

Developmental Disabilities Council
Public Policy Committee

Date: October 12, 2017
Time: 1:15 pm to 4:00pm

Place: Holiday Inn
802 E Yakima Ave
Yakima WA 98901
509-494-7000

Proposed Minutes

Members Present:

Helen Black (Chair), Janice Tornow, Mia Franklin, David Lord, Pat Shivers,
Mark Westenhaver, Mike Raymond,

Staff: Ed Holen, Emily Rogers

Call to Order

Helen Black, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair called for the approval of the July minutes. It was moved by Mike Raymond and seconded by Janice Tornow that the minutes of the July, 2017 Committee meeting, as published in Reading 17-PP-08 be approved. The motion was approved with Helen Black abstaining.

Role of the Committee

Staff reviewed the role of the Public Policy Committee as stated in the Council Charter.

Big Picture Work Plan

Staff reviewed the various activities of the Committee as outlined in the Big Picture Work Plan.

Interim Work Update

The “Interim” is the time between Legislative sessions. This is the time when state agencies develop possible bills for the up-coming Legislative session. They also prepare their budget requests. The 2018 Legislative session is a Supplemental Session (a short Legislative session) when the Legislature has time to make adjustments for the budget they passed in 2017.

DD Council staff and other advocates also use this time to prepare for the 2018 session. Here is some of the items they have been working on:

Federal Issues

Staff has been tracking two federal issues. First, the Congress needs to re-authorize the Children’s Healthcare Insurance Program, commonly known as CHIP. This is an insurance program for children. Along with the re-authorization comes the funding to keep the program going. Without the funding, the children served under CHIP will lose their coverage.

The second federal issue is the funding of Medicaid. Medicaid is the health care and social, long term services program that most clients of the Developmental Disabilities Administration rely upon for every day supports and services. Changes to the Medicaid program were included in the various proposals to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. While this legislation is stalled in the U.S. Senate, there is still a chance that Medicaid funding could be cut through the budget process. (See Attachment 1 to the minutes)

DDA Waiver Renewals

Recently, the DD Administration received approval from the Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend their waivers.

However, in that renewal, CMS is requiring that a client receive services that are medically necessary and behavioral health from the state plan first instead of from a Waiver. DD Administration is making the adjustment. An overview of the issue is attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

DD Supported Housing

DDC staff have worked to draw together ideas people have to improve access to housing. Staff presented a DD Supported Housing paper. If there is enough support, this might be introduced before the Legislature in 2018. See Attachment 3 to the minutes.

Transition from School to Adulthood

Work is being done to make transition from school into adulthood more effective. This includes discussion includes Schools, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DD Administration and Advocates.

Community Guides and Community Engagement Providers

Community Engagement and Community Guides are two waiver services. The main purpose of the services are to assist a DD client to do something meaningful in their lives. It focuses on helping a person accomplish something they want to do.

Being a waiver service, the service must be provided by a contracted provider. The DDC has undertaken a project to recruit and train providers interested in providing these services.

Supported Decision Making

Staff handed out a white paper on Supported Decision Making. There has been some discussion about Supported Decision Making and Shirley Bondon referred to it in a presentation at the last full Council meeting. The white paper is attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

2018 Legislative Session

Ed passed out a copy of the Legislative Agenda for 2017. He walked through the document noting the approach that the Council has used in the past. He asked members to further review the document. We asked that if anyone has changes to propose they do so by e-mail. The Legislative Agenda for 2018 will be updated, including any revisions and will be presented to the Committee and to the Full Council at the January meetings for adoption.

2018 Legislative Reception

The 2018 Legislative Reception will be January 17, 2018. The DDC meeting will follow on Jan 18 and 19 in Olympia.

Emily Rogers will coordinate the planning of the Reception. If anyone is interested, please contact Emily.

Agenda Items for January meeting

The following items are requested for the Jan meeting:

- Update on the 2018 session/bills and budget
- Update on the Advocacy Partnership
- Approval of the DDC 2018 Legislative Agenda
- Presentation from the Poverty Action Network on their priorities

What that, the meeting was adjourned.