

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Embassy Suites Hotel
Dublin, Ohio
March 7, 2019
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Members Present:

X	Dara Walburn, Chair		
X	Lori Kershner, Vice Chair		
X	Michael Denlinger	X	Rhonda Rich
X	Matt Harrison	X	Michael Richards
	Emilia Jackson	X	Ilka Riddle
X	Jean Jakovic		Mark Smith
X	Vicki Jenkins	X	Jo Spargo
X	Karen Kerr	X	Mindy Vance
X	Shannon Komisarek	X	Brandon White
	Bobbi Krabill	X	Sue Willis
X	Laura Leach		Victor Wilson
X	Blaine O’Leary		
X	James Plasencia		Diane Cox (SA)
X	Paula Rabidoux		
X	Jill Radler		

Other Council Members/Guests Present

Marci Straughter	Eric Rathburn
Pamela Green	Casper Shahan
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Debbie Kunick
Rachel Rice	Linda Kunick
Pam Rice	Beth Graham
Christine Brown	

Staff:

Paul Jarvis
Carolyn Knight

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

Chairwoman Walburn called for approval of the minutes. Matt Harrison moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Blaine O’Leary seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Vicky Jenkins, Lori Kershner, Ilka Riddle, Jill Radler and Sue Willis abstained.

Old Business:

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the first item on the agenda, Legislative Update. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with information on House Bill 60, Senate Bill 25, Senate Bill 29, and Senate Bill 36. The committee spent additional time talking about the impact of Senate Bill 36, which would change the way taxes are charged to rental properties that receive federal subsidies for low rents. Pam Green, Vicki Jenkins, Michael Denlinger, Lori Kershner and Sue Willis asked questions about the legislation. Jarvis advised the committee he will continue to monitor progress on the bill and provide updates to the committee. The committee took no positions on any of the legislation reviewed.

Jarvis provided the committee with an update on the transportation budget and the timeline of the state budget process. Marci Straughter shared her experience on testifying on the state budget in the past. Pamela Green asked if Council has taken a position on legislation related to increasing Earned Income Tax Credit. Jarvis said he would add it to the bills he tracks. Lori Kershner asked that Council be allowed to weigh in the budget and Paul Jarvis explained that Council could weigh in on issues that aligned with the mission and philosophy of Council.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, the Data and Policy Research Grant. Paul Jarvis explained that Council received no applications for the grant in 2019. He provided the committee with historical information showing that past grants were generally funded a little higher and that past grants were awarded for a five-year period. Changes in how Council approaches this grant may have resulted in less interest. Jarvis asked the committee if the plan language should be redrafted to allow for additional funding and to focus on a specific project rather than a list of projects for applicants to choose from. Ilka Riddle stated she believed the funding level should be higher and that the request for proposals should be specific to a topic. Riddle also stated that the committee should consider offering research grants that allow 18-24 months for completion. Sue Willis asked what the committee’s priority would be related to research. Jarvis said he would visit each committee in May to identify topics for the Committee to select. Lori Kershner asked that any topic that is selected should have an end goal in mind.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, GAB Sessions. Paul Jarvis provided background on the GAB Session project. Jarvis informed the committee that the GAB Session project model is evolving into a new Developmental Disabilities Caucus that will be led by legislators instead of just focusing on educating staff. There was no discussion.

New Business:

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, the Special Advisor position to the Public Policy Committee. Paul Jarvis explained that Diane Cox's term as Special Advisor was due to expire in April. Jarvis said Diane has been integral to the GAB Session project as she helps with planning and serves as the moderator of each session. Jarvis asked if the committee would like to extend her term for one more year. Ilka Riddle asked if there was a limit to the number of times that a person can be reappointed as a Special Advisor. Ilka Riddle asked if there was anyone else, other than Diane, who wanted the role of Special Advisor. Jo Spargo, Paula Rabidoux, Sue Willis, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, and Lori Kershner all discussed the role and intent of a Special Advisor.

Lori Kershner made a motion to reappoint Diane Cox as a Special Advisor to the Public Policy Committee for one more year. Mindy Vance seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Dara Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day. Dara said she wanted to thank the Council for allowing her to be a part of the program. She said she worked hard on her presentation and that she enjoyed the experience. Michael Denlinger told the committee he was amazed by Dara's presentation and the day. Rochelle Hall-Rollins said she wanted her comments to be recorded in public policy that people can rise to the occasion in spite of their disability and Dara Walburn is an example of that. Matt Harrison told the committee that speaking in public is tough job and he commended Dara for her presentation. Carolyn Knight commented that staff from federal agencies who recently visited Ohio stated to her that the quality of the membership of individuals with disabilities on the Council is very high in comparison to some other states. Lori Kershner commented that she overheard self-advocates sharing their stories in legislative meetings and she was impressed with how well they did. Rochelle Hall-Rollins stated the advocacy was a result of Council grants.

Jarvis told the committee that registration filled up in less than one week and an additional 102 individuals asked to attend above the 450 registration cap. Jarvis said the percent of participants who attend and follow up on a meeting with their legislator was 83 percent. Jo Spargo asked if OPRA will continue the project beyond this year now that Jeff Davis has left the organization. Jarvis said OPRA seems to be interested in continuing the project. Paula Rabidoux said she was encouraged that future events will return to featuring people with disabilities instead of government officials. Sue Willis agreed that having more people with disabilities featured at the event was worthwhile, but is open to having a high-ranking person like the Governor, if he is interested in being involved, to be included in the program.

Chairwoman Walburn indicated there is only 5 minutes left of the committee, so she moved to the next item on the agenda, Washington, DC trip. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with an update on planning for a joint trip with the Ohio Association of

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. He said he would have additional information moving forward. He asked the committee if having an application for members of the Council was an appropriate way to select members to participate. The committee agreed that an application for everyone would be helpful and an online application would be useful. Lori Kershner asked that planning include outreach to federal agencies to provide assistance and support.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, Jo Spargo made a motion to adjourn. Michael Richards seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:49 a.m.