

**Public Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Double Tree Hotel**  
**Newark, Ohio**  
**September 15, 2017**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

X	Jo Spargo, Chair		
X	Dara Walburn, Vice Chair		
	Bobbi Burke	X	James Plasencia
X	Diane Cox	X	Paula Rabidoux
X	Ann Marie Denning	X	Jill Radler
X	Doug Frank	X	Ilka Riddle
X	Kristin Helling	X	Mark Seifarth
X	Emilia Jackson		Mark Smith
X	Jean Jakovlic	X	Kim Stults
X	Vicki Jenkins	X	Jeff Turner
X	Karen Kerr	X	Mindy Vance
X	Lori Kershner	X	Brandon White
X	Laura Leach	X	Sue Willis
X	Heather McFarlin	X	Victor Wilson
X	Blaine O'Leary		

(V Indicates Participation via Video Conference)

**Other Council Members/Guests Present:**

Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Michael Schroeder
Linda Kunick	Betsy O'Leary
Essie Pederson	Christine Brown
Eric Rathburn	Rebecca Westor
Devika Rao	Jeff Davis
Deb Tackett	

**Staff:**

Paul Jarvis	Carla Cox
Carolyn Knight	Robin Shipp
Ken Latham	

**Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Spargo called the committee to order at 9:18 a.m. Introductions were offered.

**Minutes:**

Chairwoman Spargo called for approval of the minutes. Jeff Turner moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Dara Walburn seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed. Jill Radler, Paula Rabidoux, Lori Kershner, Sue Willis, Diane Cox and Ilka Riddle abstained.

**Old Business:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, Direct Support Workforce Initiative. Jeff Davis provided the committee with an update on the progress of the Direct Support Workforce Initiative Grant that Council has provided to the Ohio Provider Resource Association. The grant has provided support to create a brand, which will be known as DSPOhio. The brand will launch with multi-media in November and be tied to a website where individuals who want to learn more about DSPOhio will also be connected to provider agencies who are seeking employees.

Kim Stults, Jo Spargo, Carolyn Knight, Dara Walburn, Sue Willis, Ilka Riddle, and Elly Walburn all provided discussion related to the DSPOhio project. Stults asked if OPRA would monitor the use of language on the DSPOhio website to ensure that providers don't use outdated terms such as housekeeping and bathing. Spargo and Knight commented that O'Neill Communications might be able to help develop boilerplate language. Dara Walburn asked for data related to the number of people looking for a provider. Knight wondered if the data would show providers having to turn down individuals because they didn't have available staff to support them. Willis commented on the low pay of Direct Support Providers.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, General Assembly Briefing Sessions. Paul Jarvis informed the committee there was a mix up with Rick Colby's schedule and he would not be able to make the meeting. He invited Dara Walburn to talk about her experience at the last briefing session. Dara shared that she spoke with about 40 staff and talked about her recent experience of obtaining the SELF Waiver.

Jarvis informed the committee that the next session would be Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and the topic would be about employment options for people with developmental disabilities. Speaking at the next session will be Stacy Collins from the Department of Developmental Disabilities, Chris Moranda from OhioHealth, and Jeff Turner. Diane Cox suggested that Ohio present the GAB Session grant as a topic to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities as a pilot program that other Councils could follow.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, the Transportation Report Release Update. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with copies of recent media coverage of the transportation report release. Mark Seifarth shared his experience of talking to WOSU Radio with short notice and also that the Columbus Dispatch took time to read the study before scheduling an interview and they asked good questions.

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, the DD Awareness & Advocacy Day Event. Paul Jarvis informed the committee that the event was scheduled for March 7, 2018 and that the theme would be "Celebrate CommUNITY". Jarvis said

the planning committee is currently voting on several logos and would select a finalized version during the last week of September. The logos were developed by O'Neill Communications. Jarvis asked the committee for ideas for speakers, saying the people being sought by the planning committee are individuals who have great experiences but who are also excellent public speakers. Carolyn Knight clarified the meeting would occur on Wednesday. Jo Spargo stated she hoped that Council would look at how changing the Council meeting to occur the same week as the event impacts the members. Mark Seifarth clarified that the meeting had not been changed yet, but that he understood her concern. Knight stated the Council would be considering a change to allow for the March meeting to occur the two days following the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day and that the meeting location would also be across the street from the event.

### **New Business:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, Legislative Update. Paul Jarvis gave the committee an update on Senate Bill 144 (State Rehabilitation Council). Sue Willis provided information about Disability Rights Ohio's position on the bill related to the DRO appointment to the Council. Jarvis also updated the committee on House Bill 246 (School Facilities funding for County Boards). Kim Stults, Paula Rabidoux, Carolyn Knight and Ilka Riddle commented on the bill. Chair Spargo indicated that she will be available to meet with stakeholders to address the concerns raised by Council members.

Jarvis moved on to federal bill, HR 620, which would require notification and ability to improve before a lawsuit could be filed under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jarvis said that a interested party letter has been provided and Council was being asked to sign on to the letter. Ilka Riddle and Sue Willis expressed concerns with the legislation. Chairwoman Spargo stated the concerns were covered in the letter. Victor Wilson moved that Council sign on to the interested party letter. Dara Walburn seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Jarvis provided the committee with an update on House Bill 271, which is similar to the federal legislation, but limited to the state law. Jarvis clarified the difference between the federal bill and the state bill, indicating that it is limited to state court filings and would mainly focus on when attorney's fees could be recovered, which are not currently provided for in the law. Rochelle Hall-Rollins asked for clarification on what the bill actually does. Jarvis provided a detailed description of the bill. Victor Wilson made a motion to oppose House Bill 271. Kim Stults seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

### **Disability Policy Seminar:**

Chairwoman Spargo moved to the next item on the agenda, the Disability Policy Seminar. She stated that Council need to select individuals to attend and that the average cost per person to attend is \$2,700. She stated that the Council Chair, the Public Policy Chair, Public Policy staff and the Public Policy Vice-Chair normally attend. She asked

for a motion to approve individuals to attend. Kim Stults, Mark Seifarth discussed the potential changes in who the chair of Council will be when the seminar occurs in April. Stults asked how many people to send is normal and whether Council had the resources. Knight and Jarvis responded that resources are available and it is important to be selective on who to send.

Ilka Riddle sought clarification on who would attend. Spargo clarified that is would be five applicants, plus the chair of Public Policy, the vice-chair of Public Policy, and the staff of Public Policy. The five additional applications were provided in advance of the committee and included Jean Jakovlic, Karen Kerr, Lori Kershner, Blaine O'Leary and Victor Wilson. Mark Seifarth clarified that individuals who are seeking to attend should abstain from the vote.

Kim Stults moved to send the slate of applications, the chair of Council, the chair of Public Policy, the vice-chair of Public Policy and the staff of Public Policy to the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Jeff Turner seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Jo Spargo, Dara Walburn, Jean Jokovlic, Karen Kerr, Lori Kershner, Blaine O'Leary and Victor Wilson abstained.

Diane Cox asked if applications are being sent to full Council and whether they should be sent in the future to full Council. Chairwoman Spargo added that was a great point and that people who want to participate at the federal level should be participating at the state level too.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business before the committee, Brandon White made a motion to adjourn. Jim Plasencia seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:48 a.m.