

**Public Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Crowne Plaza North**  
**Columbus, Ohio**  
**July 14, 2017**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

X	Jo Spargo, Chair	
	Diane Cox, Vice Chair	
X	Bobbi Burke	Paula Rabidoux
	Ann Marie Denning	Jill Radler
X	Doug Frank	Ilka Riddle
X	Kristin Helling	X Mark Seifarth
X	Emilia Jackson	X Mark Smith
X	Jean Jakovlic	X Kim Stults
X	Vicki Jenkins	X Jeff Turner
X	Karen Kerr	X Mindy Vance
	Lori Kershner	Dara Walburn
X	Laura Leach	Brandon White
X	Heather McFarlin	X Sue Willis
X	Blaine O’Leary	X Victor Wilson
X	James Plasencia	

(V Indicates Participation via Video Conference)

**Other Council Members/Guests Present:**

Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Deb Tackett
Linda Kunick	Michael Schroeder
Essie Pederson	Jessica D’Ozi
Eric Rathburn	Betsy O’Leary
Devika Rao	Brenda Stevens

**Staff:**

Paul Jarvis  
Carolyn Knight

**Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Spargo called the committee to order at 9:15 a.m. Introductions were offered.

**Minutes:**

Chairwoman Spargo called for approval of the minutes. Jeff Turner moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Victor Wilson seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

### **Old Business:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the first item on the agenda, General Assembly Briefing Sessions. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with an update on the completed session from May 19, 2017. He stated the focus of the session was to educate staff about the different DD waivers. He said Margaret Demko, former member of Council presented on the SELF Waiver, that Dara Walburn presented on the Level 1 Waiver and a staff person from REM Ohio named Ross filled in for Jo Spargo to cover the Individual Options Waiver. Jarvis showed the committee a photo of the session which showed legislative staff reacting to a response to a question that Dara Walburn was providing.

Jarvis said that one question asked by legislative staff was about Employment First. He said because of the question, that was going to be the focus of the next General Assembly Briefing Session. He also said that he was going to try and include a self-advocate in the session because the response by staff to self-advocates was very positive. Carolyn Knight shared an experience about U.S. Senator Mike DeWine meeting a Council member many years ago and being surprised that the member, who had significant disabilities, was employed. Knight stated that it was eye-opening for DeWine and including self-advocates in the GAB Sessions would continue to break down barriers of misunderstanding. Sue Willis emphasized that people with disabilities need to speak up and not just tag along at meetings.

Kim Stults recommended that an employer participate in the next session to give their experience of working with people with disabilities. Doug Frank volunteered his boss as a speaker. Marci Straughter expressed interest in participating in a General Assembly Briefing Session. Chairwoman Spargo noted the interest of self-advocates and suggested that a future session could be about self-advocacy and leadership.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, State Plan Language. Paul Jarvis provided an overview of the three grants created by the Public Policy Committee and outlined minor technical changes to the plan language. Victor Wilson made a motion that the State Plan Language be approved as drafted. Kim Stults seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were not abstentions.

### **New Business:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda and asked Paul Jarvis to give an update on the state budget. Jarvis said he would not cover too much because Director John Martin was expected to present at the full Council meeting later in the day. Jarvis did give an update on Medicaid funding, stating the total amount actually increased.

Jarvis also described the efforts around the Legislature's effort to freeze enrollment in the expansion class of folks (90-138% of federal poverty level). He explained that Governor Kasich vetoed the language that would have prohibited new enrollment in Medicaid as

part of the expansion group. The Ohio General Assembly signaled that they were willing to over-ride the governor's veto, but efforts by advocates shut down that effort.

Mindy Vance, Carolyn Knight, Michael Schroeder commented about Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Program. Jarvis stated that efforts were included in the budget to require statutory language for any option Medicaid program. Schroeder pointed out the MBIWD Program was put into statute after Council funded an econometric study on the issue.

Jarvis also pointed out that there are still some questions around the Medicaid budget related to how much funding is available for providers. He stated that the Office of Health Transformation has publicly said the budget is not in balance and that some Medicaid providers are going to need to absorb a 7 percent cut.

Spargo asked Jarvis to talk about the federal budget. Jarvis explained the proposed federal budget would merge DD Councils with Independent Living Councils and Traumatic Brain Injury programs into a single line item and reduce the funding to \$45 million, which is a significant cut to all of the programs. Jarvis said DD Council staff cannot conduct advocacy related to Council funding. He said Mark Seifarth has advocated with Congressman Kaptur's office and received indication that they would submit a request. Jarvis said an effort to reach out to Congressman Stivers has not been fruitful.

Bobbi Burke, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Mark Seifarth, Victor Wilson, Sue Willis and Carolyn Knight discussed various options to increase Council participation in federal advocacy, including inviting congressional staff to Council meetings or events, and using social media such as Twitter. Spargo stated that it was great to see the discussion about varying advocacy options and interest of Council members. She said the DC trip will be coming early next year and members interested in going should start advocating in state now.

Jarvis provided the committee with a spreadsheet that identified which congressional district each Council member lives in. Rochelle Hall-Rollins asked Jarvis to identify the areas of the state for the four congressman who do not have a Council member living in their district. Jarvis identified the areas of the state and stated he would be asking nominating committee to consider those areas of the state when identifying potential new Council members. Spargo said it was good to know the areas of the state because she has family members in those areas.

Sue Willis, Carolyn Knight, Mark Seifarth and Paul Jarvis discussed the option of holding a special meeting for congressional staff. Based on the discussion, it was decided not to pursue a special meeting. Kim Stults, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Bobbi Burke and Mark Seifarth discussed doing a phone call on a specific day.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, an update on the federal healthcare law. Jarvis provided the committee with an update on the pending options in

the US Senate. Jarvis explained that the process the Senate is pursuing through reconciliation is causing the Senate to pursue changes in Medicaid that will result in reduced spending on the program. Michael Schroeder and Heather McFarlin asked questions about the varying options. Sue Willis asked about the timeline for advocacy on this issue.

Jarvis provided the committee with a review of state legislation that he is tracking on behalf of the Council, including bills to create a state rehabilitation council, increase the penalty for crimes that result in disability, and a bill to allow county boards schools to seek school facilities commission funding. Sue Willis added that stakeholders have been meeting to work on the rehabilitation council legislation.

Chairwoman Spargo asked for an update on the Transportation Study. Jarvis provided the committee with the printed study and explained that Council staff sought help from Robin Yocum for development of the final product and for help from O'Neill Communications for the one-page takeaway. He added there will be a release sometime later in the month and that a copy would be sent members of the General Assembly. Carolyn Knight added that the Transportation Summit that Kathy Foley is planning for October will include something related to the study. Kim Stults shared a personal story that identified the challenges related to transportation and the lack of understanding what is available. Linda Kunick shared her personal experience of using public transportation and the long waits she experiences and extended walking she has to do to use it.

Marci Straugher, Carolyn Knight, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, and Kim Stults all commented on transportation challenges.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, Notice of Funds Available. Jarvis provided the committee with an update on the grant and said the bid will be posted the following week. He announced the grant review panel members to include Victor Wilson and Mindy Vance as Council members and Margo Izzo and Howard Fleeter have tentatively accepted as external reviewers. Carolyn Knight said to look at someone from Kent State for the third external reviewer.

### **Adjournment:**

With no further business before the committee, Kim Stults made a motion to adjourn. Jim Plasencia seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:46 a.m.