

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Cherry Valley Lodge
Newark, Ohio
July 10, 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
	Neil Castilow		Ilka Riddle
X	Ann Marie Denning	X	Michael Schroeder
X	Greg Dormer	X	Mark Seifarth
	Jessica Foster	X	Mark Smith
X	Karen Kerr	X	Kim Stults
X	Lori Kershner	X	Jeff Turner
	Lisa Krauss	X	Brandon White
X	Laura Leach	X	Sue Willis
	Heather McFarlin		Victor Wilson
X	James Plasencia		
	Paula Rabidoux		

Other Council Members/Guests Present:

Linda Kunick	John Romer
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Diana Mairose
Brad White	Geoff Collver
Matt Dole	Eric Rathburn
Michael Brown	

Staff:

Paul Jarvis	Carolyn Knight
-------------	----------------

Call to Order:

Vice-Chair Spargo called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Introductions were offered.

Minutes:

Vice-Chair Spargo called for approval of the minutes. Karen Kerr asked for an amendment to the minutes that added language to indicate what legislative items were discussed during the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day. Kim Stults moved that the minutes with the proposed amendment be approved. Karen Kerr seconded the motion. No further discussion was offered on the minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Mark Smith abstained.

Legislative Update:

Vice-Chair Spargo asked Paul Jarvis to give the committee a legislative update. Jarvis said the Council would receive an update on the budget during the business meeting.

Jarvis gave an update on House Bill 155, a bill to create ABLE accounts in Ohio. He said the bill was passed by both the House and the Senate and was waiting for the Governor's signature. He added the US Department of the Treasury had issued a proposed rule on how the ABLE accounts would operate, providing guidance to states on how the accounts could pay for qualified disability expenses. No questions were offered.

Jarvis also gave an update on Senate Bill 130, a bill to designate October as Disability Education Month. Sue Willis provided testimony in support of the bill. Willis said she provided the testimony to only one member of the committee, but that the senator had shared his own personal story on the issue of awareness of people with disabilities. Kim Stults asked for copies of the testimony or talking points.

Jarvis said the final state legislative update item was the House had released its schedule for the Fall. He said if the Council had any thoughts on achieving legislative change this fall, it may be difficult because they are scheduled to be in for only six weeks. Mark Seifarth said while they are not in session, keeping in touch with them by phone in the district is valuable.

Jarvis provided a federal budget update, informing the committee that the House and Senate committees had conducted their markups, and that the Senate markup included reductions in funding for DD Act programs. The Senate version would cut \$3.6 million from DD Councils, which would be spread across all Councils based on a specific funding formula, taking into account that minimum allotment states cannot drop below a threshold for funding. Mark Seifarth asked Jarvis to develop talking points for Council members to use to educate their US Senators.

Jarvis also gave an update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and recently released rules from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Legislative Advocacy Day:

Chairwoman Cox asked for an update on the Legislative Advocacy Day Coordinator Grant. Paul Jarvis informed the committee that the current grantee, Ohio SIBS, had decided not to continue in that role and would not be submitting a continuation application. As a result, the Council will need to conduct a competitive grant review. Jarvis announced the members of the grant review panel, which included Roxanne Richardson and Marci Straughter as Council members and Matthew Whitehead, Government Policy Group, Holly Pendell, National MS Society, and Dustin McKee, Voices for Ohio's Children. The review is scheduled for Friday, August 14th.

Chairwoman Cox asked what would happen if the review panel does not select one of the applications that will be submitted. Jarvis explained that Council staff could run the event

in an emergency, but that given the short time frame and that no applicant was selected, the Council could opt to award the grant to another entity as a non-competitive allocation. Carolyn Knight commented that this event has turned into the premier advocacy event of the year for people with disabilities.

Chairwoman Cox asked if the Advocacy Day event could be simulcast on the Internet. She said the keynote speaker this year was asked by his classmates if they could watch the speech online, but unfortunately, we had not set anything up to stream the program online. Jarvis said it could certainly be included as part of any application the Council receives, or as a recommendation from the grant review panel.

Rochelle Hall-Rollins suggested that if Senate Bill 130 was passed next year, the event could include live streaming as part of the education for schools.

SMART Grant:

Chairwoman Cox invited the SMART Grantees to give a presentation. Paul Jarvis introduced Matt Dole and Michael Brown from Communications Counsel and gave a little background on the Strategic Messaging and Advocacy Resource Training Grant for the new members of the committee.

Michael Brown gave an update on the progress the SMART Grant has had with regards to training advocates. He said the grant has spent a lot of effort focusing on the rural counties identified as targeted outreach areas in their grant. He passed around some news articles that highlighted the grants work related to training of individuals with disabilities on how to advocate for themselves.

Brown said the training is broken down into two sections, a sample legislative day, which Matt Dole leads, and a media piece. Brown discussed how people can tell their story in a way that will get media coverage for their issue.

Dole provided an update on the 10 Percent Solution campaign. He said the Council's master plan to achieve change on the waiting list was the right approach. He said by having access to data, the campaign was much better positioned to advocate, and in fact, the data was helpful in getting some plan included as part of the as-introduced budget.

Jarvis clarified the budget included a proposal that was more generous than the 10 Percent Solution campaign because it included a plan for Individual Options waivers and was not limited to just the SELF waiver. Dole said in his 10 years of working on issue campaigns, the 10 Percent Solution ranks as one of the top three most successful because of the way the Council approached the subject, but obtaining data, engaging the community and advocating for a reasonable outcome.

Dole said the next steps for the SMART Grant are related to the new report that will be publicly released soon. Jarvis said the report is available on the front table and it relates to the market valuation of visitable housing. Dole said the approach to this issue will be different, but that they have approached the professional industries associated with

building and selling homes and are in discussions to provide training to the different groups as it relates the market valuation of visitable housing. Chairwoman Cox asked Dole to clarify what visitability features are. Dole informed the committee the features are a zero-step entrance, wider doorways, and a usable bathroom on the main floor.

Jarvis added that the next year for the SMART grant would be different than the 10 Percent Solution campaign because the focus would be on getting buy-in from the appraisal community, the realtor community, and ultimately, the builder community.

John Romer added that Cincinnati had adopted a tax credit program for visitable housing and for the first time, the home show in the city will include housing with visitable features. Bill Adelsberger asked how existing houses would be treated under pending legislation. Jarvis responded that existing housing would be eligible, but only at one-half the cost of the modification, based on the draft legislation he had seen.

Jane Byrnes asked if the grantee had a way to measure the impact of their efforts in rural counties. Michael Brown said they measured their impact through the relationships they have developed. Matt Dole said while there was no immediate need for advocacy following some of their trainings, they have laid the groundwork to go back on other issues, should the need arise.

State Plan:

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda, discussion of the next 5-Year Plan.

Paul Jarvis provided the committee with a document that outlined the history of Public Policy Committee projects.

Diane Cox started the discussion off by stating she believed the advocacy day was an outstanding project that should be continued, but that efforts should be made to increase the number of people who attend the awareness event who also participate in meetings with their legislators. She also emphasized how important having the data created by the Data and Policy Research grant was to effectively making a case with a policymaker.

Mark Seifarth said he agreed, and that he also wanted to emphasize how important it is to have someone help to communicate a message. He said knowing something is important, but you have to be able to communicate it well to make your point. He used the current effort related to visitable housing as an example. Sue Willis added that she agreed that taking the new approaches that the Public Policy Committee has with regard to getting data and communicating it is working much differently than what advocates were trying 10 years ago, where they were trying to get things done at the local level and trying to figure out where to go with it.

Kim Stults, Jane Byrnes, Michael Schroeder, and Bill Adelsberger all provided similar comments, with the focus being on the current Public Policy projects being a good approach, particularly with regard to how the projects rely on each other: collection of

data, development of message, and active advocacy. Paul Jarvis asked the committee if they wanted him to draft similar projects for the next 5-Year Plan, but with lower funding levels due to the committee's allotment. A vote was not taken, but the committee agreed they would like to see the same or very similar language.

Data and Policy Research:

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda. She asked Paul Jarvis to discuss the plan for the 2016 Data and Policy Research Grant.

Jarvis explained to the committee that in the past, he had visited each committee to conduct brainstorming sessions on what topic the Public Policy Committee should direct the Data and Policy Research Grant to focus on for the next year. This year, Jarvis did not visit committees because he believed the grant should focus on transportation in the final year of the current plan. He said the reasoning has been previously stated, but reiterated it results from the willingness of a member of Congress to assist in an effort to expand or duplicate a current Council project related to transportation.

Bill Adelsberger, Mark Seifarth, Geoff Collver, Jane Byrnes, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, John Romer and Heather McFarlin all commented they believed the project should focus on transportation needs for 2016, with suggestion to include area agencies on aging and rural areas.

Michael Schroeder made a motion that the Data and Policy Research grant focus its 2016 research topic on transportation. Brandon White seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

Adjournment:

Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:48 a.m.