

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Cherry Valley Lodge
Newark, Ohio
December 11, 2015
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Members Present:

X	Diane Cox, Chair		
X	Jo Spargo, Vice Chair		
X	Bill Adelsberger	X	Jill Radler
X	Jane Byrnes	X	Roxanne Richardson
X	Neil Castilow	X	Ilka Riddle
X	Ann Marie Denning	X	Michael Schroeder
X	Greg Dormer	X	Mark Seifarth
X	Karen Kerr	X	Mark Smith
X	Lori Kershner		Kim Stults
X	Lisa Krauss	X	Jeff Turner
X	Laura Leach	X	Brandon White
X	Heather McFarlin	X	Sue Willis
X	James Plasencia	P	Victor Wilson
X	Paula Rabidoux		

Other Council Members/Guests Present:

Rochelle Hall-Rawlins	Robin Williams
Rachel Tumin	Ashley Montgomery
Tim Sahr	Eric Rathburn
Mindy Vance	Deb Tackett
George Poullos	

Staff:

Paul Jarvis	Robin Shipp
Carolyn Knight	

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Cox called the committee to order at 9:17 a.m. Introductions were offered.

Minutes:

Chairwoman Cox called for approval of the minutes. Jeff Turner moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Jane Byrnes seconded the motion. No discussion was offered. Without objection the minutes were adopted as drafted. Jo Spargo and Lori Kershner abstained from the vote.

Data and Policy Research:

Chairwoman Cox moved to the first item on the agenda, an update on the 2016 Data and Policy Research topic. Rachel Tumin and Tim Sahr, representing the Ohio Colleges of Medicine, Government Resource Center, described the new scope of the research project for 2016, which consists of assisting the Independent Living Centers and Disability Rights Ohio in developing a transportation questionnaire, to include formatting the content of the data to be collected, to be used at upcoming forums on transportation. The project will aggregate the questionnaire data and provide analysis and a final research report to Council at the end of next year. Carolyn Knight, Diane Cox and Paul Jarvis provided comments about the project. The Government Resource Center will be submitting a continuation application as soon as possible.

Tim Sahr provided a review of the 2015 study, stating that early findings of their research showed the waiver rate add-on had a modest effect on satisfaction in community based settings. Sahr also stated the findings showed those with moderate or severe conditions had higher risk of averse outcomes in community based settings. Carolyn Knight, Mark Seifarth, Paula Rabidoux, Michael Schroeder, and Bill Adelsberger all commented on the findings. Sahr and Tumin indicated they would be seeking a no-cost extension of the project and the Council could expect a final report in March.

State Plan Language:

Chairwoman Cox asked the committee to review the approved state plan language for the 2017-2021 5-Year Plan. Paul Jarvis indicated that the committee had approved the plan language without considering attaching performance targets to each project. He asked the committee if it would consider adding measures to the projects.

Mark Seifarth, Jane Byrnes, Diane Cox, Victor Wilson, Paula Rabidoux, and Paul Jarvis all made comments regarding the need for the addition of performance measures. With little time on the agenda and other items that needed to be covered, Chairwoman Cox tabled any further consideration of performance measures. The committee can propose adding performance measures to the final plan language that will be considered in July of 2016.

New Issues:

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda, a presentation by the Ohio Treasurer's office on the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. George Poullos, Ashley Montgomery and Robin Williams provided the committee with background information and an update on the current progress of Ohio towards allowing individuals to open ABLE Accounts. Poullos said Ohio might be the first state in the nation to offer the accounts. Montgomery and Williams provided additional basic information about ABLE Accounts, including that individuals must be a resident, can only hold one account, contributions are limited to \$14,000 per year, or the federal gift tax exemption, with the aggregate account value not exceeding \$414,000, but that accounts that exceed \$100,000 will be temporarily suspended from Supplemental Security Income. The treasurer's office also discussed what happens to accounts upon a beneficiary's death, explaining that a Medicaid recipient's account may be subject to pay-

back, but only for the period they received Medicaid and had an ABLE account. Montgomery also clarified that recent adjustments to federal regulations clarified how distributions for housing expenses could be used.

Paul Jarvis, Eric Rathburn, Bill Adelsberger, Michael Schroeder, Roxanne Richardson, Diane Cox, Sue Willis, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Paula Rabidoux, and Carolyn Knight added comments and questions. Robin Williams closed the discussion with an outline of next steps for the treasurer's office, which includes enrollment under a soft roll-out to allow just some individuals to participate while providing feedback about how easy the program is or is not. They are looking for volunteers to participate in the soft roll-out.

Paul Jarvis added two announcements that were part of the ABLE Advisory Board meeting earlier in the week. He said federal legislators are considering options that would allow a roll-over from an existing 529 College Savings Account into an ABLE Account, a policy that isn't allowed under current law without tax penalties. The second change expected to be considered is the ability for individuals who are working to contribute to their own ABLE Account without having their contributions count against the \$14,000 limit on contributions per year. He said this is an effort to promote employment by individuals.

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda, attendance to the National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. She stated the normal policy of Council is to send the Chair of Council, the Chair of Public Policy and the public policy staff person. To send additional members to the conference requires consideration by Council and a vote. She reviewed each of the applicants for the 2016 conference, which included Karen Kerr, Jill Radler, Jo Spargo, Victor Wilson and Linda Kunick.

Paul Jarvis, Carolyn Knight, and Mark Seifarth provided additional input and comment. Sue Willis made a motion that Council approve the additional 5 applicants to attend the Disability Policy Seminar. Michael Schroeder seconded the motion. Mark Seifarth clarified that individuals on the committee who are being considered for the vote should consider abstaining from the vote. Diane Cox and Michael Schroeder confirmed that they should abstain. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Karen Kerr, Jill Radler, Victor Wilson and Jo Spargo abstained.

Announcements:

Lori Kershner announced that recently the Grace Commission met and state Senator Bill Colely is on record recommending that services such as Uber should be considered for purposes of providing transportation to individuals who have a disability.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, Brandon White made a motion to adjourn. Jo Spargo seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.