

**Public Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Doubletree Hotel**  
**Newark, Ohio**  
**May 6, 2016**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Other Council Members/Guests Present**

Blaine O-Leary	Laurel Geist
Brenda Stevens	Eric Rathburn
Elli Walburn	Jacob Foskuhl
Sandy Williams	
Deb Tackett	

**Staff:**

Paul Jarvis  
Carolyn Knight

**Call to Order:**

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

**Minutes:**

Chairwoman Spargo called for approval of the minutes. Karen Kerr moved the minutes be approved as drafted. James Plasencia seconded the motion. No discussion was offered. Without objection the minutes were adopted as drafted. Chairwoman Spargo abstained.

### **State Plan Language:**

Paul Jarvis reviewed the final edits to the State Plan Language based on public comments received. As a result, there is one change in the Data and Policy Research Grant. The language was changed to clarify the project would be offered on a competitive basis each year. Jarvis said this would ensure that the best possible grantee could be selected based on the research topic selected by Council each year.

Jarvis also informed the committee there was one public comment requesting that Council support the Partners in Policymaking model.

Mindy Vance, Carolyn Knight, and Kim Stults commented on the process of doing annual competitive bids, questioning whether that was permitted. Knight confirmed that Council could bid out projects on an annual basis.

Jarvis asked the committee to consider the timing of the first year project, saying it was too late for Council to develop the research proposal before the Notice of Funds Available would be issued in July. He outlined a project that the Assistive Technology and Communications Committee could work on in the first year of the proposed project timeline and recommended the committee provide the AT and Communications Committee with the first year allotment, which is \$50,000.

Sue Willis said she supported moving the funds to the Assistive Technology project because the committee has been working on a statewide project, but has not had the funds to move forward. Jarvis added the AT project was in fact a research idea from the committee in past years, so it was essentially a research project being supported. Dara Walburn asked for clarification on what is being proposed. Jarvis explained the committee gets an amount of money to spend each year, but that he was asking the committee to give \$50,000 to the AT and Communications Committee for one year only to fund a project in that committee. Carolyn Knight added the AT project would look at rural areas of the state like Athens, where Dara is from, to identify ways to improve access to Assistive Technology. Jo Spargo, Sue Willis and Carolyn Knight commented that connectivity was an issue in rural areas and that not many counties were actively engaged in activities on this issue.

Kim Stults asked how much money was left in the committee's allotment for 2017. Jarvis answered there would be \$38,000 for the event and \$40,000 for the Legislative Education and Advocacy Development grant.

Chairwoman Spargo asked for a motion on the issue. Karen Kerr made a motion to allot the Data and Policy Research Grant for the first year in the amount of \$50,000 to the Assistive Technology and Communications Committee. James Plasencia seconded the motion. No further discussion was offered. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

### **DD Awareness & Advocacy Day:**

Chairwoman Spargo asked the committee for their thoughts on this year's event. Sue Willis said she could not attend, but likes how the event is available to watch online. Spargo said she tried to register but the registration was already filled up.

Brandon White, Jeff Turner indicated they enjoyed the event, saying it was quite impactful.

Jarvis provided the committee with follow up information that has been provided by the grantee. He said 52 counties registered to attend, but 42 attended. Jarvis said the grantee focused on 12 outreach counties, but only 8 attended. He said criticism that was received included the fact that registration filled up so quickly, but there were a number of no-shows to the event, resulting in some people be blocked from the event by people who registered but didn't attend. Jarvis said 539 attendees registered in advance, over 100 attendees registered on the backup list, and a total of 457 attended. There were 77 legislative meetings scheduled, 26 Senate meetings and 51 House meetings. Eight meetings were cancelled, putting the event at about 55% participation rate.

Jarvis said a big issue that popped up with the event this year was the late arrival of the CART translator. He said that participants indicated difficulty understanding speakers and the lack of transcription service was noticeable. Jarvis said the vendor was not planning on billing the grantee for the service that was provided.

Sue Willis, Kim Stults and Carolyn Knight discussed the possibility of doing follow up calls or contacts with individuals who registered for the event but did not attend. Jarvis added that past efforts have been focused on ensuring funding for transportation, but that in the end, not much funds or requests are made. Mindy Vance added that participation at the event was very high in comparison to events she has helped plan.

Chairwoman Spargo asked Paul Jarvis to explain the process for the next grant. Jarvis said the event was scheduled for March 8, 2017. He said the project follows the federal calendar, so it is slated to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup> and run through September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. As a result, the Notice of Funds Available will be issued in about two weeks time, a grant review panel will review the proposals in early September and a project should be awarded before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Disability Policy Seminar:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, a review of the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Spargo said she thought the conference had great topics, she enjoyed meeting with legislators and staff on Capitol Hill and said if you've never experienced this event, she encourages committee members to apply in the future.

Jill Radler thanked the committee and Council for letting her go. She said she learned a lot. She had an opportunity to meet with her legislator's office and because of the event, she's going to try and do more advocacy locally. Radler said she participated in four meetings: Jim Jordan, Rob Portman, Bob Latta and Marcy Kaptur.

Karen Kerr added she also attended and echoes Jill's comments. She said she met with Senator Rob Portman and was very impressed with his memory. Kerr also said she participated in meetings with LEND students and wanted to commend Paula Rabidoux and the LEND program at the Nisonger Center. She also met with the staff for Bob Latta and Marcy Kaptur.

Paul Jarvis told the committee that on the Sunday evening of the conference, the Council's national association has a briefing, at which a portion of time is spent on the appropriations process and what has been proposed by the President. Council members were encouraged to seek an increase in the federal funding level. Jarvis said the second hour of the briefing was used to discuss emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. The executive directors of the California and Washington DC Councils each discussed the San Bernadino shooting and the DC Blizzard, respectively. Jarvis described the three new federal ABLE Bills that most of the group focused on during meetings.

Heather McFarlin, Roxanne Richardson, Jo Spargo and Paul Jarvis provided discussion on ABLE Accounts.

### **Grant Review Panels:**

Chairwoman Spargo asked Paul Jarvis to review the grant review panel members. Jarvis said he had randomly selected names to participate on review panels based on names of members who volunteered at the last meeting. Jarvis said that Mindy Vance and Victor Wilson would serve on the Data and Policy Research Grant, but that a review would not occur until next year, so their names would be held over. He said Neil Castilow and Lori Kershner were selected to serve on the DD LEAD grant review panel, and Karen Kerr and Jeff Turner would serve on the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day grant review.

Jarvis said the outside peer reviewers for the DD LEAD grant were still being worked on, but announced that Eric Rathburn, Daniel Grey and Dustin McKee would be serving on the event review panel.

### **Legislative Update:**

Chairwoman Spargo asked Paul Jarvis to provide the committee with a legislative update. Jarvis outlined the Sunset Review process and explained that Council had undergone review and it was recently announced that Council would continue through the next five years. Sue Willis asked how the state could decide that when Councils are technically a federal program. Jarvis and Carolyn Knight answered that states can opt not to participate in the DD Act programs, resulting in the loss of a Council, but this was not the case in Ohio.

Jarvis outlined the provisions of the Mid-Biennium Review Bill, House Bill 483. Jarvis explained the Senate added provisions to the bill, including allowing contributions to an ABLE Account to be tax deductible on state income taxes, naming October of Disability

History and Awareness Month, the expansion of the scope of the delegated nursing language to allow larger facilities to participate, and some language dealing with how the acuity scores are calculated.

**Announcements:**

Roxanne Richardson announced she is changing jobs. She said she would be working for the Department of Medicaid in the program and policy section of managed care. She publicly thanked Director Martin and the Department of Developmental Disabilities for her time working there.

Dara Walburn thanked Carolyn and the Council for their support.

Carolyn Knight announced Jeffrey Turner is now a member of the Crawford County Board of DD, and other members of Council who are considering becoming a member of their County Board should talk to Jeffrey.

Heather McFarlin announced she leading her class in Project Stir in her area and is becoming an assistant to learn how to teach the class.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the committee, Kim Stults made a motion to adjourn. Mindy Vance seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:19 a.m.