



Legislative & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021-- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Only (no in-person meeting)

Attendance:

Council Committee Members Present: Dawn Russell, Lisa Franklin, Lucinda Rowe

Council Committee Members Absent: Ali Thompson, Bonnie Silva, Cami Renfrow, Christine Owen, Ron Hutter

Community Committee Members Present: Michael Hoover (disability rights representative and past Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council member)

Committee Members Absent: Gerrie Frohne (excused), Benu Amun-Ra (self-advocate and parent)

Guests: Donna Downing (past-president of the National Autism Committee),

Staff Present: Vanessa Hernandez, Robert "Bob" Lawhead

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Convene, establish quorum, introductions of LPPC members and public Temp Chair
2. Review/modify today's proposed agenda LPPC members
3. Old Business:
 - a. Review/approve February 1st meeting minutes Temp Chair
 - b. Update on CDDC legislative and public policy priorities: Bob
 - 1) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funding stability (no update)
 - 2) Sub-minimum wage elimination (SB21-039 introduced 2.16.21) [Elimination Of Subminimum Wage Employment](#)
 - 3) Expand Supported Decision-Making (SDM) codification (SB 21-075 introduced 2.16.21) [Supported Decision-making Agreement](#)
 - 4) Ombudsman office for people with IDD
 - 5) EFAP reauthorization including state hiring "disability priority" (SB21-095) [Sunset Employment First Advisory Partnership](#)
 - 6) High-fidelity wraparound services expansion funding reinstatement
4. New Business:
 - a. Vaccine priority white paper and new action alert (also see CA vaccine priority change) Bob
 - b. LG meeting on vaccines
 - c. Behavior Health Administration legislation
 - d. 9News piece on this effort:
<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/colorado-covid-vaccine-priority-people-developmental-disabilities/73-6cf40c51-6c15-4078-b4a5-155445fa84ff>
 - e. Reminder to use Colorado Capitol Watch
 - f. Additional items? LPPC members
5. Confirm date for next meeting LPPC members

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| 6. Confirm Decision Items | Vanessa |
| 7. Public Comment | Public |
| 8. Adjourn | All |

Next Meeting: March 1, 2021 10 am until 12 pm via Zoom

Discussion:

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM after requesting that committee members consider chairing the meeting due to the excused absence of Chair Ali Thompson. Quorum not present at this time. Minutes cannot be approved and voting cannot occur at this time.
2. Agenda review, modification:
 - Add Lieutenant Governor meeting on vaccines (Dawn).
 - Add bill on creation of a Behavioral Health Administration (Lisa).
3. Old Business:
 - a. February 1st minutes not approved due to lack of quorum
 - b. Update on LPPC Priorities: Discussion back and forth on how the Council formally approves the bills. Bob told Angie he felt the Council meeting on March 3rd would be enough time to take the recommendations to the full Council meeting.
 - 1) No update on HCBS funding stability
 - 2) Sub-minimum wage elimination: SB21-039 introduced on Tuesday. Please share any amendment suggestions with Bob. Based on Employment First philosophy that people do not need sub-minimum wage to be employed.
 - 3) Expand Supported Decision-Making: SB 21-075 was also announced on Tuesday. Johnathon Martinez has been in contact with Bob. May recommend amendments.
 - 4) Ombudsman office for people with IDD: Joelle and Bob met with Disability Law Colorado and are developing a connection with the Ombudsman in Washington State, which was identified by DLC as a good example of an ombudsman program.
 - 5) EFAP Sunset EF eliminates reference within SB16-077 to the sun-setting of that bill September 1, 2021. An amendment is planned to provide a priority incentive for anyone with a disability who is a candidate for state employment, similar to the current incentive for veterans.
 - 6) High fidelity wraparound services funding relates to the budget process and has received informal support from advocacy partners.
4. New Business:
 - a. Vaccine priority white paper submitted to Governor and Lieutenant Governor office on Friday and submitted press releases to local news stations. California made a major change to their vaccine authority and prioritize individuals with IDD. As of now, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee and now California formally recognize IDD as a priority. Almost all states have recommendations for high risk conditions that the CDC states. 21 states only require one high risk condition be present for prioritization and Colorado requires two.
 - Suggestion: re-submit the white paper periodically with updates on states making IDD a priority. Bob agreed this makes sense.
 - b. Dawn spoke to the Lieutenant Governor meeting on vaccine priority. Our advocacy was equated to all the people reportedly contacting the state trying to be prioritized out of self-interest. Our advocacy is based firmly in the science and data within the FAIR Health study.

- c. HB21-1097, Establish Behavior Health Administration, follows up on one of the Governor's primary recommendations within the Behavioral Health Task Force's Blueprint for Reform. It pulls together various health mental health and substance abuse programs under one administrative unit. Good idea to monitor bill initially to see if there is anything that would negatively affect people with IDD.
 - d. 9News piece was aired Monday after Nelson Garcia with Channel 9 news contacted Bob to do an interview that morning. See the agenda for the link. It ended up being good PR for the Council.
 - e. Bob gave a demonstration on how to work Colorado Capitol Watch. He will populate the bills section with our priorities and will send out the log-in and password information to committee members.
5. Next meeting is March 1st, 10:00 AM via Zoom
 6. No decision items as quorum was not achieved.
 7. Public Comment: None at this time.
 8. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Action Items:

1. Bob will update Colorado Capital Watch with new five bills the committee can monitor and will send out log-in information.

Motions Made:

1. N/A
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