



December 17, 2014

*Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?*

**Take action —  
Become an OEA  
Member Lobbyist!**

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Questions?

Contact your Government  
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## **Preserve Free Choice of Provider for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities**

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD) and other state agencies are drafting a plan to comply with the new rules promulgated by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding federal funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The federal agency is giving states until March 2015 to submit their final transition plan to CMS. [Read Ohio's draft transition](#), which was released on December 15, 2014 for public comment.

***OEA is particularly concerned with the provision in the HCBS rule that would restrict the ability of a County Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide direct services to individuals. Our specific request is that the plan preserves individuals' access to a broad choice of providers, including those quality services provided by County Boards.***

OEA's County Board of Developmental Disabilities local in Lake County (LEADD) has created a short film showcasing what's at stake regarding the development and implementation of Ohio's compliance plan. [Follow this link](#) to view the video. Additional video clips will be posted and can be found by searching LEADD documentary.

Additionally, the ODODD has released a schedule of regional forums and two hearings in Columbus to educate the public on the transition plan and to provide feedback on the plan. A schedule of the forums is below. Additionally, comments can be sent to [HCBSfeedback@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:HCBSfeedback@medicaid.ohio.gov) or by calling toll-free to leave a voicemail message at 1-800-364-3153.



OEA encourages you to share the video link and attend a forum to voice your concerns. Forums will be held on the following dates --

**Thursday, December 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Goodwill Columbus  
1331 Edgehill Road, Columbus, 43212

**Tuesday, January 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Athens County Board – Beacon School  
801 West Union Street, Athens, 45701

**Thursday, January 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

ESC Conference Center  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd. South, Independence, 44131

**Saturday, January 10, 10:00 a.m.-noon**

Hamilton County Board – Beckman Adult Center  
2600 Civic Center Drive, Cincinnati, 45231

**January 7, 1:00 pm (public comment only)**

Rhodes State Office Tower, Lobby Hearing Room, 1st Floor  
30 East Broad Street, Columbus, 43215

**January 15, 1:00 pm (public comment only)**

Rhodes State Office Tower, Lobby Hearing Room, 1st Floor  
30 East Broad Street, Columbus, 43215