

**Public Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Cherry Valley Lodge**  
**Newark, Ohio**  
**March 3, 2017**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

(V Indicates Participation via Video Conference)

**Other Council Members/Guests Present:**

Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Robin Smith
Linda Kunick	Jerelle Rollins
Marci Straughter	Amanda Hager
Essie Pederson	Laurel Geist
Christine Brown	Steph Grant
Eric Rathburn	Sheryl Strong
Brenda Stevens	

**Staff:**

Paul Jarvis  
Carolyn Knight

**Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Spargo called the committee to order at 9:16 a.m. Introductions were offered.

**Minutes:**

Chairwoman Spargo called for approval of the minutes. Diane Cox moved the minutes be approved as drafted. James Plasencia seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

**Old Business:**

Diane Cox provided the committee with an update on the first General Assembly Briefing Session. She told the committee the session was called, “DD 101” and provided legislative staff with an overview of developmental disabilities services. Director John Martin presented, along with Kyle Lewis, Clinton County Board of DD Superintendent and Becky Sharp, executive director of Columbus Center for Human Services, a provider agency. Jarvis added that roughly 42 staff and one legislator attended the session. Essie Pederson and Dara Walburn asked questions.

Chairwoman Spargo asked for an update on the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day Grant. Paul Jarvis informed the committee that the event was ready to go, the theme is Side By Side, which is the national theme. Jarvis said the speakers planning to present are Director John Martin, Bill Darling, director of Assistive Technology of Ohio, Stephanie Barber-Maynard, and Gwen and Zayne Harshaw. Jarvis also told the committee registration happened differently and received different results, with more individuals opting to participate in legislative meetings. Jarvis also told the committee the event would be live streamed. Diane Cox asked that a notice be sent out with information about how to watch the event from home. Jarvis also outlined how participants could use Twitter to gain exposure for the event and provided the committee with Tweet Sheets. Carolyn Knight, Christine Brown, Kim Stults, and Marci Straughter asked questions. Paul Jarvis and Jo Spargo responded.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, an update on the DODD budget. Spargo said it was nice to see support for DD programs in the budget following the support from the last budget. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with a rough overview of the major provisions of the budget for the department of developmental disabilities, including the creation of new state-funded waivers, waiver rate add-ons, a change in the Intermediate Care Facility rate formula, an increase for homemaker personal care services, the elimination of an age cap for increased funding for individuals on a ventilator, a new line-item for multi-system youth, and changes to shared living rate for family members. Mark Seifarth added that in comparison to other agency’s budgets, the DD budget, because of these initiatives, was much larger. Seifarth said the Department of Developmental Disabilities came under a lot of scrutiny during their budget hearing.

Mark Seifarth asked the committee to consider making a motion to allow Council to write a letter of support related to the budget. Carolyn Knight added that Council has provided a general statement of support, which appeared on the Governor’s web page, but that a letter would be good. Paula Rabidoux, Carolyn Knight, and Diane Cox participated in a discussion.

Mark Seifarth made a motion for Council to draft and submit a letter of support for the current version of the Department of Developmental Disabilities budget. James Plasencia seconded the motion. No further discussion was offered. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

Chairwoman Spargo added that if members are advocating on the budget, make sure you remind them of your support for the past budget.

Rochelle Hall-Rollins asked a question about the Tweet Sheet. Paul Jarvis responded that a blank next to a legislator's name meant he could not find a Twitter handle. Chairwoman Spargo added that you could ask if they have one during your meeting and tell them you plan to tweet about it.

Paul Jarvis also provided the committee with a quick update on two other bills, House Bill 2, which deals with employment discrimination, and House Bill 30/Senate Bill 20, which adds time to the sentence of an offender convicted of or pleading guilty to a felony offense that causes permanent disability in an individual aged 6 or younger. Mark Seifarth asked if Council had opposed the issue contained in House Bill 2 in the past. Paul Jarvis said yes, Council had opposed a version of the bill in the past.

Mark Seifarth made a motion that Council opposed House Bill 2. Jeff Turner seconded the motion. No further discussion was offered. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions. Diane Cox sought clarification on whether the opposition would come from the committee or from full Council. Mark Seifarth clarified that it would be from full Council.

During discussion on House Bill 30 and Senate Bill 20, Mark Seifarth, Diane Cox, Mark Smith provided discussion on the bill.

Dara Walburn made a motion for Council to support these two bills. Brandon White seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, the Transportation Equity Coalition. Paul Jarvis outlined the activities of the Transportation Equity Coalition and provided the committee with a handout. During the discussion, Jarvis explained how the loss of the Managed Care Organization's sales tax base was having an impact on local public transit agency's budgets, and that advocates have been seeking replacement of that lost money in the transportation budget and will be seeking funding in the operating budget too. He also explained that gas taxes generally were not used for public transit purposes. Jarvis stated the coalition would be working on a call-in day to support public transportation. Mark Seifarth asked when that day would be. Jarvis stated April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Diane Cox, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Marci Straughter, Carolyn Knight, Kim Stults, Dara Walburn, Mark Smith and Vicki Jenkins discussed various transportation issues specific to areas of the state.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, Direct Support Workforce. Paul Jarvis updated the committee on the project, which was approved at the last meeting. He said the planning committee has identified some challenges with their initial assumptions that agencies could customize the materials for use in marketing because of overlap between agencies and media markets. Jarvis said the scope of the project would be changing to be more of an educational piece, similar to the STABLE Accounts initiative, rather than an immediate recruitment effort. He said that he will be bringing a proposal back to Council that hopefully includes commitments from other groups to help pay for the education marketing of the Direct Support Workforce Initiative.

Chairwoman Spargo asked if there was any remaining business. Christine Brown announced the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting their legislative day on April 7<sup>th</sup> and they are expecting eight legislators.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the committee, Dara Walburn made a motion to adjourn. Heather McFarlin seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:46 a.m.