

THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2018

Location: PA Department of Education's Heritage Room
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Members in Attendance:

Alcidonis, Rodelyn	Molczan, Jessica
Austin, Margie	Otarod, Ellaheh
Badger, Josie	Polishan, Roseann
Bartoli, Frank	Radecic, Peri Jude
Doan, Kim	Roth, Terry (Chair)
Goldstein, Sarah	Sayko, Madelaine
Hammersla-Quick, Michele	Seidl, Katherine
Hill, Elizabeth	Snyder, Rev. Sally Jo (Vice-Chair)
Jones-Furlow, Mary	Tuszynski, Heidi
Keltz, Lynn	

Absent Members:

Deibler, Everett (Excused)	Oakes, Ken (Excused)
Giambrone, Charles (Excused)	Pennington, Stephen (Excused)
Lipsitz, Kay (Excused)	Walker, Shirley (Excused)
Moran, Tim (Excused)	

Representatives of the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities:

Dept. of Aging: Faith Haeussler
Dept. of Banking: Becky McDicken
Department of Human Services: Jen Swails
Dept. of Labor and Industry: Sec. W. Gerard Oleksiak, Denise Verchimak (OVR),
Melissa Hawkins (ODHH)
Dept. of State: Jonathan Marks, Sindhu Ramachandran, Peter Speaks
PA Developmental Disabilities Council: Dana Thompson
PA Housing Finance Agency: Roberta Schwalm
PA State Civil Service Commission: Paula Marinak

Also in attendance was Devon Grant, Executive Director.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Terry Roth called the meeting to order. With newly appointed members in attendance, everyone introduced themselves, and shared points about their motivation and purpose as a member of the GAC.

Next, Executive Director Devon Grant provided logistics for the meeting location and gave a brief overview of the Executive Order. Operating guidelines were touched on, as well as the diversity of the GAC member make-up. Chairperson Terry Roth added the importance of consistent member attendance as a valuable and helpful factor.

Mr. Grant gave a general summary of travel reimbursement procedures for the benefit of new members, which led into a discussion of former activities, such as regional meetings and full member meetings in different parts of the state, in an effort to increase participation. Ms. Roth would like to revisit discussion on ideas for reaching out to other parts of the state.

Review and Approval of February 16, 2018 Minutes

After confirming no comments or corrections to the draft previously distributed to the members, **Kathy Seidl made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2018, meeting, and Madelaine Sayko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Presentations and Feedback

Budget Update: Next, Jen Swails, Budget Director for the departments of Human Services, Aging, Health, and Drug & Alcohol Programs, provided a budget update. First Ms. Swails provided responses to questions from the last meeting. As to how the proposed employment first legislation would affect the budget, it appears that there would be no effect in terms of additional dollars. The Department of Labor & Industry did note that some dollars may need to be shifted from one item to another. Also, it was asked whether there was any money in the proposed budget for home modifications. They are covered by the Community Health Choices Aging waiver and the Independence waiver, but not under Act 150 or the Attendant Care waiver. Other than that, there really is no other budget update. Hopefully soon, we will start hearing that budget legislation is moving so that we get an on-time budget.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of budget dollars for the Community Hospitalization Integration Program Project (CHIPP) used to move people out of mental health institutions into the community. Ms. Swails responded that although there is not a separate line item in the 2018-2019 proposed budget, there are dollars available from prior years. It is anticipated that approval will be given to use those prior year dollars. This would be in addition to closing the civil unit of the Norristown State Hospital, which would then provide additional beds for the forensic unit in order to satisfy the settlement agreement of the ACLU lawsuit.

Ms. Swails also reported that there have not been any budget discussions about mental health funding to address the issue of school violence.

Next, Ms. Swails talked about funding of programs specific to a particular disability. There are about five to seven of these line items that the Department of Health zeroes out of the proposed budget every year, which are then added back as part of the legislative process.

In addition, the Governor's proposed budget includes an ID waiting list initiative, and funding to immediately serve 2019 graduates so they do not have a summer gap in services.

Aging and Disability Resources Office (ADRO) Update: Faith Haeussler, Department of Aging, ADRO Program Manager, c-fhaeussl@pa.gov 717-736-9402, discussed person centered counseling and the PA Links.

Known nationally as the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), Pennsylvania has established 52 PA Links to Aging and Disability Resources (PA Links) that cover all 67 counties to improve access to long term care supports through an integrated network of local partners committed to expanding the use of community based solutions, promoting consumer directed decision making, and improving quality of services regardless of age, physical/developmental disability, or ability to pay.

Person centered counseling was launched statewide in 2012. It is intended to be a support level between simple information and referral, and care management. Person centered counseling focuses on helping people begin the process of long term services and supports. It is administered through the Area Agencies on Aging, the Centers for Independent Living, and a few other longstanding supports coordination agencies. Although it operates under the Department of Aging, it supports people with all disabilities, not just the aging population. Assistance includes transition needs, waiver enrollment, transportation needs, food insecurities, and financial assistance. The number to get started is 1-800-753-8827. More information is available on the website www.carelink.pa.gov.

Ms. Haeussler can be reached at c-fhaeussl@pa.gov or 717-736-9402.

Voting Machine Testing and Certification: Jonathan Marks, Commissioner, Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, jmarks@pa.gov, and Sindhu Ramachandran, Voting System Analyst, Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, sramachand@pa.gov, first reported that although the topic of their presentation today is voting system examinations and certification, the bureau continues to work on polling place accessibility as discussed at previous meetings. Previously, the polling place accessibility coordinator was paid using 100% federal grant money. However, as that

grant is ending, the bureau has been able to shift that position to about 98% state money today.

Commissioner Marks also reported that the commonwealth has changed how it charges voting systems manufacturers for the certification process. Previously, the manufacturer was charged a flat fee of \$3,000 for examination, testing and certification in Pennsylvania. However, the actual cost was between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Now, the manufacturer must reimburse the commonwealth for the actual cost of the certification process. This model is more in line with the process in other states.

Next, Commissioner Marks talked about how voting technology has changed over the last two decades, and how the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) came about. Accessibility of voting equipment was not the primary focus of HAVA, but HAVA did require that each polling place have at least one accessible machine. HAVA also created guidelines for oversight and standards of voting systems. Under Pennsylvania law, voting systems must first be certified at the federal level, and then again here at the state level.

Commissioner Marks then touched on the various types of voting system technology currently in use across the commonwealth. The next generation of voting systems use a hybrid of touch screen technology, but also produce a paper ballot that can be scanned optically. These systems are not only more secure, they are more resilient in response to power outages, or other factors. Also, it is more likely that the machines will be leased rather than purchased outright by the counties so that they can easily be replaced more often as technology changes. All counties will be required to have new machines in use before the 2020 primary. There is limited funding available to help the counties pay for the new machines.

Currently, five vendors are interested in having their voting systems certified in Pennsylvania. Examinations are open to the public. All are encouraged to attend and give feed-back on the different voting systems. The next examination is June 25, 2018. Additional information is available on the website www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections.

Committee members offered a number of recommendations and comments including those related to privacy, security issues, poll workers accessibility awareness training, and accessibility of polling places and voting machines for people who are blind, deaf, or deaf-blind.

Employment First: Secretary Jerry Oleksiak, Dept. of Labor & Industry (L&I), then provided an update on the Governor's Employment First Executive Order. As lead agency, L&I has been very busy. A class of summer interns; students with disabilities, are being placed in various agencies throughout the commonwealth with the goal of the interns learning what the commonwealth offers for employment. Secondary goal is for the Commonwealth to learn how to increase opportunities for employees with a disability in public service.

Sec. Oleksiak also attended the graduation ceremony at the Hiram G. Andrews Center. One graduate expressed the unique perspective that now he would have the opportunity to be fired, explaining that he would be expected to perform just like workers without disabilities so that he would not get fired.

Discussion then included the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation serving people already employed that acquire a disability who need to go back to work, and legislation to revise Pennsylvania's Civil Service Commission, including a commonwealth version of the federal Schedule A program that would fast-track the hiring of people with disabilities within commonwealth employment. *[Post-meeting Note: Senate Bill 1037, Civil Service Commission Reforms, passed the Senate on June 5, 2018, by a vote of 49-0.]*

Finally, Devon Grant gave an update on proposed Employment First legislation. Two identical bills (HB1641, SB21) have each passed their respective chambers and are awaiting consideration in the opposite chamber. These bills would make Employment First the permanent policy in Pennsylvania. *[Post-meeting Note: House Bill 1641, The Employment First Act establishing Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the Employment First Oversight Commission, passed the House on December 11, 2017, by a vote of 191-0, and passed the Senate on June 12, 2018, by a vote of 49-0.]*

Strategic Planning: Ms. Roth stated that the September 7th meeting will be devoted to more formal strategic planning. In addition, a Listening Call will be scheduled to hear what topics individuals with disabilities, their families, and advocates want to be addressed. Members then brainstormed some high level ideas that they would like to see this advisory committee address in the coming months. The following issues were raised:

- Budget – advise the governor on how state money should be spent
- Adult protective serves between the ages of 18 and 59
- How Community Health Choices (CHC) will impact needs and services for people with disabilities
- Employment of people with disabilities / Employment First
- Direct service professionals – recruitment, wages and retention initiatives for both intellectual disabilities and behavioral / mental health; and need for clearances
- U.S. Census to count all individuals in group homes, state hospitals / centers
- Cameras on buses
- Ableism
- Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD)
- Closing of state centers
- Elimination of waiting lists
- Financial Education
- Financial Abuse
- Community Mental Health, Advocacy for lost funding
- Abuse and neglect as Hate Crime

- General voting rights and issues including accessibility
- Transportation

Public Comment

MaryAnn McDaniel-Kulesa discussed shortfalls in the Community Health Choices managed care policy development for her and other people living in rural areas.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on September 7, 2018.