

Commissioners Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2014

Commissioners

Jacqueline Romer-Sensky, Chair
Jack Licate, Ph. D., Vice-Chair
Jermaine Brown

David Daugherty
Michelle Dillingham

Staff

Erik Williamson, DDD Deputy Director, Susan Pugh, BVR Deputy Director, Mindy Duncan, BSVI Deputy Director, Kevin Holtsberry, Office of Communications Director, Shirley Marchi, Community Relations Liaison, Maria Seaman, Budget Manager, Donna Foster, Disability Advocate, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

Teleconference:

Barbara Corner, Disability Rights Ohio, Mark Seifarth, former Commissioner and member of the Developmental Disabilities Council

Guests: Matt Sauer, Ph. D., Chair, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Daugherty moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Licate moved to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

2015 Commissioners' Meeting Dates

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the 2015 Commissioner's Meeting dates as follows: January 21, March 18, May 20, August 5-6 (Retreat/YLF), October 21, December 16, seconded by Commissioner Daugherty. Motion carried.

Program Planning Committee Report

Updates on the various OOD programs were provided and will be covered later in the Commissioners' Meeting by BVR/BSVI Deputy Directors Pugh and Duncan.

Budget and Audit Committee Report

Chair Daugherty reported the Budget and Audit Committee met last week. Staff has developed new budget reports. The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council Audit was discussed.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 ended September 30. Vendors will continue to be paid for FFY 2014 through the end of December. The fiscal books for FFY 2014 will close the end of January.

Internal spending on case services is below what was projected. VR served more people, which mean the costs per case are moving in the right direction.

The FFY 2015 reports are through the end of the second month of the year (the end of November). The numbers identified in the Sources Report for FFY 2015 are projected numbers based on FFY 2014. The budget has not been passed by the federal government.

We are projecting the Employment First project will have spending growth. Everything else is stable.

Carryover dollars is now referred to as time-limited funds. Every year OOD carries forward time-limited funds that move into the next year, which is needed for OOD to maintain stability in its budget. If time-limited funds were liquidated in one year, it would leave the program short the next year. To be stable, a certain amount of time-limited funds is needed each year. Several years ago, the federal government did not like the fact that OOD carried forward almost an entire year's grant of \$70 million. OOD shrunk it to about \$40 million, and then we shrunk it down to \$25 million. The time-limited funds are projected on the Sources Reports.

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) asked each state agency to create exercises of what the agency would look like if it received 90 percent of GRF, or flat non-GRF funds, or an additional 10 percent GRF plus any growth in non-GRF line items to help support the VR program.

For the last two biennial budgets and as part of their advocacy role the Commissioners have gone on record with the Governor, the Senate President and Speaker, sharing their hope and advocacy for full state General Revenue Funding (GRF) that would allow OOD to match the full federal allocation. Commissioner Daugherty moved to authorize Commissioners to send budget letters to the leader of the General Assembly and Governor Kasich, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Commissioners may be needed to testify in the Senate sometime in January.

Executive Director's Report

The Workforce Integration Taskforce report is due to Governor Kasich by January 1, 2015.

OOD is working with the Department of Job and Family Services on the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Ohio will be moving from a 209B State to a 1634 State. Currently Ohio is under a 209B State and parallel systems are being run for Medicaid and Social Security. People believe that when they file for Medicaid, they have filed for Social Security and vice versa. In 1965 or 1966, Ohio implemented a system at the same time the federal government implemented their system. When Ohio moves to a 1634 State, it will be better for Ohioans who are looking for employment.

OOD hosted several successful job fairs. The OHBLN has over 55 members.

OOD could reach up to a 15 percent in cost reduction per case. We have served more people, got more outcomes, and spent less money doing it than we did previously. OOD never limited service; we asked how are we purchasing services and how often are we purchasing services and what is the outcome based on those. The VR counselors have responded positively.

OOD is strategizing on how to make sure professionals (e.g., ophthalmologists, audiologists, etc.) understand who we are. From a recruitment standpoint, OOD is focused heavily on businesses, partnering with other state agencies, and professional boards.

OOD is talking with the OH Department of Education to have OOD counselors embedded in the school districts so the local students who have individual education plans could work with OOD on an individual employment plan.

OOD is supportive of the Youth Leadership Forum. OOD cannot pay for students who are not OOD consumers. We need to engage the Ohio Department of Education, the DD Council and several other agencies to assist with funding for non-OOD consumers.

Commissioners congratulated OOD staff for beginning to serve individuals with disabilities identified as "D" category for the first time since 1991 (begins next week).

Also congratulations to the DDD Fraud Unit for being number one in the country in identifying fraudulent cases.

Legislative Update

There is no legislation or amendments that impact OOD. The House is meeting to concur in a few bills that have already passed the Senate and to take care of some farewells and housekeeping. Any legislation that is not on the House calendar today for concurrence will not be making it and will start again in the next General Assembly. This afternoon, they are wrapping up in the House will formally close out the General Assembly.

We are hoping to have our new legislative liaison after the lame duck session is over. We have met with our new legislative liaison twice. Hopefully he will be on board after the first of the year.

Commissioner Jack Licate's term as Commissioner ends September, 2015. He is eligible for reappointment.

Business Relations Report

The Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN) has grown to 55 members with additions of CVS Pharmacy and Lowe's. The OHBLN Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at OOD on

January 16, 2015 to have their retreat. The retreat will cover their strategic planning meeting on the activities of the OHBLN for the upcoming year.

The first year of the Central Ohio Workplace Initiative (COWI) grant ended on October 23. There were 87 placements. For the upcoming year, OOD has a requirement to place 140 individuals with disabilities. In addition to the placement goals, we have been given permission by the Foundation to expand the Initiative beyond Central Ohio into the northeast, northwest and southwest areas of the state. A position description with the roles and responsibilities of a Caseload Assistant is being created to commensurate with this Initiative. The position will be posted in the near future.

The Job Fairs that were held in corroboration with the Disability Employment Initiative grant through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services are completed. They took place in October and November. There were over 360 consumers who participated at the Cleveland event, over 150 consumers who participated in the Toledo event and over 50 consumers who participated in the Portsmouth event.

The Business Sourcing Analyst (BSA) from Cleveland worked with CVS to join the OHBLN and the BSA from Toledo worked with Lowe's to join the OHBLN.

Division of Disability Determination Report

DDD began its year about 3,000 cases ahead of where it was this same time last year. DDD's receipts are much higher than last year because we have been asking for additional cases from the field offices to get them in the pipeline soon enough to complete them during the fiscal year. DDD does not have a final budget yet. Final workload numbers and budget numbers should be available soon. Numbers could be adjusted throughout the year. The Fraud Unit is number one in the country; however that still represents less than one percent of all the cases and the people DDD serves.

The Governor has given verbal approval to move from a 209B Medicaid state to a 1634 Medicaid State which means DDD will take the disability determinations for the state. This should be a very minimal workload. Moving to a 1634 state removes the spend-down requirement, which is very helpful not only for the consumer but it takes a lot of work off the county boards so they do not have to do the paperwork each month. The first meeting was held yesterday with a group who is navigating through the process. We anticipate September 2015 as a start date with moving caseloads to DDD.

Medicaid Expansion means that if you are at 139 percent of the federal poverty level or below you automatically are qualified for Medicaid. There was a large portion of both demographics and incomes that would have excluded people previously. This meant a lot of people would have come to Job and Family Services first and then the Department of Medicaid for a Medicaid disability determination. The vast numbers of those people no longer need disability determination; they automatically qualify under Expansion. However, there are several

different groups that are still exceedingly specific and they are looking to see who would have applied for SSI, but who would not qualify for Medicaid, only determination; or who would not make it into Group A under Expansion. There are a number of subsets under the entire Medicaid approval group. We are trying to figure out which of those will still need a disability determination from DDD. With the Expansion, Medicaid is income-driven. If an individual is within that income guideline, then he/she is eligible now.

Cromnibus budget is a new term. Homeland Security was left out of the budget, but will continue funding in a Continuing Resolution (Continuing Resolution and Omnibus – CROMNIBUS).

VR Report

VR's key metrics (eligibility, plan writing, and closures) are up from last year's performance and are on track for the current fiscal year goals.

VR is looking at the Needs Assessment results county by county with certain populations and trying to target disability populations where we weren't proportionally serving. We are beginning to think of VR as a disability services agency and as a workforce agency. As a workforce agency, we need to think of what kinds of outreach strategies can we now employ. For example, a counselor went to a job fair and ended up getting 12 or so referrals from a job fair of job seekers with disabilities that could use our help in finding them a job. This is a piece of our business engagement strategy. We also hear from employers that they have a disability management needs that we might be able to help with for their current employees. We are also looking at how we are interfacing with the one-stops and our workforce partners in terms of getting referrals. This is a new way of thinking. We are exploring colleges and other different places where job seekers with disabilities would be. Another strategy is that we have received a lot of referrals from word-of-mouth – people who have received our services in the past. We would like to have more discussions with current consumers to give a card to hand out to people who could benefit from our services. We have an increase for capacity availability due to the addition of Employment First caseloads.

VR is beginning talks with the Department of Education to replicate what we are doing with Employment First but on the education side.

On Monday, we will release individuals with disabilities who are in category D.

VR is in the final stages of preparing the Provider Score Cards. The Providers should be getting their score card to vet and review in January. We are using Federal Fiscal Year 2014 information. We plan to have talks with the Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) in the field for them to understand they are under WIOA. The eligible training providers which are under WIOA must do some additional reporting of outcomes. The Department of Labor is developing Score Cards for the eligible training provider list. This is the environment of transparency and accountability that we see in this new legislation. It is important for Providers

to know they are part of a bigger community of people that are being looked at in a closer way and with data.

BSVI is up to 110 outcomes this year compared to 75 outcomes this same time last year. Application time is down another seven days. We are in the process of hiring staff, for the Independent Living Older Blind program, who will be bringing case management work in-house.

One of the Business Enterprise Programs (BE) in the Riffe Center has completed a major remodeling. It is proudly serving Starbucks. Schools are making overtures inquiring about the BE Program.

We are talking with The Ohio State Apprenticeship Council and they are inviting us to come and speak to their employers who sit on that Council so we can start looking at apprentice applications and how can we increase access for our consumers to enter these programs because employers are paying the wage while people are in training.

VR is in an expansion mode. We want to do the right work with the right people and want to stay in an accountability environment that we are trying to create that get results for consumers and making sure that VR maintains a balance. We have to balance good pressure on getting numbers with not creating an environment where people are over focused on the numbers. Staying in the center is hard work.

Youth Leadership Forum

Commissioners recognized Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) member Larry McCartney, who passed away recently, for his contributions to the YLF.

GCPD Chair Matt Sauer and Disability Advocate Donna Foster discussed the challenges with the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). YLF began in California. In 1989, California's GCPD decided to promote the employment of all people with disabilities more effectively by doing more to inspire and prepare youth who are disabled. By developing leadership skills of young people with disabilities could help them to confront the barriers to employment and social participation they face as they become adults. YLF started in 1992. The program was replicated in other states.

The biggest challenge with YLF is the funding. OOD can only pay for current consumers to attend. This leaves a huge gap, because we have juniors and seniors who have disabilities and are not consumers of OOD. There are about 68 percent OOD consumers who participate and 32 percent are non-OOD consumers. Last year, YLF cost about \$60,000 for a five-day program. The cost included about 85 people, reasonable accommodations, hotel, food, etc. There is no cost to the students. In the past three years, we have had a private donor to give \$25,000 to provide for all the costs associated with non-OOD consumers and items the state is

unable to purchase like T-shirts or lanyards, etc. The private donor made it clear last year they had other things to donate to. The YLF curriculum includes leadership around policy, political engagement, civic engagement, employment, a trip to the Statehouse. Mentors from the professional community participate.

There are two options. The first option, YLF can be purely for OOD consumers. The second option, YLF can include OOD consumers and non-OOD juniors and seniors with disabilities. In other states YLF is a program jointly sponsored by the Department of Education or Department of Developmental Disabilities. .

It is okay to get nonprofit status and raise money from business. But, the important thing is what do you want to see happen. If this program meets the goals for the state as far as moving young individuals with disabilities into leadership roles and into higher education or into employment, then the state needs to decide that it is a worthy program and to fund it. The more we can project the funding, the more staff can spend time developing the program and not worrying about funding. If we look at having two YLF programs per year, then we need to look at staffing. If YLF has an institution home, then the creativity is unleashed.

Commissioners Romer-Sensky, Rees and Brown agreed to formulate a committee with Disability Advocate Donna Foster and Shirley Marchi to work on the model of YLF to include financial need, where the program should be housed, etc., in early January, 2015.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Daugherty. Motion carried.