

Public Policy Committee Minutes
Embassy Suites Hotel
Dublin, Ohio
September 13, 2019
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Other Council Members/Guests Present

Marci Straughter	Mark Seifarth
Rachel Rice	Connie Mehlman
Brenda Brandon	Billie McAleer
Rochelle Hall-Rollins	Erich Bittner
Kellie Brown	Kraig Walker
Christine Brown	Madison Piccinich
Eric Rathburn	Jeannette Welsh
Casper Shahan	Courtney Sexton
Debbie Kunick	Deb Pennington
Linda Kunick	
Beth Graham	

Staff:

Paul Jarvis
Carolyn Knight
Carla Cox

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

Chairwoman Walburn called for approval of the minutes. Morgan Gattermyer moved the minutes be approved as drafted. Matt Harrison seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. Paula Rabidoux and Jean Jakovlic abstained.

Old Business:

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the first item on the agenda, state budget update. Paul Jarvis introduced the guest speaker, Erich Bittner from the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, Bittner shared with the committee the impact that some of the budget provisions would have on County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Bittner told the committee that a portion of the DSP wage increase was being financed by County Boards. Other changes included changes to how providers would be suspended under a county board complaint, requires county boards to provide a 5-year budget forecast, requirements for Medicaid reserve funds, created process to challenge when a county board of commissioners attempt to roll back a county board of developmental disabilities levy, deletion of language that would have created a Non-Medical Transportation Committee, increases in funding for Early Intervention, and language related to informing individuals about the availability of ICF services. Bittner also commended the advocacy of Christine Brown and Marci Straughter on the Non-Medical Transportation issue.

Carolyn Knight asked a question about roll-backs. Connie Mehlman asked a question about how the state or county boards would ensure whether the wage increase made it into the hands of Direct Support Professionals. Rochelle Hall-Rollins asked a question about the Non-Medical Transportation issue. Christine Brown and Jo Spargo offered clarification on the Non-Medical Transportation issue. Chairwoman Walburn also asked a question about the DSP wage increase and its impact in Athens, Ohio.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, a review of current legislation. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with updates on House Bill 60 (Diaper Sales Tax Exemption), House Bill 114 (Earned Income Tax Credit Cap Increase), Senate Bill 9 (Health Plan Claim Information), Senate Bill 25 (Medicaid Group 8 Work Requirements), Senate Bill 29 (Medicaid Copayments), Senate Bill 36 (Federally Subsidized Rental Property Valuation), House Bill 188 (Blindness Adoption/Custody), and House Bill 287 (Military Family Waiver Set Aside).

Paula Rabidoux, Mindy Vance, Kellie Brown, Vicki Jenkins, Rochelle Hall-Rollins, Carolyn Knight, Rhonda Rich, Jo Spargo and Marci Straughter all asked questions and

provided comments on House Bill 287. Karen Kerr made a motion that Council serve as an Interested Party on House Bill 287 and House Bill 188. Rhonda Rich seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed. There were no abstentions.

New Business:

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, Washington DC Trip for 2019. Paul Jarvis provided the committee with an update on the plan to travel to Washington, DC in late September. Jarvis reviewed the speakers, the talking points, and the Hill visit schedule that is planned. Erich Bittner announced a change to one of the speakers planned for the event. Christine Brown, Mark Seifarth, Dara Walburn, Michael Denlinger, and Rachel Rice made comments about the DC trip and advocacy.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, General Assembly Briefing Sessions. Paul Jarvis updated the committee on the grant activities, informing the committee that a meeting occurred in August. Diane Cox corrected the meeting date that Jarvis provided in error. The GAB Session featured DODD Director Jeff Davis, Licking County Board Superintendent Jason Umstot, REM Ohio Director and DD Council Chair Jo Spargo and was moderated by Special Advisor Diane Cox. The topic was DODD 101 and there were 36 legislative staff in attendance, including 1 legislator.

Diane Cox shared that participants in these sessions are very engaged and interested in hearing from people with disabilities.

Chairwoman Walburn moved to the next item on the agenda, DD Awareness and Advocacy Day discussion. Members of the committee engaged in a brainstorming session on potential topics and speakers for the event being held in March 2020. Topics included: remote supports, obtaining waivers, transitioning from one waiver to another, increasing employment opportunities, promoting natural supports and remote supports, iDance Toledo, transportation costs, successful self advocacy, and the waiting list. Speakers suggested included Breanna Sprenger and a self-advocate who will be going to Washington DC.

Adjournment:

With no further business before the committee, Matt Harrison made a motion to adjourn. Morgan Gattermyer seconded the motion. Without objection, the committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.