



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Adult and Child Protective Services Workgroups Kick-off; *Groups to discuss money distribution and programmatic reforms*

Workgroups on adult protective services and child protective services funding kicked off their statutory duties yesterday in a joint meeting led by Governor's Office of Health Transformation Director Greg Moody and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Cynthia Dungey.

The discussions are on a tight timeframe, as the first statutory charge of each group is to recommend to ODJFS by September 30, 2014 a distribution method for \$10M allocated to adult protective services and \$6.8M allocated to child protective services. (The other \$3.2M allocated to child protective services, for a total of \$10M, has been set aside to draw down specific federal funds to bolster services available at the local level.)



Moody



Dungey

While the timeframe around the recommendation for the distribution of these funds is tight, the scope of the discussions is rather large. As Director Moody explained, the workgroups are to make recommendations around the distribution of the available dollars in the context of moving toward policy changes the state can "do to create a better environment locally to provide the services individuals need".

Such policy recommendations may be included in the 2016/2017 biennial budget, which will be introduced early next year.

The groups will also be working closely with the newly established ODJFS Office of Human Services Innovation, which will launch formally with an announcement as to the director of the office and other details on August 12th.

CCAO and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association are represented on both groups by Laura Abu-Absi and Joel Potts, respectively, as are the Governor's office and the directors of the departments of aging, developmental disabilities, Medicaid, mental health and addiction services, and OBM.

Other members of the children services funding workgroup include State Representatives Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) and Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), State Senators Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) and Chris Widener (R-Springfield), Cassandra Holtzmann, director of Ashland County JFS, and Gayle Channing Tenenbaum with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio.

Other members of the adult protective services funding workgroup include State Representatives Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) and Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown), State Senators William Coley (R-West Chester) and Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood), John Fisher, director of Licking County JFS, Jane Taylor with AARP Ohio, and Georgia Anetzberger who is deeply familiar with adult protective services programming.

The groups, created in the mid-biennium review bill passed in June (HB 483) were born in response to \$10M for each program that the House appropriated. The Senate-passed and final versions of the bill moved the additional funds out of the line items for county distribution and instead placed the funds under the purview of the Controlling Board. Each workgroup has until September 30, 2014 to make a recommendation for the \$10M in adult protective services funding and \$6.8M in child welfare funding.

The workgroups are also charged to:

1. Investigate programmatic or financial gaps in the systems;
2. Identify best practices currently employed at the county level as well as those that can be integrated into the system;
3. Identify areas of overlap and linkages across all human services programs; and
4. Coordinate with each other.

For additional information, or to share your thoughts on ways to improve service delivery in either or both of these program areas, please contact CCAO policy analyst Laura Abu-Absi at labu-absi@ccao.org or (614) 220-7996.

Joint Agriculture Committee held at the State Fair



On July 29th, the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate Agriculture Committees held a joint hearing at the Ohio State Fair. In its fourth appearance at the fair, the joint committee heard from a panel of agricultural and environmental officials who gave an update on the agricultural industry across the state.

Senator Frank LaRose discussed the importance of bringing the two committees together at the State Fair. "There are thousands of young folks and industry groups and commodity groups that are out here today

and to hear from representatives of those groups to give us an update on what they're working on is just so important," said the Senator. "We all value agriculture, but it's a great learning experience for us as members."

Committee members heard updates from: Ohio Exposition Commission Chair Tom Price; Commission General Manager Virgil Strickler; ODNR Director Jim Zehringer; ODA Director

Dave Daniels; Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Vice Chair Jack Fisher; Ohio Soybean Council Vice Chair Terry McClure; Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean Dr. Bruce McPheron; and Junior Fair Board President Erin Wollet.

"Events like this are a great opportunity for the people of Ohio to experience how their state government functions, and the Ohio State Fair is the perfect place to showcase our commitment to the state's number one industry," Senate Agriculture Chairman Cliff Hite said. "I am very glad for this opportunity to hear directly from so many of Ohio's agricultural leaders."

Upcoming Legislative Committee Calendar



House Study Committee on Unemployment Compensation Debt & Reducing Burdens on Ohio Businesses (Committee Record), (Chr. **Sears, B.**, 466-1731), Rm. 121, 2:00 pm

- Department of Job & Family Services Presentation from Director Cynthia Dungey and Assistant Director Bruce Madson