

## April 14, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

**Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members:** Matthew Conaway, Mark Smith, Carol Cross, Roxanne Cogil, Steve Steveson

**Absent Council Members:** Kristen Aller, Brady Werger, Brittney Drinovsky, Hugh Kelly, Rob Roozeboom

**Council Staff:** Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

**Public:** None

### Happenings

Carlyn sent out a bill tracking sheet prior to the meeting that will allow the committee to see the progress of bills that we are tracking.

This week, an additional bill that was introduced was a House study bill about caucuses. This bill states that a person has to be in-person to caucus. This bill was introduced in response the Democrats entertaining the idea that a person could caucus online or by mailing in their preferences. This bill also states that a person must declare their party 70 days prior to caucus day. This bill would make caucusing less accessible. This bill did pass sub-committee and committee and will go to the House floor.

The Public Assistance bill did pass last night after almost four hours of debate. Crowe stated we have been trying to get more information and clarification about the eligibility for Medicaid requirements but have been unsuccessful—specifically whether the “asset test” was for Medicaid and SNAP. Rep Fry stated during debate that the asset test is not for Medicaid, however this is not clear in the bill. The DD Council drafted a letter to the governor asking her to veto the bill so the bill requirements can be reviewed carefully before any decisions are made. Crowe shared the letter that will be sent to Governor. Cogil state that the Epilepsy Foundation is not currently sending a letter to the Governor about this. Lovelace stated the Olmstead Center is thinking of sending a letter but has not decided. Smith asked if this bill would affect individuals on waivers. Lovelace stated that potentially 8,000 people could be taken off Medicaid and this could include some waiver recipients because they may not return the needed paperwork on time. Crowe stated we tried to get clarification from HHS, Senators, and House Representatives and have not received clear answers. Lovelace stated the letter doesn’t address it but, it is also unclear if iAble accounts affect benefits. Cogil stated that if the letter is sent and the Governor still signs the bill, the DD Council should try to be involved in the administrative rules process. Lovelace stated that the federal government will have to sign off on all of this. Cogil suggested a phone call with the Governor’s office be arranged and the DD Council to talk with them. Smith asked if it was still stated in the bill that the legislature would continue to submit for approval every year until a federal administration approves the requirements of the bill. Lovelace stated she was unsure. Cogil asked if they introduced the bill because something wasn’t working correctly. Lovelace stated that several years ago, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was fined due to an audit being conducted and people were found to be on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) who did not qualify. This has already been addressed though by HHS over the last few years and fixes have been put in place so prevent this from happening again. Crowe stated that what legislators really want is a new computer system for determining eligibility and verification of identity. Crowe suggested adding something in the

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letter to the Governor about the 10-day deadline of receipt of documents being extended. Crowe stated an amendment was proposed to extend the 10-day deadline and it did not pass during debate.

Crowe stated that the comprehensive transition scholarships bill did not make the funnel so, we have asked that they be included in the appropriations budget for Education. Crowe stated that the amount the state invests, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) can receive a federal match of \$3.70 for every \$1 that state spends. The budget request is \$200,000 and Sen, Taylor has indicated he may include it in the Education budget. Several other universities are considering having the accreditation programs so this could make a bigger impact in the future for more people who may consider these programs.

The Income Tax Exemption bill for direct support professionals (DSP) has passed out of the House subcommittee. We are hopeful that this bill will be added to the budget also.

Cogil stated that the Seizure Smart companion bill passed through the House and went to the Senate. It just needs to pass through the Senate floor before the Governor's desk. The House bill sponsor was looking for another vehicle to move the bill in case the Senate did not end up taking it up on the floor. They are trying to get Senator Whitver to put the bill on the Senate debate calendar. School superintendents, private schools, and school boards are opposed to the bill because they want local control. Teachers want the training and want to be educated. Cogil stated the Governor seems supportive.

The Medicaid Recovery bill is a budget bill. This bill would get more federal dollars matched by taxing the Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) then the money would be put back into Medicaid and qualify for the federal match.

Block grant requests were approved.

Smith stated he received the email about the virtual meeting with Joni Ernst on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Lovelace stated some DD Council members will be invited. The meeting is only for thirty minutes. Cogil asked what federal priorities we are going to be discussing. Lovelace stated we will be addressing the bill that would eliminate the waiting lists across the nation for Home and Community Based services (HCBS). Also, the bill that makes Money Follows the Person (MFP) permanent for all states. We can't ask for funding for the DD Council. Lovelace stated Werger will be in D.C. at the same time we have the meeting with Senator Ernst. He may be able to meet with other legislators while he is there. Crowe stated she has a couple of talking sheets from Disability Policy Seminar for these issues that we can use for our meetings. Cogil asked if there is anything we need to bring up about federal matches for the waivers during the meeting. Lovelace we may discuss modernizing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and DD Council legislative priorities. The idea of updating the ADA was discussed and Conaway brought up "ADA-qualified disabilities."

## Action Items

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

# IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

Crowe to send out talking sheets.

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