

**Public Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Doubletree Hotel, Newark**  
**Columbus, Ohio**  
**May 8, 2015**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

	Diane Cox, Chair		
X	Jo Spargo, Vice Chair		
	Bill Adelsberger	X	Roxanne Richardson
X	Jane Byrnes	X	Ilka Riddle
X	Neil Castilow	X	Michael Schroeder
	Greg Dormer	X	Mark Seifarth
X	Jessica Foster		Mark Smith
X	Karen Kerr	X	Kim Stults
X	Laura Leach	X	Sue Willis
X	Heather McFarlin		
X	Paula Rabidoux		

**Other Council Members/Guests Present:**

Lisa Krauss	Victor Wilson
Ann Marie Denning	Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio)
Brandon White	Deb Tackett
Jeff Turner	Sandy Williamson
Jim Plasencia	Julie Hartz (OOD)
Jill Radler	Brenda Stevens
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Dawn Brunkalla
Lori Kershner	Kellie Brown (Guernsey County Bd.)

**Staff:**

Paul Jarvis	Carolyn Knight
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**Call to Order:**

Vice Chairwoman Jo Spargo called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Introductions were offered and it was determined that a quorum of the committee was present.

**Minutes:**

Michael Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as drafted. Neil Castilow seconded the motion. No discussion was offered on the minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Kimberly Stults abstained.

### **Legislative Update:**

Vice Chairwoman Spargo asked Paul Jarvis to provide the committee with a legislative update. Jarvis outlined recent changes to the state operating budget, which included cuts and earmarks to the Medicaid Services line item, with a total expected impact of \$33 million dollars. The cuts would likely impact efforts by the Administration to increase Home and Community Based Services.

Roxanne Richardson, Mark Seifarth, Kellie Brown, Jo Spargo, Victor Wilson, Neil Castilow commented on the budget. Roxanne Richardson clarified the efforts intended to transition individuals out of Intermediate Care Facilities.

Jarvis then outlined policy changes made in the budget, which included changes to the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights, inclusion of a Developmental Center Closure Commission, and language related to maintaining capacity at sheltered workshops. Kellie Brown asked a question related to the origin of changes to the Bill of Rights.

Neil Castilow made a motion that Council testify in support of restoring funding to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Kim Stults seconded the motion. No further comments or questions were offered. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Roxanne Richardson abstained. Mark Seifarth was selected to testify on behalf of Council.

Paul Jarvis provided the committee with background on the ABLE Act. He indicated that Diane Cox testified earlier in the week in favor of the bill at the state level. He also encouraged Council members to consider testifying on bills in the future because their personal stories would best be told by them rather than by staff. Mark Seifarth asked a question about the bill numbers and the fees associated with the accounts. Kim Stults asked what would be considered a qualified disability expense. Roxanne Richardson asked how many other states currently had established ABLE accounts. Paul Jarvis also provided an explanation of the budget change that moves Ohio from a 209(b) state to a 1634 state.

Jarvis also gave an update on several other bills, including the Medicaid in Schools Program bill, Service Dog Awareness Week bill, and House Bill 135, prohibition of abortion of the purpose is due to a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome. Lastly, Jarvis informed the committee about Senate Bill 8, which would create a body similar to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, but would apply to most other government programs.

### **Legislative Advocacy Day:**

Vice Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda and asked committee members to give an update on their participation in the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day Event in March. Karen Kerr, Brandon White, and Jeff Turner shared their experiences of meeting with Senators Gardner and Burke and Representative McClain and Representative Sear's legislative aide. White indicated they talked about housing and

transportation issues. Kerr said her group talked about employment issues. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with a report that included the participation count and demographic information. He indicated the participation was down, but similar to the event that was held two years prior when a similar snow storm hit on the day of the event. He told Council members to save the date of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for next year's event and invited a Council member who had interest to serve on the planning committee for 2016.

**Data & Policy Research Grant:**

Vice Chairwoman Spargo asked the committee to review the Visitability study. Paul Jarvis provided for the new members of Council background information on the Data and Policy Research Grant. Jarvis described how the Visitability study was conducted and reviewed the findings with the committee, which included preference by homebuyers towards houses that included visitable features. The study also estimates the market value of all three features would increase the value of the house by roughly \$15,000. No questions or comments about the study were offered.

**Disability Policy Seminar:**

Vice Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, an update from Council members who participated in the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Mark Seifarth and Jo Spargo started the discussion describing their experience on Capitol Hill. Sue Willis asked what the key issues the group talked about were. Paul Jarvis outlined the three key issues, which included advocacy to maintain the one percent cap on alternative assessments the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He also updated the committee on a new federal proposal called Per-Capita-Cap under the Medicaid program. The last issue advocates spoke about on Capitol Hill included a reallocation of Social Security taxes to sure up the SSI fund, which is expected to run out of money at the end of 2016.

**State Plan:**

Vice Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda. Paul Jarvis reviewed the plan pieces and indicated that going into the last year of the Five-Year Plan, there were not proposed changes to the Legislative Advocacy Day Coordinator, SMART Grant, or the Data and Policy Research Grants.

Kim Stults moved to approve the state plan pieces as drafted. Karen Kerr seconded the motion. No further discussion was offered. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Vice Chairwoman Spargo indicated there was not enough time on the agenda to have a discussion about the next Five-Year Plan, so it would be included on the agenda for next time.

**Announcements:**

During announcements, Roxanne Richardson was able to provide an answer to a question posed earlier about how many Individual Options waivers would be used for diversion and exit of an ICF/IDD.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the committee, Vice Chairwoman Spargo called for a motion to adjourn. Mark Seifarth made a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion carried. The committee adjourned at 10:44 a.m.