

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Doubletree Hotel, Newark
Columbus, Ohio
September 14, 2018
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Other Council Members/Guests Present

Marci Straughter	Billy Mae Ware
Brenda Brandon	Mark Seifarth (Phone)
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Deborah Remington
Christine Brown	Reagan Gatz
Eric Rathburn	Craig Walker
Betsy O’Leary	Beth Graham

Staff:

Paul Jarvis	Robin Shipp
Carolyn Knight	
Ken Latham	

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. James Plasencia seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Victor Wilson and Paula Rabidoux abstained.

Old Business:

Chairwoman Walburn asked Paul Jarvis to provide the committee with a legislative update. Jarvis told the committee the state legislature has been on summer break and preparing to run for office, but at the federal level, there has been activity. Jarvis provided the committee with information on the HEADS Up Act (HR 6611), the Empower Care Act (HR 5306/S.2227), and the status of the federal appropriations bill for Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education agencies. Jarvis also provided members of the committee with a directory of federal legislators that identifies which district Council members live in.

Laura Leach announced that the Department of Medicaid has been aware that the Money Follows the Person Program was due to sunset, so they have been working to incorporate the community transition service funding of \$2,000 as a waiver covered service. Leach also stated that although enhanced matching funds for targeted case management would be ending, the service would continue to be provided.

Jarvis also outlined the next state budget process for members of the committee, indicating a new governor would have until March 15th to submit a new budget proposal. Carolyn Knight added the Department of Developmental Disabilities was considering a supplemental budget proposal to seek an increase for direct support professionals. Rhonda Rich asked a question related to whether the increase would be a long-term increase or a temporary increase. Laura Leach and Carolyn Knight commented that the intent was to make any increases permanent.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, a discussion on the issue of concealed carry for individuals with disabilities. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with a memorandum in follow up to the previous committee meeting discussion. The memorandum clarified the issue related to the ability of an individual with a developmental disability to obtain a license to carry a concealed weapon and the ability to store or keep a firearm on a facility owned by a county board of developmental disabilities. After reviewing the memo, Paul Jarvis recommended that Council not pursue advocacy related to the topic.

Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Rhonda Rich, Michael Denlinger, Michael Richards, Marcy Straughter commented on the recommendation not to pursue advocacy, generally agreeing. Diane Cox commented that as she read the memo, there was not a restriction placed on individuals with disabilities who reside in a private residence, but that the restriction applied specifically to publicly owned residences.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, General Assembly Briefing Sessions. Paul Jarvis provided the committee on an update with the latest GAB Session conducted, which consisted of a field trip to the Universal Design Living Laboratory to discuss accessible design for new home construction. Jarvis reported that attendance was down at the first session held off site and identified potential reasons for reduced participation, which included election season and the requirement of individuals to provide their own transportation due to legislative reporting restrictions. Jarvis showed the committee a few photos of the event to illustrate the universal design features.

Jarvis also highlighted the amount of staff turnover in the legislature since the project began. Victor Wilson commented those staff take that knowledge to other jobs, but that continuous education is necessary.

New Business:

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, DD Awareness and Advocacy Day. Jarvis reported the planning committee has not met yet, but through discussions with the grantee, he believed the focus or theme may be related to technology. The event is still scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Speakers have not been identified and Jarvis asked the committee for recommendations. Victor Wilson, Carolyn Knight, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Marci Straughter, Carolyn Knight, Brenda Brandon, and Matt Harrison all provided ideas related to speakers and topics.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, Transportation Advocacy. Paul Jarvis provided a draft letter to the committee related to improving support for transportation services in each area of the state. Jarvis asked the members of the committee to consider sending the letter to their member of the legislature and he would help any member who needed help providing specific information related to their area of the state to the letter. Rochelle Hall-Rollins encouraged letters to be sent to the Toledo area. Michael Denlinger volunteered to send a letter to his legislator.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, the Data and Policy Research Grant. Paul Jarvis reported to the committee the Notice of Funds Available was issued for the 2019 project, but he has not heard from any interested parties related to the application. He also reported the 2018 project has run into delays in obtaining the data needed to conduct their study. The grantee was required to obtain IRB Approval in order to gain access to the data and they have been approved. However, the delays in gaining access to the data will likely result in a no-cost extension.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, PERS and STABLE Accounts. Christine Brown told the committee of a situation in Summit County where an individual with a disability has been working for the county board and earning PERS service credit, but when she goes to retire, the retirement benefit will make her ineligible for Medicaid. Brown stated the Council may want to consider conducting study on how many people would be impacted by loss of program benefits because their retirement

would make them ineligible. Christine Brown suggested pursuing a policy that allowed individuals to opt out of PERS. Paul Jarvis added that discussion have been occurring with the Treasurer's office related to how STABLE Accounts might serve as an option for individuals who are working to save funds that would not make them ineligible, and they are investigating options to allow funds to be diverted to a STABLE Account rather than to a PERS account.

Diane Cox asked for clarification on whether Christine Brown was asking for employees to give up PERS contributions completely by opting out. Christine Brown answered that she was recommending that PERS contributions go into a STABLE Account instead. Diane Cox also asked if Council pursued changes to this policy if the Treasurer's office was in support. Paul Jarvis responded the Treasurer's office was supportive, but was waiting on the election of a new Treasurer to take a position.

Rochelle Hall-Rollins commented that all employers should be engaged in supporting individuals with disabilities to have STABLE Accounts. She encouraged continued support for public awareness about STABLE Accounts. Brenda Brandon asked if personal earnings were exempted from determining an SSI benefit if they are deposited to a STABLE Account. Paul Jarvis responded he would get her an answer on that issue.

Michael Denlinger made a motion for Council to support efforts to allow individuals to divert retirement contributions into a STABLE Account. Rhonda Rich seconded the motion. Rhonda Rich, Diane Cox and Paul Jarvis provided additional comments on the issue. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, Michael Denlinger made a motion to adjourn. Matt Harrison seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:44 a.m.