

Public Policy Committee Minutes
GoToMeeting Video Conference
February 5, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

	Jean Jakovlic, Chair		
X	Michael Richards, Vice Chair		
X	Michael Denlinger		James Plasencia
X	Jackie George	X	Paula Rabidoux
X	Pamela Green		Jill Radler
	Rochelle Hall-Rollins	X	Rhonda Rich
	Matt Harrison	X	Ilka Riddle
X	Courtney Hineman	X	Kerstin Sjoberg
X	Emilia Jackson	X	Mark Smith
X	Ellie Jazi	X	Brian Veith
X	Vicki Jenkins		Dara Walburn
X	Shannon Komisarek		
	Bobbi Krabill		

Other Council Members/Guests Present

Eric Rathburn (AT Ohio)

Amanda Via (Council Member)

Jeremiah Wagner (DODD)

Staff:

Paul Jarvis

Carolyn Knight

Carla Cox

Gary Groom

Gilbrina Dillon

Robin Shipp

Leslie Connelly

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Rich called the committee to order at 9:35 a.m. Attendance was determined by a roll call.

Minutes:

Chairwoman Rich called for approval of the minutes. Michael Denlinger moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Jackie George seconded the motion. Without any objections, the minutes were approved as drafted.

Old Business:

Chairwoman Rich moved to the first item on the agenda, a presentation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Jeremiah Wagner, Legislative Director for the Department, provided the committee with an overview of the Department's budget proposal. Wagner shared with the Committee OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks had testified the previous day and that hearings are already underway. Wagner outlined the Department's budget blue book proposal, saying the last budget provided increases for services and that this budget is designed to maintain those increases. He also stated there would not be much in the way of policy changes introduced as part of the budget proposal. Wagner said that although there are no cuts, there is also not really any new increases in the budget. He did indicate there was \$1 Million in new funding for assistive technology, for one year, and additional focus and funding for multi-system youth.

Paul Jarvis asked Jeremiah to expand or clarify on a bullet point contained in the blue book dealing with a statewide recruitment effort for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Wagner indicated there isn't new money, but staff within the department is working specifically on the issue. He also commented on current efforts to provide training in a virtual reality scenario.

Carolyn Knight added that she expected Council to be a partner on any efforts related to DSPs.

Wagner provided additional information related to overall funding and the number of waivers that would be provided as part of the Ball Settlement.

Pamela Green asked questions about the assistive technology portion of the budget. Wagner answered that funding was intended for projects and not necessarily internal processes or access to broadband. He did indicate there are investments in other areas of the budget dedicated to expanding broadband.

Jarvis provided the committee with an outline of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities budget. Jarvis stated OOD has several missions, including social security determinations and vocational rehabilitation. Their blue book indicates an effort to improve response time to disability determinations. He said the budget shows about 1/2 percent increase in GRF for the first year and flat funding in the second year. Jarvis identified a few key programs, including business partnerships and higher education opportunities. Shannon Komisarek commented on the College to Careers program.

Jarvis commented briefly on the Ohio Department of Education's budget, stating that special education shows no decrease or increase. Mark Smith added that other efforts by the legislature could impact how school funding looks into the future.

Jarvis also provided some information on the Department of Medicaid's budget, which includes funding to buy back some Medicaid funded nursing home beds and funding for

the multi-system use program. Jackie George added the multi-system youth program would be conducted via a single managed-care plan. She did clarify that this program is slightly different than current managed-care plans for Medicaid, describing it as a program that allowed behavioral health services to be delivered while basic health care needs could be served through other avenues. George said they anticipate 50,000 to 60,000 children would be served under the OhioRise Program.

Jarvis provided the committee with an update on bills he is tracking, include House Bill 2 (Broadband Expansion), Senate Bill 17 (Photo ID for SNAP Benefits / Work Requirement for Group VIII Medicaid Recipients), House Bill 31 (Accessible Parking). Pamela Green commented the Supreme Court will be reviewing whether the work requirement is constitutional and asked a question about the status of the DD Caucus. Jarvis responded the planning committee has met to discuss how to move forward and he has scheduled a call with the Caucus Chairman Sen. Andrew Brenner.

Kerstin Sjoberg announced the HCBS Coalition has more than 100 members. The coalition was formed by DRO and DD Council along with a few other key organizations. She stated they are working on budget advocacy to increase HCBS services. She shared the coalitions website information with the committee and invited anyone who hasn't already joined to check it out and join if it was something they were interested in supporting.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, Pamela Green made a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:28 a.m.