



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Google Meet/Video Online

DRAFT MINUTES

The Public Policy Standing Committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) was convened Tuesday, January 26, 2021 via webinar. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present	
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Scott Lindbloom, Chairperson, Telephone	Katharine Levandowsky, Telephone
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Wendy Parent-Johnson, Telephone	Mary Slaughter, Telephone
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Members Absent	
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Meghan Cox

Janna Murrell

Staff	Guests
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Erica McFadden, Executive Director	
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Marcella Crane, Staff	
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Sarah Ruf, Staff	
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Jason Snead, Staff	
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A. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairperson Scott Lindbloom welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Public Policy Standing Committee meeting. Mary Slaughter is a new council member and joined the Public Policy committee. The meeting was called to order at 2:045 P.M. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the September 14, 2020 Public Policy Standing Committee were reviewed. A motion was made by Kathy Levandowsky to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Wendy Parent-Johnson. The motion carried.

C. Review of Rules, Guidance:

Marcella Crane, staff for the committee, went over the rules/guidance document created for the Public Policy committee members. She reminded everyone that as the state legislation session began, that this committee will review and prioritize all legislation that impacts the disability community. In addition, that per our standing as a federally funded council, the members of the ADDPC are prohibited from lobbying activities. However, council members are encouraged to engage in education and advocacy issues and can reach out to their own district legislators representing themselves.

Sarah Ruf and Jason Snead discussed the Request to Speak (RTS) process. The RTS is the system to register yourself to speak on behalf of piece of legislation. There is no online registration system that anyone can access across the state or in their homes. The RTS system is only found in a kiosk within the House and Senate buildings and requires a person to go to the capitol to register, thus making it this process inaccessible and burdensome. Sarah has engaged with the staff at the capitol to educate them on how this is barrier to the disability community and others who do not live in the Phoenix area. She has made numerous attempts to have this updated and changed. A recent news story in the AZ Capitol Times (January 21, 2021) featured Jason Snead, in which he communicated the need to have the RTS system updated and accessible. For now, anyone can log into <https://www.azleg.gov> to only view hearings online.

Bill Priority Process – Staff jointly stated that we're all looking at current bills that have been introduced to track which ones will be posted on the ADDPC's website. Internally, Jason created a google doc. for staff to provide a quick view of the bill and to see if it should be posted on our public website. We're currently at 84 bills but not all them will be posted, and many will not be scheduled for a committee hearing. We're also working with our partners to determine what bills they are tracking. Kathy asked if the search button on our website can be used to search for legislation and if the bills will be grouped into categories. Staff will investigate both and see what can be worked out.

D. Update on Current Legislation; Key Bills:

As previously stated, the ADDPC has looked at over 700 bills posted, and we've created a tracking list that includes 84 bills, with more to be reviewed until the deadlines approach in the House and Senate for when a bill may be introduced. Marcy Crane also mentioned we're tracking any bills to change election laws in AZ as this will be an issue for most citizens that worry about barriers to voting. She highlighted just a few of the bills from Representative Longdon; all of these bills have been introduced but not yet assigned to a House Committee:

- H2532 Emotional Abuse; Vulnerable Adults
- H2533 Statewide ADA Coordinator; Appropriation
- H2534 Health Care Institutions; Education; Abuse
- H2535 Mandatory Reporting; Vulnerable Adults
- H2538 Supported Decision-Making; Supporter

Also mentioned were deadline dates to be aware of

- February 1 is the last day for bills to be introduced in the Senate
- February 8 is the last day for bills to be introduced in the House
- February 10 is the last day a Senate bill to be heard in 1 committee or it's 'dead'
- February 19 is the last day for a House bill to be heard in 1 committee or it's 'dead'
- March 26 is the last day for House consideration of Senate bills; and the Senate to hear House bills.

E. Federal Legislation Update:

Staff is monitoring the new changes in the Biden/Harris administration, especially with the New COVID-19 of \$1.9 trillion legislative package. It includes a number of funding provisions, but not all of the funding will be approved by Congress. As information becomes available, updates on this piece of legislation and anything further with rule making, regulation changes and the new Secretary of Health and Human Services will be provided.

F. State Policy Changes and Updates:

Erica McFadden stated that she and the DD Network have created a letter that will be sent to each of the 15 county health departments to prioritize the disability community and their family/caregivers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a lot of misinformation and lack of information on the rollout of the vaccine and many in the disability community have voiced their concerns. Council members are encouraged to provide feedback and it will be sent by the end of the week. Erica continues to work with work group to address neglect and abuse, currently ensuring that information and signage that is posted is provided in plain language. With respects to the COVID vaccine rollout plan, Kathy stated she is concerned about the providers having more restrictions or changing their plans for I/DD persons. Mary stated that pharmacies are providing vaccines to group homes.

G. Other Issues for Group Discussion:

Wendy stated that the Sonoran UCEDD has four policy fellows.
Scott stated that North Eastern University may open a satellite campus in AZ.

H. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Mary Slaughter to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kathy Levandowsky. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:08 P.M.