



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, December 10, 2018

1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 306, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

DRAFT MINUTES

The Public Policy Standing Committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) was convened Monday, December 10, 2018 at the ADDPC Office, 3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 306, Phoenix, Arizona 85012. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present

Scott Lindbloom, Chairperson, Telephone	George Garcia, Telephone
Janna Murrell, In-person	Melissa Van Hook, In-person
Katharine Levandowsky, Telephone	

Members Absent

Jason Snead

Staff	Guests
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Erica McFadden, Executive Director	Jon Meyers, The Arc of Arizona
Marcella Crane, Staff	
Julie Whitaker, Staff	

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. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the May 10, 2018 Public Policy Standing Committee were reviewed. A motion was made by George Garcia to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kathy Levandowsky. The motion carried.

C. Update on Federal/State Legislation

Julie Whitaker and Jon Meyers, Executive Director for the Arc of Arizona, reviewed federal legislation that is pending in Congress, that may or may not move forward before the end of the year. The following are bills or points made:

- FY 19 level funding for the DD Councils was secured at \$76 million. Discussions between the WH and Congress for FY 20 funding will begin in February 2019.
- The HEADS UP Act, is to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and improve health care services by health centers and the National Health Service Corps for individuals with I/DD. Other provisions in the bill include i.) Loan repayment and training programs to medical professionals providing care to people with I/DD in HSRA's Workforce Development and Training Programs including the National Health Service Corps Scholarships; ii.) Financial incentives for medical providers to treat people with IDD in the form of higher Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates; iii.) Incentivize new research; iv.) Federal funding for health centers and public health infrastructure such as Federally Qualified Health centers (FQHC); and v.) Eligibility to apply for federal funding for community health centers. Also in the language of the bill is a heavy emphasis on specialized dental care for individuals with disabilities
- Medicaid Work Requirement Waiver is for states to submit in plans to CMS to require Medicaid recipients to meet work/education requirements. This would have a hardship for those individuals with I/DD, caregivers and others that qualify for Medicaid. CMS has approved 4 states, with 10 more pending, including AZ's plan.
- The Support ABLE Age Adjustment Act will amend the ABLE Act age requirement, that an individual with I/DD can open an ABLE account from 26 to 46 years of age.
- Immigration/Public Charge Rule was open until December 10, 2018 for public comment. This proposed Rule change to immigration policy is to deny public benefits to current aliens and permanent residents already in the U.S., and also to deny public benefits to new immigrants coming into the U.S. if they are considered a burden. If enacted, this would harm individuals with I/DD.
- IMPROVE Act or Follow the Money bill is to re-authorize funding to 2022. Follow the Money is a program that allows individuals with I/DD and seniors to stay in their communities and not in group home settings. It passed the House and needs a vote in the Senate before signature by the president.
- Air Carrier Access Amendment Act is to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, makes various provisions that airlines must comply with.
- ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 allows individuals with disabilities to be discriminated against by business that fails to comply with the ADA law as it is right now, with new provisions that put the responsibility on the person with a disability to give notice to the business first before any action will take place (i.e. the business owner should already have their business ADA compliant).
- Farm Bill – as of Tuesday, December 11, the Senate has finalized the re-authorization of the bill that rejects array of harmful provisions that cut SNAP benefits that were proposed by the House. SNAP benefits helps over 40 million Americans who struggle against food insecurity to buy food. Cuts to SNAP benefits would have impacted children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and working families. The final version of the Senate bill will voted on by both chambers and (hopefully) signed by the

President. It re-authorized every 5 years, with 80% of the funding supporting SNAP benefits.

- The government is funded until December 21, 2019, there are 7 appropriation bills that need to be signed before midnight on 12/21. A large sticking point for one the appropriation bills that funds the Dept. of Homeland Security is the president's request of \$5 billion to fund the border wall. This contentious matter will play out over next few weeks as the Republicans still control the House/Senate. There is discussion that the president may sign the other 6 appropriation bills to fund the other federal agencies.
- In terms of the state legislature, the session will begin on January 14, 2019. Staff will be monitoring bills that may have an impact on persons with I/DD.
- Jon Meyers gave the committee a brief update on the Supported Decision-Making project. The ADDPC recently awarded the grant to Southwest Institute for Children & Families. A coalition of interested parties will be meeting to develop a strategic plan on how to educate family members, guardians and others to move away from Guardianship to Supported Decision-Making or other options that will give persons with I/DD more choice. The grantee and coalition members will also address new legislation and there is a possibility that Senator Brophy-McGee may sponsor this bill in the upcoming session.

D. Medicaid and Dental Care

Scott Lindbloom is working with AZ Representative Tom O'Halleran staff, Keith Brekhus, to address the gap in funding for dental care coverage for adults and seniors. Currently, there is a \$1,000 coverage for children covered under AHCCCS (ALTCS eligible). With the new Congress beginning next January, there will be legislation to strengthen Medicaid and Medicare, of which funding to support dental care for seniors and adults may be addressed.

E. Restraints & Seclusions in Private Schools

Melissa Van Hook, Co-Chair for the ADDPC, briefed the public policy committee on what is a fallout from the passage of Arizona's SB 1459 in 2015, a bill to address Restraints and Seclusions for school pupils. What has become evident is that public schools are following the law, however, private schools are not held accountable when it comes to how they address behavioral issues for students with I/DD, who and how training is addressed, and if these private schools have policies in place. Melissa is hearing from concerned parents that their son or daughter have been harmed. There are not a lot of remedies for parents to use to address this problem, they can either hire an attorney or file a complaint through the Office of Civil Rights. Melissa will be having further conversation with parents and her own legislators to see if this can be addressed through legislation. Due to time restraints, we'll bring back Melissa to the public policy committee for further updates and how the disability community can mobilize.

F. Project Update

Marcella Crane provided a brief update on the Voting Right's Project. The scope of work has been developed and NAU has submitted an application that has been reviewed by staff. Their application for \$79,021 will be reviewed/voted on in the Grants and Executive committees, scheduled in early January 2019.

G. Call to the Public

No further comments were made.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by Janna Murrell to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kathy Levandowsky. The motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Dated this 12th day of December, 2018
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council