

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Doubletree Hotel
Newark, Ohio
September 16, 2016
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Other Council Members/Guests Present

Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Joe Russell
Kristen Helling	Amy Provanzano
Emilia Jackson	Amy Wells
Brenda Stevens	Dawn Brunkalla
Deb Tackett	

Staff:

Paul Jarvis
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. Jill Radler moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Jo Spargo seconded the motion. Neil Castilow asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he was present at the last meeting. Without objection the minutes were adopted as amended. Mark Seifarth, Vicki Jenkins and Diane Cox abstained.

DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Grant Review

Chairwoman Cox moved to the first item on the agenda and asked for an update on the DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Grant Review. Paul Jarvis gave an update on the background of the DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Grant, stating the project runs on a different schedule. The grant review occurred on September 1st and Karen Kerr and Jeffrey Turner were the Council members who served on the panel. Jarvis said Council received one application from the Ohio Provider Resource Association and no other applications.

Jeffrey Turner said the grant was approved with a number of conditions. Karen Kerr added the proposal was obvious to someone who was familiar with the project and the current work of the grantee, but it was not clear to someone looking at it with fresh eyes. The panel placed a number of conditions on the proposal to make it understandable to someone who is reading the project for the first time.

Jarvis stated the conditions letter was four pages and the grantee is seeking guidance from the staff person who assisted them in the previous year to help them clarify the full scope of the project in their response to conditions.

Data & Policy Research Grant

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda, an update on the Data and Policy Research Grant. Paul Jarvis informed the committee the grantee has provided some preliminary findings in preparation for the Transportation Equity Summit. Jarvis shared some of the preliminary findings, but warned that the data was not complete, so it was not appropriate to draw conclusions from the data until the final report is completed.

Jarvis did inform the committee that the preliminary data was based on the surveys, of which, approximately 1,682 responses completed at least 75 percent of the extensive survey. Out of those response, 677 were responses from individuals with disabilities.

Sue Willis, Kim Stults, Carolyn Knight, Mindy Vance, and Laura Leach asked questions related to the study, the survey questions, and the Transportation Equity Summit.

Data and Policy Research Topics

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda, a discussion on possible study topics for 2018. Paul Jarvis asked the committee to look into the future and try to consider what topics would be pertinent to any public policy discussions. He provided the example of the Waiting List Study as something that wasn't popular at the time, but has done a lot to mold public perception about how to move forward on the issue. He also suggested that the committee might consider re-visiting past issues for follow-up studies.

Sue Willis commented these studies and sometimes the surveys that involved with them are helping to give Council prominence in the community and with legislators.

Mindy Vance, Neil Castilow, Laura Leach, Joe Russell, and Dara Walburn discussed different options related to pursuing a follow-up study on the Waiting List. Vance also

offered a new idea, saying there was a presentation the previous day regarding the need to identify current housing stock and to identify how organizations like the Ohio Housing Finance Agency are coordinating with others to create accessible housing.

Paula Rabidoux suggested another issue to look at are the number of individuals who are transition-age adults, but who did not qualify for services at a younger age, but are now struggling with functioning. She said it might be worth it to look at how many people are at or near the strict definition of disability and how other service systems may be able to assist these individuals. Diane Cox and Mindy Vance asked questions about this topic. Rochelle Hall-Rollins shared her own experience about how her daughter didn't qualify for services until she was 12. She said pediatricians or neurologists may be a resource on this issue.

Victor Wilson said he believed there should be an effort to examine how public-private partnerships can be expanded, for example, on the transportation issue. He also said he believed the committee should identify ways to improve empowerment for people with disabilities, perhaps by identifying at least one or two people in each county.

Leach's comments on the waiting list reflected a desire to see how assistive technology might reduce the cost of a waiver.

Kim Stults indicated she would like to see a study that showed the outcomes of the employment first initiative, and also to examine employer readiness for employees with disabilities. Kristen Helling responded that the number was currently 825 people since 2013 and that much of this data was currently available. She did state a study examining barriers to employment might be something to look at. Helling also suggested a study that examined the use of the sub-minimum wage and any changes to that approach would impact the system.

Chairwoman Cox asked what the next steps are for selecting a topic. Paul Jarvis indicated the plan is to visit the other issue committees in March to get their ideas and to develop clearly defined research topics that can be used in a Notice of Funds Available that will be issued in the summer of 2017.

Staff Update:

Paul Jarvis updated the committee on upcoming conferences and meetings that he will be participating in on behalf of the Council, including the Transportation Summit, Habitat for Humanity Conference, Financial Inclusion Summit, a meeting on supportive decision-making, and conducting advocacy trainings across the state. Jarvis also said that the committee will need to consider at the December meeting which members, if any, they wish to send to the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. Jo Spargo, Diane Cox, Mark Seifarth and Carolyn Knight commented on the process for sending members to the conference.

New Business:

Chairwoman Cox moved to the next item on the agenda. She asked committee members to look at the brochure that has been provided that describes a project in Huron County that is designed to protect missing persons due to wandering. Kim Stults said she brought this issue to Council because of her own personal experience and hearing the experience of others. Rochelle Hall-Rollins added that her family bought a tracking system for an elderly individual. Diane Cox also commented this type of program was beneficial to local agencies because they do not have to expend a large amount of resources when a person with a disability or an elderly person goes missing. Paul Jarvis outlined the legislative brief he prepared for the committee on the Kevin and Avonte's Law that provides resources for programs like the Huron County program.

Victor Wilson made a motion that Council support Kevin & Avonte's Law. Kim Stults seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Chairwoman Cox asked for an update on the DD Workforce Issue. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with an outline of the issue, saying there was a shortage in direct support staff and a high turnover rate of direct support staff. Jarvis described the very complex impact these issues have on the developmental disabilities service system and suggested that Council may want to consider developing an editorial board working group to lay out the complex issues for newspapers and other media. Victor Wilson, Jo Spargo, Karen Kerr and Jeffrey Turner volunteered to serve on the editorial board working group.

Paul Jarvis gave the committee an update on the budget process. Sue Willis and Carolyn Knight commented on the upcoming budget.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, James Plasencia made a motion to adjourn. Neil Castilow seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:47 a.m.