



Legislative & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2017 -- 10:00 AM – 11:45 PM

DD Council Office

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 706

Denver, CO 80203

MEETING AGENDA:

- 10:00 Convene, establish quorum, introductions** (Hal)
- 10:05 Approval of October 17, 2017 minutes** (Hal)
- 10:10 Legislative Advocacy – Taking Action** (Hal)
- (30 min) Empowering individuals, LPPC Support (group discussion)
 - (10 min) The Joint Budget Committee (information, Hal)
- 10:50 Executive Director** (Marcia)
- DD Council Executive Directors Meeting in Santa Fe
- 11:05 Policy Advisor’s Report on Significant Legislation** (Bob)
- 11:25 Old business** (Hal)
- Review of last meetings action items
- 11:30 Wrap up**
- Review of this meetings decisions and actions taken (Hal)
 - Next month’s meeting – suggestions for agenda (All)
 - Public comments
- 11:45 Adjourn**

Counsel Offices 1120 Lincoln Street Suite 706, Denver, CO 80203

Conference Call: 877-820-7831, Passcode 662498#

Next Meeting: December 19, 2017

DISCUSSION:

1. The October 17, 2017 meeting minutes were approved (see Motions/Actions section).
2. Legislative Advocacy-Taking Action; Empowering Individuals, LPPC Support:
There are a variety of ways to get involved once Colorado's legislative session begins on January 10, 2018:
 - Go to the Capitol to testify on particular bills;
 - Engage in public education through writing letters to the editor, speaking at local groups;

- Collaborate with other organizations involved with the disability community like the Autism Society of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association, Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado, etc. Also consider collaborating with your local Arc Chapter, Community Centered Board or Program Approved Service Agency: see a listing at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1H6wku9Zgqxov_MoX7qD0RMu2gIFYy3T4b5Z2-JOmsg/edit#gid=459370783

Kristin Erby indicated that the autism community is increasingly using social media-based advocacy successfully. Michael Hoover stated that we must track legislative bills as they are introduced and that he plans to provide testimony at the Capitol during the upcoming session. Jennifer Martinez reported that she felt she could provide information and support although her position in state government makes this challenging. Hal Wright cautioned that we must be careful to assure audiences know who we represent, ourselves vs. the Council. We can always represent ourselves but would need formal direction from the Council to represent their views. Alicia Eakins suggested that we should not only be reactive to legislation, but also be proactive. To Kristin's question of how we might expand collaboration, Hal suggested that actively interacting with groups we are members of (such as Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association and Global Down Syndrome Foundation in Hal's case) is useful. Donna Downing wondered about actively contacting other organizations to collaboratively work on new legislation. When Hal wondered about collaborating with the Arc of Colorado, Bob indicated that he and Marcia has recently met with the new Director, Christiano Sosa. Other suggested collaborators included: Mental Health of America (Donna), CANDO Committee, JFK Partners (Claire Dickson), National Alliance for Mental Illness, Brain Injury Alliance (Hal). Kristen offered that she had familiarity with the CHRP Waiver and could provide some level of expertise. Hal suggested that we put an email out a week before our regularly scheduled committee meeting to ask members for information sharing items.*

* Bob sent out a meeting reminder on December 12th, requesting additional agenda items by communicated to him or Hal.

3. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC):

JBC meetings are happening in December. Committee members are encouraged to attend. December 5th: 9:00 AM – noon, JBC Briefing for the Office of Community Living, HCPF
December 14th: 9:00 AM – noon, JBC Hearing for the Office of Community Living, HCPF
One can review a number of source for legislative information during the session including: Colorado Capitol Watch, the State legislative website, Colorado Politics (subscription service \$85 annually), and the Colorado Cross Disability Council weekly summary of bills.

4. CDDC Executive Director:

Marcia Tewell announced that she plans to be retiring April 1st. A search committee is being formed and appointing a new Executive Director is entirely the responsibility of the governor-appointed DD Council. The state provides a framework for compensation.

5. Policy Advisor's Report:

TIME ACT: (Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment) Act, HR 1377, would not allow the expansion of 14(c) certificates which allow sheltered workshops, segregated day programs and certain employers to pay sub-minimum wages to workers with disabilities. Codified within legislation drafted in 1938, this practice continues to occur in Colorado impacting some 1,173 Colorado citizens (please see attachment for a list of Colorado Community Rehabilitation Programs that continue to pay workers with disabilities less than

minimum wages). Additionally, this bill would require individualized annual plans for those workers presently affected that would facilitate their movement from sub-minimum wage positions to jobs paying minimum wage and above. Six years following passage of the act all 14(c) certificates would be disallowed.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT STATE GRANTS ELIMINATED FROM BUDGET: The current Senate and House budget proposals end funding for the title VI Supported Employment State Grants for public rehabilitation agencies. For Colorado this is an annual decrease of \$386,000 in funds to the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation ear marked for supported employment services.

NEW HR 1 ACTION ALERT, HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS PUT MEDICAID AT RISK: The current tax bills before Congress significantly reduce federal revenues over the next ten years. It is projected that this will put considerable pressure on future Congressional members to significantly cut domestic spending. Within the House budget blueprint passed in early October projections indicate that Medicaid would be cut by \$1.3 trillion and Medicare by nearly \$.5 trillion compared to current growth projections.

NEW HR 620 ALERT, ADA EDUCATION AND REFORM ACT: This bill is not up for a vote but would harm people's ability to request compliance with ADA accessibility standards. Thanks to Alicia for her word-smithing assistance (please see the revised action alert).

LETTER ON HCPF REORGANIZATION: The Council joined Alliance, JFK Partners and Disability Law Colorado in expressing concern to HCPF over the elimination of the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Concern was expressed the possibility that advocacy for people with I/DD may not be as vibrant without a division specifically focused on I/DD issues (please see the HCPF letter for detail).

EMPLOYMENT FIRST FOLLOW UP BILL: A bill that would follow up on the implementation of Employment First in Colorado is in the conceptual stage. Potential employment first bill for next Colorado legislative session re: 1) Office of Employment First to coordinate statewide implementation activities, 2) job coach certification to assure staff competency, 3) assessment-discovery implementation within CDLE and HCPF, 4) persons with disabilities and family education about employment to raise expectations, 5) a customized employment demonstration pilot and 6) implementation of SB 08-004, which created a work group to study how the State of Colorado could increase their hiring of people with I/DD.

Motions/Actions:

1. Alicia Eakins moved to approve the October, 2017 Committee meeting minutes and Kristen Erby seconded the motion. The Committee voted to approve the minutes as recorded.
2. Alicia, Kristin and Julie Schleusener expressed interest in receiving legislative lobbying training. Hal will make a recommendation.
3. Committee members were instructed to differentiate when speaking as a citizen vs. for the Council.
4. How do we share information and remain in compliance with the Open Records Act? Bob will send Alicia the latest guidance.
5. Bob will assure the Committee gets action alerts before they are sent out.

Council Committee Members Present: Clair Dickson (phone), Kristen Erby, Julie Schleusener (Phone), Hal Wright (Chair).

Community Committee Members Present: Michael Hoover.

Guests: Donna Downing.

Staff Present: Sue Fager, Vanessa Hernandez, Bob Lawhead.

Absent: Sen. Irene Aguilar, Robert Buzogany, Jeanette Cordova, Lisa Franklin, Patricia Henke, Sarah Metsch, Willie Wade, Deborah Marks Williams.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. Draft Agenda for 11.21.17 Meeting
2. Draft Minutes for 10.17.17 L&PP Meeting
3. HR 620 Action Alert
4. TIME Act summary (emailed separately)