



Legislative & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2020 -- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Council Conference Room

Denver, CO 80203

Committee members present: Gerrie Frohne (Community member), Michael Hoover (Community member), Christine Owen (Council member), Cami Renfro (Council member), Ali Thompson (Council member)

Guests present: Donna Downing

Staff present: Bob Lawhead, Tina Trammer

1. Convene, establish quorum, introductions of LPPC members and members of the public-

The Zoom meeting platform was not functional and after attempting to bring it up for 15 minutes Bob sent an email requesting that committee members use the Council's conference call line. The meeting was called to order at 10:24 by Bob who served as acting chair for Kristen and Joe who were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Review/modify today's proposed agenda – No agenda revisions were offered.

3. Old Business:

- a. Review, and approve February 3, 2020 meeting minutes (ACTION WAS NOT TAKEN ON THIS ITEM).

- b. Bills we are presently following:

HB20-1006 Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants – Christine reported that this bill had a significant fiscal note (approaching \$500,000 after two years) and that it was opposed by Concern Colorado, self-described as follows, “**Colorado Concern** is a statewide CEO-based organization devoted to investing in and promoting a pro-business environment through the political process.”

HB20-1012 Child Welfare Program Children Developmental Disabilities – Gerrie reported that this bill applies to CDHS and expands eligibility for children and youth with IDD who require out of home placement.

HB20-1058 Behavior Analysts In Public Schools – Lisa sent in written comments and indicated this bill is controversial. Other committee members agreed. Ali stated that some parents would oppose this. Cami provided the perspective that Applied Behavior Analysis is abusive by its nature and has an intent similar to “conversion therapy.” She noted that Positive Behavioral Support has similar problems. Mike and Donna added their support for Cami's analysis.

HB20-1128 Educator Education Requirements, Special Education – Bob reported that the legislative aid for Representative Buentello confirmed that it was too late to add the suggested language (related to providing educators with information about best practice resulting in the reduced use of seclusion and restraint) but indicated she would be willing to work with us next session.

HB20-1263 Eliminate Sub-minimum Wage Employment – Bob reported that this bill was heard in committee on February 26th and passed out of committee with amendments,

7-2. The amendments reduced the statewide phase-out of sub-minimum wage employment from 5 to 4 years and eliminated service provider grants. Bob, Mike and Donna all testified at the hearing.

HB20-1314 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training - This bill directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to issue a request for proposals to contract with a vendor to provide a comprehensive care coordination and treatment training model (model) for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health needs. Christine indicated that her son would have benefitted from this program. Gerrie spoke about the history of efforts to improve the system's response to people with dual diagnosis in crisis. Gerrie made a motion that the Committee recommend that the full Council endorse HB20-1314. Christine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SB20-001 Expand Behavioral Health Training For K-12 Educators - The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to offer a train the trainer program to local education agencies which includes any of the following subjects:

- Using trauma-informed approaches to improve overall school climate and culture;
- Identifying behavioral and mental health challenges and substance use disorders;
- Restorative practices for addressing youth behavioral and mental health challenges;
- Improving youth social and emotional health;
- Bullying prevention and intervention strategies;
- Encouraging positive bystander behavior;
- Best practices for providing assistance in non-crisis situations;
- De-escalation of crisis situations; or
- Identifying and accessing available behavioral and mental health resources and substance use disorder support service and treatment.

SB20-014 Excused Absences in Public Schools for Behavioral Health – Ali reported that this bill should definitely be supported and should have a significantly positive impact on students who need to address behavioral health issues during the school day.

SB20-033 Allow Medicaid Buy-in Program After Age 65 – Gerrie indicated she would follow this bill has received publicity in the Denver Post and is strongly supported by CCDC.

SB20-151 Administration of the RTD – Michael reported that he supports this bill which provides for representation of people with disabilities on the RTD board and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Michael agreed to follow this bill.

SB20-163 School Entry Immunization – This bill provides a formal procedure for personal exemptions to required immunization and requires that schools report the percentage of students immunized on an annual basis. CCDC supports this bill has immunization provides for lessened opportunities for disease outbreaks which would negatively impact people with disabilities who are immune-compromised.

SB20-165 Honoring Carrie Ann Lucas – This bill names a section of statute passed through the advocacy of Ms. Lucas for her. Ms. Lucas fought for parental rights and non-discrimination for parents with disabilities. She passed away several years ago. The Committee voted to recommend to the full Council that the CDDC endorse this legislation.

Charter School Bill – Lisa was “voluntold” to follow this bill which had not yet been introduced.

4. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2020 10:00AM – Noon at CDDC Offices

ADDENDUM: The March 16th meeting was cancelled after consultation with the Committee Vice-Chair.