for people so they can live their best lives and on their terms.
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

11. Extension Granted for MUI Annual Reviews and Stakeholders

- Independent and agency providers will be required to complete the annual review by April 1, 2023, (previously January 31, 2023) and send it to the county board by April 28, 2023 (instead of February 28, 2023).
- County board and council of governments (when applicable) shall have a committee that reviews trends and patterns of major unusual incidents. The committee should meet in May 2023 (previously March 2023) to review and analyze data for the preceding calendar year.
- For questions, please contact the MUI office at 614-995-3810 or MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov
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12. 2023 OPEN HOUSE

- OPEN HOUSE- March 14th 6:00-7:00PM
- Provider-Business Fair- March 14th 7:00-8:00PM

March

1. Health Source of Ohio Presentation

- Presented by Morgan Bales – Outreach Success Coordinator

2. NEW WCBDD Website Tour

- We have a brand-new website we would like to share with you 😊

3. Care Choice- New Provider Search Platform coming soon!

- Care Choice will be a new platform for all provider requests that are sent out starting June 2023.
- Please mark your calendar to attend to the meeting on May 16, 2023 as they will be giving an in-depth presentation on how to utilize this platform.

4. Data and Tech Webinar

- March 23, 2023 10:00-11:00
- Jerry Bernard of the Charles Lea Center will be discussing “Technology: Data Metrics and Quality” for providers who support people with disabilities.
- This session is part of an ongoing series of supportive technology webinars being facilitated by the Charles Lea Center. You can find the other recordings of the last webinar. “Using Technology in Residential Programs” [here](#).

5. OISP

- It’s coming!
- You will start receiving them as early as April for May spans.
- If you are an agency that uses Brittco and received an email about training- we will be providing that soon- we are working out kinks on our end.
- We will be holding a series of meetings to assist and train providers on the OISP.
- Sessions will be held in June, July and October – Dates will be out very soon- Stay Tuned!

6. Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services Updates

- The Blueprint for Adult Day and Employment Services issued updates concerning the Blueprint Proposal target and implementation
- [VIEW DOCUMENT HERE](#)

7. PNM Reminders

- Please remember if you are working on your renewal and any changes need to be made to your certification- ex: addresses, DOO- please make those changes prior to your renewal to keep any possible lapse in certification.

8. Budget Updates 2024-2025

9. OPEN Door office hours REMINDER!

- March sessions are all about the upcoming Budget 2024-2025
- Sessions are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. To be accessible to as many direct support professionals as possible, the sessions will be held from 9 AM – 10 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and from 4 PM – 5 PM on the 4th Wednesday of the month. There is no need to register. You can join by clicking on the following links.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month 9 AM – 10 AM - Join 2nd Wednesday of the Month Session
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April

1. Care Choice- New Provider Search Platform coming soon!

- Care Choice will be a new platform for all provider requests that are sent out starting June 2023
- Please mark your calendar to attend to the meeting on May 16, 2023 as they will be giving an in-depth presentation on how to utilize this platform.

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- If you are an agency that uses Brittco and received an email about training- we will be providing that soon- we are working out kinks on our end.

- We will be holding a series of meetings to assist and train providers on the OISP.
- Sessions will be held on June 27th 10am-12pm, August 22nd 1pm-3pm, and October 5th 10am-12pm

3. Annual Notice of DSP Compensation Survey

- Each Year DODD collects workforce data on direct support professional compensation, (wages, overtime, bonuses, benefits, etc.) to inform policy making, evaluate the impact of workforce development initiatives and advocate on behalf of the service system.
- Participation in the 2022 Compensation Survey is MANDATORY for Agency providers who delivered HPC services in the calendar year of 2022.
- A survey invitation will be sent to the required agencies in April. Training webinars and survey compensation guides are currently under development and will be offered in late April
- Further guidance with specific dates will be available in upcoming Memo Mondays.
- If you have questions, please contact Rachel Blick at Rachel.blick@dodd.ohio.gov

4. New Training - MY LEARNING - Sexual Behavior in the Context of Developmental Stages

- It can be difficult for families and caregivers to talk about sex and sexuality with people who have intellectual disabilities, especially as sex and sexuality are often considered taboo topics. In this recorded webinar, Dr. Elizabeth Schindler reviews ways to help people with intellectual disabilities learn appropriate sexual behaviors and also express their sexuality in a healthy way. Dr Schindler also discusses sexual trauma and offending behaviors.

5. MED ADMIN GUIDANCE

- Guidance has been issued to determine the appropriate supports necessary for safe and accurate medication administration. The results of the self-administration assessment will guide teams in determining the type of support and the certification requirements of those providing assistance.

6. OPEN Door office hours REMINDER!

- Sessions are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. To be accessible to as many direct support professionals as possible, the sessions will be held from 9 AM – 10 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and from 4 PM – 5 PM on the 4th Wednesday of the month. There is no need to register. You can join by clicking on the following links.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month 9 AM – 10 AM - Join 2nd Wednesday of the Month Session
- 4th Wednesday of the month 4 PM – 5 PM- Join 4th Wednesday of the Month Session

7. Good Shepherd Grant

- The Good Shepherd Foundation of Ohio have shared their 2023 grant application, which supports extracurricular activities for people living in residential service settings. Applications are due May 5th, 2023.

8. Join the OSSAS Provider Training Series 2023

- 4/27/2023 10 AM – Background Checks and Training
- 5/25/2023 10AM- MUI/UI Provider Responsibilities
- Registration is open.
- Contact Us: OSSAS Compliance Page or ossas@dodd.ohio.gov

9. Trauma Informed Care- 10th Annual Summit

- Registration is Open for the 10th Annual Trauma- Informed Care Summit: Pathways to Resilience, Healing and Recovery
- May 16-17, 2023 at the Hilton Polaris, 8700 Lyra Drive, Columbus, Ohio

10. Compliance Review Tools Updated for April 2023

- DODD office of OSASS would like to remind the field that the compliance review tools have been updated as of April 1, 2023.
- These tool updates incorporate recent changes in licensure rules, the personal funds rule and the ensuring the suitability of compliance resources can be found in the Compliance section of DODD website.
- To help understand these changes, DODD has recorded videos highlighting the changes in each type of review tool.

11. Behavior Support Workshops

- Join us to continue the learning with questions and answers- scenarios to increase understanding of the rule updates and support people with complex behavioral health needs.
- Southern Behavior Workshop April 25, 2023 1:00PM-3:00PM, or call in (audio only) 614-721-2972 ID# 764500906#

12. Meeting of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

- May 1, 2023 12:00PM-5:00PM
- The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) will hold a virtual meeting for members to discuss issues related to home- and community-based services (HCBS) that will be part of the Committee's report to the President. All the PCPID meetings, in any format, are open to the public. This virtual meeting will be conducted in a discussion and presentation format with testimony from people with intellectual disabilities and other stakeholders to provide more information about their experiences with HCBS. View more details published in the Federal Register notice.
- Stakeholder input is very important to the PCPID. Comments and suggestions, especially from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, are welcome at any time. If there are comments related to HCBS or other areas that

you would like to inform the PCPID of, please share them through this form on ACL.gov. Comments received by April 21st will be shared with the PCPID at the May 1st meeting.

- Both ASL and CART will be provided during the meeting. If requesting accommodations for meeting participation, please send an email to jokim@sensisagency.com by April 17, 2023

May

1. Care Choice- New Provider Search Platform Presentation – Anthony DePinto

- <https://carechoicetool.com/>

2. PHE Unwinding

- The PHE is ending next Thursday, May 11th. As such, CMS released this QSO to address many questions, particularly surrounding staff vaccination.
- CMS will soon end the requirement that covered providers and suppliers establish policies and procedures for staff vaccination. CMS will have more details regarding ending this requirement at the anticipated end of the public health emergency.
- Appendix K will expire November 11, 2023

3. OISP

- It's HERE!!!!!! It's HERE!!!!!!
- We will be holding a series of meetings to assist and train providers on the OISP.
- Sessions will be held on three different dates-
- June 28th 10am-12pm,
- August 22nd 1pm-3pm
- October 5th 10am-12pm
- Flyer [here](#)

4. NEW name for OSASS

- Office of Compliance is the new name for OSASS
- Name has changed but functions of the department have not.

5. Specialty Training- “Get it Right the First Time”- Personnel Training

- AGENCY ONLY Training
- May 23, 2023
- 1:00PM-3:00PM
- Flyer [here](#)

6. MBS- Medicaid Billing System Training

- Free Billing Training for both independent and agency providers
- June 15, 2023 12:00PM
- Click [here](#) for training information

7. **Information Sharing Sessions for Direct Support Professionals and Frontline Supervisors and Providers**

- The DODD Provider Resources and Support Team is excited to offer monthly information sessions with topics of interest for those providing direct care services, those interested in getting certified to provide direct care services, and local county board staff who support direct support professionals and providers.
- Information Sessions are held the 4th Monday of each month from 11 AM – 12 PM.
- May 22 – [So You Want to Become a Provider](#) – What to know before you get started
- June 26 – [So You Want to Open a Group Home](#) – What to know before you get started

8. **Accessible Parks in Ohio**

- As the weather becomes warmer each day, it's a great time to get outdoors and explore yourself or to take people with developmental disabilities with you. [Check out the Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#) for information on accessible parks and activities.

June

1. **DSP DAYS at SCENE 75**

- Click [here](#) for Flyer-information-registration

2. **Care Choice- New Provider Search Platform Updates**

- Emails are being sent to register to the portal for provider inquiries
- The email is generated from warrencountyboardofdd.org
- If you are not interested in serving additional individuals you do not need to register for this step

3. **APPENDIX K UPDATE**

- Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) shared an update on its recent work preparing for the expiration of Appendix K flexibilities. You can now find a status summary document on the [ODM resuming routine eligibility operations webpage](#) under “Appendix K Resources” and in the [Appendix K Status Summary](#), ODM provides information on:
 - The expiration of Appendix K flexibilities and what this means for the State of Ohio
 - Updates on key flexibilities, including shared living, relatives with legal decision-making authority as direct care workers, and provider reciprocity (deeming)

- [Proposed draft language](#) to allow individuals with decision-making authority and legally responsible family members to serve as direct care workers
- Guidance on providing feedback and other information

Additionally, DODD has an information on their website regarding the unwinding of Appendix K as well as where the state plans to go from here and that information as well as draft rules for public comment can be found [HERE](#)

4. **OITMS Training for Providers on June 23**

- At the end of August 2022, DODD transitioned to a new application called the Ohio Incident Tracking and Monitoring System (OITMS).
- Since that time, they have been working diligently to enhance the application and reporting capabilities. To provide additional time to grow the system and provide training, they issued extensions for providers to complete their annual required MUI reviews by the end of July 2023 (instead of February 2023).
- There will be a training on June 23, 2023, from 1:00 PM -2:30 PM for providers on how to access the system and run reports.
- Click [HERE](#) for additional information-registration
- Annual MUI Stakeholder Meeting
 - July 25th at 10am
 - Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86496143786?pwd=N2hOSERyejV4RlInbGVhRForR09BZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 864 9614 3786
Passcode: 169790

5. **TECH FEST- BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF DD**

- Learn about remote supports, assistive technology solutions that will enhance your independence at home, work and in the community.
- June 28th 9:00am-1:00pm - Janet Clemmons Center
Click [HERE](#) for additional information-registration

6. **Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Funding Employment Resources Grants**

- The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) will fund several projects to ensure that people with disabilities, families, and service providers have knowledge and access to employment-related resources, technology, and programs.
- Proposals should address, if necessary: transportation, accessibility, use of technology, replication, sustainability, length of the project, if the project reaches an entire state or a specific region, cross-disability, and cultural diversity.
- Applications for these projects are due at 11:59 PM on July 7, 2023. Each project is scheduled to begin on October 1, 2023, and run until September 30, 2024.
- For more information and application, click [here](#).

7. **OISP Training Reminder**

- We will be holding a series of meetings to assist and train providers on the OISP.
- Sessions will be held on three different dates-

- June 28th 10am-12pm,
- August 22nd 1pm-3pm
- October 5th 10am-12pm
- Flyer [here](#)

8. **Information Sharing Sessions for Direct Support Professionals and Frontline Supervisors and Providers**

- The DODD Provider Resources and Support Team is offering monthly information sessions with topics of interest for those providing direct care services, those interested in getting certified to provide direct care services, and local county board staff who support direct support professionals and providers.
- Information Sessions are held the 4th Monday of each month from 11 AM – 12 PM.
- June 26 - [So You Want to Open a Group Home](#) – What to know before you get started
- July 24- [I am certified- now what?](#)- Newly certified or thinking of becoming certified information.

July

1. **Health & Welfare Alert**

- [Summer safety](#)

2. **DSP Retention Payments**

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) launched the county board-funded Direct Support Professional (DSP) retention payment initiative for independent providers and DSPs of agency waiver providers last year.
- In July, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the initiative with an effective date of July 1, 2022. This allowed for these payments to be retroactive to that date. Quarterly payments were distributed to participating home and community-based waiver provider agencies that opted-in and Independent Providers who were in good standing.
- Participating agency providers are required to quarterly report certain data elements and attest that the funds were used in accordance with all requirements. Independent providers were also eligible for payments and did not need to opt-in or report to participate.
- Retention payments will be distributed quarterly from DODD to participating home and community-based waiver providers, and providers will then send retention payments to each eligible DSP.
- You can find more information regarding these payments [HERE](#)

3. **SWOCOG Leadership Series**

- July 31st
- 2 trainings
 - Chill Skills: Stress Management for Busy People 9am-12pm
 - Generation Motivation: Age or Mindset 1pm-4pm
 - [Register](#)

4. **DODD Provider Training Series – Zoom**

- [Register](#)
- July 27 – HCBS Setting
- August 31 – Service and Delivery Documentation
- September 28 – Shared Living Requirements
- October 26 – Provider Compliance rule

5. **Provider Resources and Support Team Information Sessions**

- July 24: 11 AM – 12 PM - [I'm Certified, Now What?](#) - Did you recently become a certified waiver provider? Are you in the process of getting certified, but you are not sure what the next step is after you complete your certification? We will discuss what happens once you are certified and how to start providing services. We will explain the concept of “free choice of provider,” being a “willing and able” provider, and ways to make sure that people looking for services can find you!
- August 28: 11 AM – 12 PM - [The DSP Voice](#) - As part of the person-centered planning process, the voice of the person receiving supports leads the development of the plan, but some people are unable to speak for themselves or want others who know them well to help them share their thoughts on what is important to and for them. DSPs have close relationships with those they support and often have a unique insight that other professionals don't have. This presentation will discuss how the DSP can ensure that what they know about the person is shared with the team to help ensure that the person's needs and wants are accurately identified and addressed in the plan.

6. **Governor DeWine signs Historic State Budget**

- On July 3, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 33, the state's two-year budget for fiscal years 2024-2025.
- Funding is meant to increase rates to a level to support a statewide average DSP wage of \$18/hour starting on 1/1/24 and a statewide average DSP wage of \$19/hour on 7/1/24, for waiver services including HPC, PD-HPC, OSOC, Day, Employment, NMT, Transportation, Shared Living, Remote Support.
- Includes increases to various add-ons, home-delivered meals, and money management.
- Rate tables for all of the services will be released by mid-August.
- Rate assumes increased funding for frontline supervisors.
- For ICFs: Funding is meant to support a statewide average DSP wage of \$17/hour starting 7/1/23 and a statewide average DSP wage of \$18/hour on 7/1/24.
- DODD Budget [Webpage](#)

7. **Ohio Tech Summit**

- The Ohio Tech Summit happens August 11, 2023, 8:30 AM – 4 PM at Marriott Columbus OSU (3100 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43202). From smart homes and assistive technologies to independent transportation options, the Tech Summit 2023 offers attendees a chance to learn about current and emerging technology solutions and options to support people with developmental disabilities.
- Find more information at <https://www.ohiotechsummit.org/>

8. **Things That Go!**

- [August](#) 19 at WCYC - 10am - 12pm
- Explore cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, and more

August

1. DSP WEEK 2023

- September 11th-September 15, 223
- SAVE THE DATE and PLEASE RSVP for an out of this world Night!!!!
- Annual Dinner- 9/13/2023 6:00-8:00

2. Community Integrated Services 2.0 - Statewide Webinar

- The Community Life Engagement Project Management team, The OhioISP team, and the Medicaid Waiver Technical Assistance team will host a statewide webinar on Community Integrated Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation on August 31, 2023, from 1 - 2:30 PM.
- This webinar will serve as a follow-up to an initial webinar on this topic held in July 2022. This webinar will provide a definition and history of community-integrated services, examples, how to assess and plan for these services, as well as authorization, billing, and documentation of community-integrated services. Please register for this webinar [here](#).

3. Strong Families, Safe Communities Request for Applications Now Live

- The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, has released the Strong Families Safe Communities (SFSC) Request for Applications (RFA).
- The purpose of this RFA is to solicit applications from multi-county collaboratives to provide services and supports that focus on children and youth (ages 0-25) with intensive needs relating to behavioral health needs and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities. Selected applicants will provide community-based services and supports grounded in the SAMHSA-defined System of Care framework. OhioMHAS will award funding only to qualified non-profit organizations or governmental entities.
- Applications are due 8/25 by 3 PM. Details about this RFA are available at this [link](#)

4. Behavior Support Workshops

- Join us to continue the learning with questions/answers and scenarios to increase understanding of the rule updates and support people with complex behavioral health needs
- Statewide Behavior Support Workshop on August 22 from 10 AM-12 PM
- Or call in (audio only) at 614-721-2972 ID# 702 733 526#
- No registration is necessary; click the link to join.

5. Behavior Support Workshop Survey

- To ensure the behavior support workshops continue to meet the field's needs, we invite you to complete a brief survey to guide the planning and development of future workshops.
- Behavior Support Workshop Survey 2023

- Please respond by August 31, 2023. It should only take about 4 minutes to complete. We look forward to your input/feedback!

6. **The DSP and Provider Supports Team Announces Open Door Office Hours**

- Open Door Office Hours are a time set aside for Direct Support Professionals, Provider Agency Staff, and County Board Provider Support Staff to come together with staff from DODD to network, connect, and discuss topics and issues related to the provider and direct service professional experience.
- Sessions will be held from 9 – 10 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and from 4 – 5 PM on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Session topics will be announced for general conversation, but there will be time for conversation and questions during the session.
- August's session topic is Recruiting Providers for Ancillary Waiver Services.
- There is no need to register. You can join by clicking on the following links:
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month 9 – 10 AM- Join 2nd Wednesday of the Month Session
 - 4th Wednesday of the month 4 – 5 PM - Join 4th Wednesday of the Month Session

7. **APPENDIX K Authority UPDATE**

- The Ohio Departments of Medicaid, Aging and Developmental Disabilities appreciate the continued advocacy and stakeholder collaboration throughout this process of planning for the Appendix K authorities to end. As a reminder, Ohio's authorities sunset six months after the expiration of the public health emergency, on November 12, 2023. On July 13th, Ohio posted the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, Ohio HomeCare, MyCare, Individual Options, Level 1 and SELF waiver applications and associated Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules up for public comment, in anticipation of an effective date of November 12, 2023.
- Just recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided states with the option to extend approved flexibilities past the November 12th date, as long as the state is in the process of permanent amendments pending CMS review and approval. As a result, effective dates on the proposed waiver application amendments and corresponding OAC rules will be modified to reflect a new effective date of January 1, 2024. The public comment timeframe will also be extended with a new public posting of the updated applications.
- Notification of the posting of updated waiver applications will be shared when they've been posted to Public Notices (ohio.gov)

8. **Join the Provider Training Series 2023**

- Join the Provider Training Series offered by the Office of Compliance. In June, we will begin using Zoom for the Webinars. You can register for all sessions at one time.
- Contact us at Compliance@dodd.ohio.gov. OSSAS is now the Office of Compliance. Visit our webpage, DODD Office of Compliance

9. **Provider Resources and Support Team Announces Information Sharing Sessions**

- The Provider Resources and Support Team will present the following information sessions for direct support professionals, frontline supervisors, and providers. Click on the link to sign up!
- August 28: 11 AM – 12 PM - The DSP Voice - As part of the Person-Centered planning process, the voice of the person leads the development of the plan. But some people cannot speak for themselves or want others who know them well to help them share what is important to and for them. DSPs have close relationships with those they support and often have a unique insight that others don't have. We will discuss how the DSP can make sure that what they know about the person is shared with the team to make sure that the person's needs and wants are addressed in the plan.

10. OISP Training Reminder- YOU have Questions- WE have Answers!

- We are still holding a series of meetings to assist and train providers on the OISP
- August 22nd 1pm-3pm
- October 5th 10am-12pm

11. Special Training Opportunity: Building Relationships with the People we Support

- Looks at types of power staff/ individuals' relationships, role of personal judgement, and how to establish a healthy relationship when providing services to someone as well as how to avoid struggles.

September

1. Rates and Waiver Budgets Increase effective January 2024

- As we prepare to implement the State's two-year budget for fiscal years 2024-2025, many of the services that are administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will experience a payment rate increase effective January 1, 2024. Information about this can be found on the DODD website and will continue to be updated there as more detailed information becomes available.
- [DODD JANUARY 2024 RATE INCREASE PAGE](#)
- DODD and ODM have also updated their federal waiver amendments based on the State's budget and reposted the amendments for public comment.
- [PUBLIC NOTICE](#)
- Upon approval of the waiver amendments, budget limitations are set to increase as well. Effective January 1, 2024, to ensure that people enrolled on the Home and Community-Based Waivers do not experience any reduction in services, due to rate increases:
 - SELF and Level One Waivers Child limit is set to increase to \$41,424
 - SELF and Level One Waivers Adult limit is set to increase to \$62,136
 - Non-Medical Transportation will increase by 38.08%
 - Adult Day Array Services will increase by 38.08%
 - The IO Waiver DDP ranges are also increasing at the same percentage.
 - Any questions regarding this information may be sent to waiverpolicyta@dodd.ohio.gov.

2. Retention Payments

- Retention Payments for 2nds quarter 2023 were distributed 09/15/2023
- Agency Providers who opted into the DSP Retention Payment Program must report 2nd quarter 2023 distribution details no later than 10/15/2023. The information must be submitted in the eMBS application. Directions for completing and submitting retention payment details can be found [HERE](#).
- Additional details frequently asked questions, and program guidance can be found at: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/RetentionPayment>.
- Providers can email retentionpay@dodd.ohio.gov with questions regarding reporting and program requirements.

3. Update to Shared Living Rule

- In the proposed Shared Living rule, DODD has suggested to allow people who meet certain criteria to receive Homemaker/Personal Care instead of Shared Living.
- Initially, the draft rule would have required people to meet the criteria for both the behavioral support and medical assistance rate add-ons. However, they have continued to consider stakeholder feedback and DODD now plans to make the behavioral support rate add-on a standalone exemption and remove the need to also meet the criteria of the medical assistance rate add-on.
- They also plan to continue to maintain the exemptions for people assessed to need two-to-one staffing, need awake staff present around the clock, or meet the criteria for the complex care rate add-on. You can review these changes to the rule [HERE](#).
- DODD has stated that they will continue to evaluate the medical assistance rate add-on and whether it should be included as an additional exemption as part of the ongoing Waiver Redesign work.
- To avoid duplication of services, DODD has also reinserted the pre-Appendix K requirement that people who receive homemaker/personal care on a day when their shared living provider does not bill must receive that homemaker/personal care outside of the shared living home. This requirement does not apply to the revised Residential Respite service that people may receive on the same day as Shared Living, or to the homemaker/personal care services that people who will be exempt from Shared Living may choose to receive after January 1, 2024.
- DODD needs to update this rule because Shared Living and Homemaker/Personal Care are considered the same type of service, and federal government rules do not allow people to bill for the same service at the same time or at overlapping times. Shared Living is a daily service, so a person cannot receive HPC on a day when they receive Shared Living. However, DODD is addressing that issue through Residential Respite because that service can be used on the same day as Shared Living. The Residential Respite service allows a break for people, their families, and their providers. Residential Respite can be provided in different places, even in people's homes.

4. Outcome Tracking System (OTS) Upcoming Reporting Period - October 1

- OTS tracks what the individual is doing during their day just for the month of September
- It will reflect ADS, employment supports, and/or community employment
- It will also show if they are on the appropriate path to employment

- CB will receive a list of individuals who receive services and assign them to either an agency or to ourselves
- If they are assigned to an agency, Angie will notify you when they have been assigned
- Any questions regarding OTC should be directed to Angie or DODD

5. Behavior Support Workshops

- Continue learning about Behavior Support with questions/answers and scenarios to increase understanding of the rule and support people with complex behavioral health needs
- Southern Behavior Support Workshop 10/11/2023 10:30AM-11:30AM
- Or call in (audio only) 614-721-2872 ID# 894 603 245#
- No registration is necessary; click the link to join.

6. Community Integrated Services Statewide Webinar Reposted 9/27

- The Community Life Engagement Project Management team, The OhioISP team, and the Medicaid Waiver Technical Assistance team hosted a statewide webinar on Community Integrated Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation on August 31, 2023. Several registrants had issues accessing this webinar due to Zoom updates.
- This webinar will be re-broadcast live on September 27, 2023 from 12:30 – 2 PM for those who were unable to access.
- Register for the repeat webinar here.
- The PowerPoint from the original August 31, 2023 webinar can be access [HERE](#)
- A recorded version of this webinar will be available soon.

7. Mental Health 101 TRAINING

- DODD is offering a two-part webinar focused on Mental Health 101 for direct service professionals, new SSA's and QIDP's.
- DODD continuing education credit is in the process of application.
- 09/19/2023 1-2 PM
Part I topics include intellectual disability, communication and behavior, mental disorders, and dual diagnosis.
Register at this link: [Mental Health 101 Part 1](#)
-
- Part 09/26/23 1-2 PM
- Part 2 includes team process, proactive behavioral supports, therapeutic characteristics, trauma, behavioral cycle, crisis, restrictive measures and de-escalation.
- Register at this link: [Mental Health 101](#) Part 2

8. COVID and New Vaccine

- With Covid surging in various parts of the state right now, providers should ensure they are following their infection control policies.
- Additionally, last week the FDA gave approval on an emergency use authorization for an updated vaccine which has been formulated to better target the predominant variants that are currently circulating. This vaccine is recommended for those age 6 months or older and is expected to be available soon. Contact your physician for further information.

9. Provider Resources and Support Team Announces Information Sharing Sessions

- The Provider Resources and Support Team will present the following information for direct support professionals, frontline supervisors, and providers:
- Ever wonder why you have to do some of the things that you are asked to do? Many of the things that DSPs are asked to do are based on the requirements found in rules and regulations. Come and hear more about why we do what we do during this session.
- September 28, 2023 - The DSP Role in Quality Assurance and Compliance – Facilitator – Ann Weisent, Provider Liaison for DODD

November

1. Medication Administration Classes are BACK!

- We are pleased to start offering Medication Administration Certification classes starting Now!
- We are partnering with RGHI for all classes.
- Classes will be free for all providers that are currently serving Warren County.
- Email Lindsay at Lindsay.graves@warrencountydd.org for information

2. Rates and Waiver Budgets Increase effective January 2024

- As we prepare to implement the State's two-year budget for fiscal years 2024-2025, many of the services that are administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will experience a payment rate increase effective January 1, 2024. Information about this can be found on the DODD website and will continue to be updated there as more detailed information becomes available.

[DODD JANUARY 2024 RATE INCREASE PAGE](#)

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[PUBLIC NOTICE](#)

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 - Non-Medical Transportation will increase by 38.08%
 - Adult Day Array Services will increase by 38.08%
 - The IO Waiver DDP ranges are also increasing at the same percentage.
- Any questions regarding this information may be sent to waiverpolicyta@dodd.ohio.gov.
- Any add-on (longevity, behavioral, medical, or complex care) are not a part of the increase

3. Appendix K Updates

- As we prepared for the Appendix K Unwinding over the past few months, DODD has shared information about upcoming waiver changes to several of our services. These services include our Shared Living service, Residential Respite, and personal care services that can be provided in an Acute Care Hospital.
- DODD will be creating and distributing various resources as we approach the January 1, 2024 implementation of these changes.
- [CLICK HERE FOR ONE PAGE DOCUMENTS](#)
 - OHIO SHARED LIVING
 - RESIDENTIAL RESPITE
 - HCBS ACUTE CARE
 - WAIVER CHANGES
 -
- [Form for the Acute Care Override Request.](#)

4. NEW Compliance Tools

- DODD has released new versions of [Independent](#), [Ancillary](#) and [Agency Provider](#) Compliance tools. To access new versions of the tools click select the type of tool above and to access a list of required documents and other tools, [click here](#).
- For a summary of the changes, [click here](#).
- Compliance Templates have been released that meet compliance requirements for both documentation and residency agreements.
- Click on the below link to access these new templates. As a reminder, providers do not need to use these templates, but do need to ensure their documents meet rule requirements.

[Residency Agreement](#) – Licensed Homes and Shared Living Homes (non-relative)

* Residency agreements are not needed for shared living with a family member

[Lease Addendum Template](#) – homes controlled by a provider

[Documentation Templates](#) – Outcome Documentation, Shared Living, HPC, Transportation, Adult Day, NMT Per Trip, Transportation Inspection

5. Update to Shared Living Rule

- In the proposed Shared Living rule, DODD has suggested to allow people who meet certain criteria to receive Homemaker/Personal Care instead of Shared Living.
- Initially, the draft rule would have required people to meet the criteria for both the behavioral support and medical assistance rate add-ons. However, they have continued to consider stakeholder feedback and DODD now plans to make the behavioral support rate add-on a standalone exemption and remove the need to also meet the criteria of the medical assistance rate add-on.
- They also plan to continue to maintain the exemptions for people assessed to need two-to-one staffing, need awake staff present around the clock, or meet the criteria for the complex care rate add-on. You can review these changes to the rule [HERE](#).
- DODD has stated that they will continue to evaluate the medical assistance rate add-on and whether it should be included as an additional exemption as part of the ongoing Waiver Redesign work.
- To avoid duplication of services, DODD has also reinserted the pre-Appendix K requirement that people who receive homemaker/personal care on a day when their

shared living provider does not bill must receive that homemaker/personal care outside of the shared living home. This requirement does not apply to the revised Residential Respite service that people may receive on the same day as Shared Living, or to the homemaker/personal care services that people who will be exempt from Shared Living may choose to receive after January 1, 2024.

- DODD needs to update this rule because Shared Living and Homemaker/Personal Care are considered the same type of service, and federal government rules do not allow people to bill for the same service at the same time or at overlapping times. Shared Living is a daily service, so a person cannot receive HPC on a day when they receive Shared Living. However, DODD is addressing that issue through Residential Respite because that service can be used on the same day as Shared Living. The Residential Respite service allows a break for people, their families, and their providers. Residential Respite can be provided in different places, even in people's homes.

6. Health and Welfare Alert 72-11-12- Constipation and Bowel Obstruction

- [CLICK HERE](#) for Alert

7. ADS Quality Pilot Project Informational Webinars

- November 15 and 27
- With the announcement of the selected providers, the ADS Quality Pilot Program is now underway.
- The purpose of this pilot program is to see if investing in quality and offering incentives can help improve ADS waiver services and outcomes for people who need them, especially those with complex needs.
- DODD will hold webinars on November 15, 2023, at 10 AM, and November 27, 2023, at 4 PM, to explain the pilot program and answer any questions from interested stakeholders.
- You can register for November 27 [here](#).
- You can review a list of the 100 selected providers, and find additional information on the ADS Quality Pilot webpage, [here](#).

8. Claims Submission Deadline for the Week of Thanksgiving

- The claims submission deadline for DODD processing for the week of Thanksgiving will be noon on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, with no ability to pick up any claims after this time. The reports will be posted as usual.
- Any questions should be directed to 1-800-817-6733.

9. Supporting People with Offending Behaviors

- Please join us for a virtual training on using risk assessments to support people with offending behavior with Dr AJ McConnell, Forum Ohio. Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities constitute a small but growing percentage of the people served in the criminal justice system. Come learn best practices and approaches to help people live their best lives
- December 8, 2023 at 10:00am [REGISTER HERE](#)

10. WCBDD Holiday Closures

- Warren County Board of DD offices will be closed November 23rd and November 24th. We will re-open November 27th.
- Warren County Board of DD offices close the afternoon of December 22nd and re-open the morning of January 2, 2024.
- All staff, with the exception of staff who are off for sick or vacation time, will be checking their email at least 3 times during this closure. If there is an emergent email, they will respond. If there is an emergency that needs to be attended to right away, there is a 24 hour on-call phone that will continued to be monitored and that can be reached at 1-800-800-6847. UIs/MUIs are still expected to be called or emailed in during this time. The MUI email is MUI@warrencountydd.org

11. Social Skills for More Successful Relationships Training

- Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:00AM-11:00AM
- Practical approaches to help identify what social skills are needed for any relationship from friendship to marriage. This helps team members know how to identify what an individual needs to develop as well as helping self-advocates who want relationships develop more self-awareness.
- Registration Link [HERE](#)
- Questions- contact Robin Thomas- robin.thomas@swocog.org or 513-559-6753

12. New Appendix K Resources: Parents as Paid Caregivers

- DODD has prepared several resources in preparation for the January 1, 2024 effective date of the rule which permits parents and spouses, under certain circumstances, to be paid caregivers. The first is a document explaining the process of becoming eligible to be a paid caregiver under this rule and the requirements for paid caregivers. The second document is a set of “Frequently Asked Questions” regarding the rule and its implementation.
- View the documents [here](#).
- As a reminder, the rule is in draft form and can be found [here](#).
- Next week, the Ohio Department of Medicaid will be releasing a series of trainings around the rule. DODD will share more details next week about those trainings.

13. DODD Seeks Applications for Remote Support Platform Assistance

- DODD is seeking HCBS Waiver providers interested in becoming Remote Support Providers, through a Request for Applications (RFA) process. After the scored application process, selected HCBS providers will be awarded funds to purchase a remote support platform package from a supplier within an established pool, or marketplace, of suppliers identified through a separate Request for Interest (RFI) process.
- The Request for Application (RFA) for interested providers can be accessed [here](#).
- DODD is also establishing a pool of qualified suppliers who can offer remote support platform packages and technical support to HCBS providers through a Request for Interest (RFI) process. The RFI application can be accessed [here](#).
- An informational webinar will be offered on November 27, 2023, from 10-11 AM. The webinar will cover both the RFA and RFI processes. Register for the webinar [here](#).

- Applications for both the RFA (HCBS providers) and RFI (remote support package suppliers) are due December 13, 2023, at 12 PM. More information about both the RFA and RFI can be found on the DODD Grant Opportunities [website](#). Please send any questions to technologyfirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

14. Provider Certification Office Hours for Waiver Service Providers

- Attention: Independent and Agency Providers, County Board Provider Liaisons
- DODD's provider certification section will be hosting office hours in December. The sessions will include a demonstration on how to navigate the systems to access applications and contracts. There will be separate days for independent and agency providers, with a morning and afternoon session each day.
- Register for a session using the links below:
 - Independent Providers and County Board Liaisons – Thursday, December 7, 2023
 - 9-10 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9175189673339882582>
 - 2-3 PM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8184868346343336536>
 - Agency Providers and County Board Liaisons – Thursday, December 14, 2023
 - 9-10 AM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8184868346343336536>
 - 2-3 PM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5252788593925178970>

15. DSP and Provider Support Open Door Sessions Changes Schedule

- Open Door Sessions are a time for providers, direct support professionals, and county board provider support staff to come together with DODD staff to network, brainstorm, and discuss issues related to the support of providers and direct support professionals.
-
- The sessions were previously held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Due to low participation, the session held at 4 PM on the 4th Wednesday of the month is being canceled.
-
- Please join us for the [DSP & Provider Support Open Door Session](#) the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9 - 10 AM.