



Committees and Listserves

Each listed Committee and Workgroup has a corresponding email listserve. Committees and Listserves are typically open to all staff of Member agencies with a few exceptions. To join a Committee, please email Rhonda Jacob (rjacob@opra.org).

Day Services Committee

Co-Chairs: Julie Abicunas, Koinonia and Liz Owens, The Alpha Group

The Day Services Workgroup is the meeting place for all providers who provide adult day support. We meet monthly to discuss best practices and trends in day support for adults with developmental disabilities. We provide training and updates from the state concerning adult day supports, vocational habilitation, career planning, and non-medical transportation.

Employment Services Committee

Chair: Justin Blumhorst, Capabilities, Inc.

The Employment Services Committee is the meeting place for all providers who provide employment services. We meet monthly to discuss best practices and trends in employment for people with developmental disabilities. We provide training and updates from the state in day-hab and community employment for both DODD and OOD providers.

Finance Committee

Co-Chairs: Lori Sontag, Franklin County Residential Services and Debbie Rogner, Heinzerling Community

Targeted for CFO's, Controllers or Finance Directors to meet on a regular basis to network and discuss the finance issues of the day. Some of the topics that may be discussed include financial systems, reimbursement, funding sources, planning for new regulations like the 6% increase and DOL rule. The group would bring in experts to provide advice, discuss new policies and present best practices in our industry. As a result, the OPRA Finance Committee would provide valuable OPRA feedback for further advocacy, financial data and outcomes and communications to all members.

Human Resources

Chair: Patty Schlosser, Josina Lott Residential & Community Services,

The HR Committee is comprised of HR professionals, or anyone responsible for the life cycle of employment for his/her agency. This group of professionals meets six times a year to discuss best practices in HR, from the recruiting and hiring process, to keeping abreast of upcoming new regulations that affect employment law and/or training requirements.

ICF

Chair: John Swanson, Echoing Hills Village, Inc.,

The ICF Committee examines issues which have a direct impact on the programs and services provided to individuals in Intermediate Care Facilities. The Committee is used to disseminate information, provide updates, and elicit feedback on important issues related to ICFs.

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IT Workgroup

Chair: Carol Parcell, Josina Lott Residential & Community Services,

The IT Workgroup provides updates and elicits feedback on issues related to technology, from internal operations applications, to its use directly serving individuals with DD. The Workgroup's main focus is to provide a forum for participants to share their experiences and to learn from each other.

Membership & Services

Chair: Marti Adams, Cincinnati's Optimum Residential Environments, Inc.,

The Membership & Services Committee conducts research and creates unique partnerships to give OPRA Members a variety of pre-screened products and services that ensure quality and competitive/preferred pricing.

Nursing

Chair: Shelly Wharton, SHC-Medina,

The Nursing Committee is comprised primarily of nursing staff, but does include other members who are interested in health and health care related issues. The group focuses on nursing services in the waiver, nursing in ICF settings, rules and regulations that affect the DD nursing community, training, education and best practices.

Policy

Chair: Diane Beastrom

The Policy Committee serves as the clearinghouse for most issues affecting any aspect of DD services, and makes recommendations for action to OPRA's Board of Directors. Every effort is made to allow sufficient time to discuss issues in detail in order to understand the impact on individuals and providers, and to consider what position OPRA should take on a given issue. Ad hoc workgroups are established from time to time to examine issues more fully.

Program Directors

Chair: Dianna Bluso, Hattie Larlham,

The Program Directors Committee serves as a standing subcommittee of the Policy Committee to examine issues which have a direct impact on the programs and services provided to individuals. Rule changes related to MUI reporting or delegated nursing might be discussed in detail in order to evaluate the impact. The Program Directors Committee discusses program issues across all service environments, including ICF, supported living, and waiver services.

Committees and Listservs are updated periodically as needed. To see a complete list of current committees and to see committee meeting dates, please visit the OPRA website.

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