

THIS WEEK IN PUBLIC POLICY

JULY 15 – JULY 19, 2019

IN OHIO:

On Thursday, July 18, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine signed the state's two year operating budget (House Bill 166). Governor DeWine included 25 line-item vetoes with his signature, removing changes the House and Senate sought related to some Medicaid policy. As of Friday, Senate President Larry Obhoff has indicated he does not intend to seek overrides of any of the Governors vetoes.

In addition to providing funding for state government programs, the state budget bill includes additional policy provisions. The following information is limited in scope, and intended to provide you with an outline of all of the major provisions.

DODD Budget:

Fund	2019	2020	2021
GRF	\$679,962,005	\$735,826,663 (+8.2%)	\$751,961,612 (+2.2%)
ALL FUNDS	\$2,923,920,532	\$3,316,498,348 (+13.4%)	\$3,542,503,101 (+6.8%)

Included as part of the funding increases/changes to DODD's budget were increases to the Part C, Early Intervention Line Item, increases to the Medicaid Services Line Item to support an increase in the DSP wage to \$12.82 per hour in the second half of 2020 and to \$13.23 per hour in the second half of 2021. Earmarks included in the final version of the bill:

- \$750,000 per year for Cleveland, Cincinnati and Northwest Sight Centers
- \$125,000 per year for Best Buddies of Ohio
- \$100,000 per year for Special Olympics
- \$100,000 per year for OCALI
- \$25,000 per year for Halom House

The conference committee made some changes to the "Informed Choice" language that was hotly debated in the Senate. County boards will still have a statutory duty to inform individuals and families about ICF/IID options, but only those individuals or families seeking "residential" services. The previous language would have required education on ICF options to individuals seeking any service from a county board of DD. Lastly, the conference committee eliminated the statement that ICF services were not residential services.

The final version of the DODD budget did not include language requiring the creation of a workgroup to study the reimbursement rate for non-medical transportation, and did not include language creating a joint legislative committee to consider redetermination of the state's protection and advocacy organization and client assistance program.

There was an increase in the ICF bed fee to help finance a rate add-on for intensive behavioral supports of children (multi-system youth).

OOD Budget:

Fund	2019	2020	2021
GRF	\$16,056,210	\$17,931,310 (+11.7%)	\$19,350,210 (+7.9%)
ALL FUNDS	\$234,717,565	\$268,103,845 (+14.2%)	\$279,972,155 (+4.4%)

The OOD budget underwent very few changes in the House and Senate. There were no conference committee changes that impacted OOD.

NEXT WEEK IN PUBLIC POLICY

JULY 22 – JULY 26, 2019

IN OHIO:

No hearings scheduled.

IN WASHINGTON:

Congress will be in session, but no pertinent committee hearings have been identified.

FACTS THAT MAY ONLY INTEREST ME: The Conference Committee added more than \$1 Billion (with a B) in spending to the state budget bill under the ALL FUNDS Category, of which nearly \$600 Million was GRF.