

October 10, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members: Matthew Conaway, Kevin Harris, Hugh Kelly, Roxanne Cogil, Eric Evans

Absent Council Members:

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Public:

Welcome

Crowe and Harris welcomed all attendees.

Review Final Draft of Public Policy Priorities/Legislative Agenda Draft

Harris, Crowe, and Lovelace reviewed the final draft of the public policy priorities.

Iowans with Disabilities Learn section: Lovelace and Crowe recently met with representatives from the Department of Education, Barb Guy and Melissa Lawson. They do not think that the department is going to be working on the special education report for non-public schools. There is no plan for them to take proactive action but, they are okay with us bringing it to the forefront. They will provide additional information including data and background information to support what we are doing. Lovelace stated that she or Carlyn will apply to get on the education advisory council next June. The advisory council is called SEAP (Special education advisory panel.)

Iowans with disabilities work section: Crowe stated there have been questions regarding Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and what to support. Crowe and Lovelace talked through this with the governor's office health policy advisor and they are aware what we are working on. We will be doing follow-up with him to find out what the Governor is working on regarding the Workforce program and employment first values. Lovelace spoke with them at length about the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) grant. Werger has asked governor to visit with him at his place of employment and the Governor's office is working on this.

Iowans with disabilities thrive section: Lovelace spoke with Liz Matney. Matney was worried about lowering Medicaid budget because of Glenwood closing. There will still be other facility services to support along with community services so the Medicaid budget needs to at least remain the same. Our priorities include an annual rate increase for providers that we changed the description of that after speaking with Matney. Matney also asked for support for the waiver redesign project. It's called the Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments (HOME) project. Community conversations about this project will be happening throughout the state. The dates for these are on InfoNet.

Iowans with Disabilities Vote section: No changes except adding to provide ballots in plain language.

Discuss Dates for Release, Open House, and Legislative Reception

- Virtual Open House – Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 12 PM

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

- Legislative Session begins – Monday January 8, 2024
- Legislative reception at Capitol – Wednesday, January 24 at 2 PM
 - ❖ Independent Living Day on the Hill

Evans stated that VR will be doing their State Rehab Council at the Capitol on January 24 from 7-9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to stop by.

Allies in Advocacy will be doing an open house the evening of January 24 at the Historical Society

Moving Forward

Crowe asked if anyone had ideas to get advocates involved. An information campaign is coming that will include press releases and social media. Harris suggested attending more open houses and fundraising events for legislators in their hometown areas. Cogil stated providing legislators with bill numbers related to our priorities is helpful. This month is great for promoting workplace involvement since we are doing Take Your Legislator to Work. An advocate took their legislator to work today in Hampton. The Take Your Legislator to Work project will be promoted throughout the fall. Harris said a greater social media push in the next two months would be good. Lovelace stated two people have participated in this project so far, and two more are waiting to hear if their legislators will attend. Crowe stated there may be a few in Iowa City with the UI REACH students also. Cogil will follow up with her legislator as there are three potential workplaces for them to visit near her.

Update on Formal Formation of Public Policy Committee

The bylaws were updated to formalize the public policy committee. Council members are required to have 30 days to review the updated bylaws. The updated bylaws will be discussed at the next council meeting and then voted on. The proposed bylaws include having the Executive Committee (EC) appoint the Chair and at least four members at large to the Public Policy Committee each July. If the bylaws are approved during the November meeting, the EC will appoint members to the Public Policy Committee sooner than July this year. Members will serve one-year terms that expire in July each year and there are no term limits. Another change to the bylaws is that the EC will also review the Conflict-of-Interest policy each year.

Section VII is the additional section that is added to the bylaws. It reads:

Article VII **Public Policy Committee**

Section I.

Membership: *The Public Policy Committee shall be composed of at least 5 members as follows: the Chair and four members-at-large. The Chairperson of the Council will serve as the ex-officio of the Public Policy Committee. In event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Council shall vote. The Chairperson of the Council in the absence or incapacity of the Chair of the Public Policy Committee, shall perform the duties of the*

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

Chair.

Section II.

Duties:

- A. *Public Policy Committee shall propose to the full council an annual public policy agenda and will propose non-partisan activities corresponding to that agenda. Activities will meet federal guidelines for advocating in public policy and will not be construed as lobbying.*
- B. *Public Policy Committee will work with the Public Policy Manager to assist with reviewing and tracking current and proposed legislation impacting persons with developmental disabilities.*
- C. *Public policy committee with guidance from the Public Policy Manager may provide education to the Legislature, and policy makers in regard to issues impacting people with developmental disabilities and their families.*
- D. *Other duties may be assigned by the Executive committee.*

Section III.

Terms/Eligibility: *Members of the Public Policy Committee, including the Chair, serve one-year terms. Any Public Policy Committee member may be elected to additional one-year terms. To be eligible for the Public Policy Committee, the person shall be a member of the Council with consistent attendance. Terms commence July 1 and end June 30 of the following year.*

It will be discussed who will be on the Public Policy committee at the Council meeting on November 9.

Crowe also updated the committee that Amy Campbell has contracted with a graphic designer who owns her own company and has a disability and she will be doing policy brief and bill fact sheet templates for us.

Next Meeting

November 14 @ 3:00 PM tentatively

Adjourn at 3:57 PM

Action Items

Cogil will follow up with her legislator about Take Your Legislator to Work.

Crowe to reach out to Emma Bouza to see about her meeting availability.

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.