**OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**

**WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**

**June 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Conference Call**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Chair John Goodman was unable to attend this month’s meeting, so Heidi McCoy opened the meeting and welcomed committee members. Ms. McCoy pointed to the antitrust, conflict of interest and confidentiality policies located in the online folder. Next, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Committee members approved the minutes.

Mr. Pete Van Runkle started the meeting by providing information regarding House Bill 466. This is the agency bill in the Ohio legislature. Pete then went on to discuss House Bill 583 that recently passed. Pete then reported on the Healthcare Resilience Act that deals with visas.

Ms. McCoy reported that in mid-May, the Building America’s Health Care Workforce Act was introduced by Congressman Brett Guthrie of KY, Congresswomen Madeleine Dean of PA, and Congressman David B. McKinley of West Virginia. The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill would allow temporary nurse aides serving in nursing homes 24 months (instead of the current 4 months/until October 7th) to fulfill training and testing requirements to become STNA’s.

Ms. McCoy went on to talk about technology solutions – ElliiQ is an artificial intelligence-powered robotic companion that has been placed into the homes of 800 older adults in New York thru a program with the New York State Office for the Aging. These older adults live in independent living and assisted living communities as well as private homes. The robot communicates similarly to the way an Alexa does, but it can empathize with humans and respond to voice and body movements. Although other technologies are reactive to commands, ElliiQ proactively suggests activities and initiates conversations, building context through artificial intelligence to form follow-up conversations. The smart technology might offer sleep relaxations exercise, physical exercises, in-depth nutrition-related conversations, and medication reminders. More information in located in the on-line folder.

Diane Dietz then discussed OHCA’s Prepare the Preparer TNA training that will occur at the end of July in both Columbus and Cleveland.

Mandy Smith reported on OHCA’s Advocacy on Nurse Aide training.

Ms. McCoy provided some refugee information. These have added to the on-line folder a list of National Affiliates for local refugee agencies. The list is broken down by state and include their phone numbers, websites, and email addresses. Also in the on-line folder is the list of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Network Partner Contacts for each state.

Ms. McCoy reported that AHCA/NCAL is partnering with Equus Workforce Solutions to offer long term care apprenticeship programs on the state level. Equus with work with providers and the Department of Labor to develop or expand Registered Apprenticeship programs in their respective state. As mentioned in last month’s Workforce Committee meeting, Ohio is very stringent on their RAPs and it can take up to 20 weeks for approval. More information is in your on-line folder including the Dana Ritchie’s email address from AHCA if you want more information.

Ms. McCoy reported that Debbie Jenkins is on PTO but that she wanted to give you a few DODD Workforce Task Committee updates. These are also located in last Friday’s ID/DD News Bites. Last Wednesday, the Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD's) Workforce Crisis Task Force (WCTF) met. Several department staff members shared updates on workforce-related efforts:

* Nick Miller and Stacy Collins circulated a draft document, "[Technology First and the DSP Workforce Crisis: Ohio’s Future Paved by Technology](http://38.111.163.21/webdata/ID_DD/Technology%20First%20and%20the%20DSP%20Workforce%20Crisis.pdf)," which they created to show how technology can be utilized to assist with the workforce crisis. As Mr. Miller and Ms. Collins walked the group through the document, stakeholders provided feedback that will be incorporated into the document before it is finalized. OHCA will share the final version when it is available.
* Jeremiah Wagner provided an update on the statewide direct care public service announcement (PSA) campaign. The advertisement has been shot, and it includes a direct support professional assisting a person with a developmental disability as well as direct care workers representing aging and mental health services. Mr. Wagner said the state provided feedback to the vendor but has not received the final version yet. They now anticipate the PSA campaign may not start until July. The ad will direct potential employees to the [Ohio Means Jobs website](https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/home). If you have direct support professional (DSP) openings, please make sure they are posted to the Ohio Means Jobs website as soon as possible.
* Debbie Hoffine stated that the department's request for proposals (RFP) for a consultant to lead the Waiver Reimbursement System Modernization Project is still pending at the Department of Administrative Services. Once the RFP is posted, interested organizations will have eight weeks to respond before DODD begins to score responses.
* Steve Beha shared that the department received ten responses to the RFP for the Vision for DSP grant and two responses for the DSP Recruitment and Retention Training grant. DODD will score the responses over the next week or so and should award the grants before the end of the month.

Last week’s meeting was the last WCTF meeting for state fiscal year 2022. The state is moving to quarterly meetings, so the next WCTF meeting will not be until October.

Josh Anderson then discussed the DODD Retention Bonus Payment proposal.

Ms. McCoy discussed the Direct Support Workforce Survey (link in folder). This new survey has been developed to better understand the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on direct support workers and identify the most effective ways to protect DSPs, frontline supervisors, and the people they support. The survey closes on July 22nd and is in your on-line folder. Please encourage your direct support workers that you employ, including paid family members, the take the survey. Their answers will be anonymous. National and state-specific results from the survey will be shared in September 2022.

Ms. McCoy then reported that there is a new Home Care Workforce Action Alliance (link in folder). The Home Care Workforce Action Alliance is a new organization devoted to attracting more people into home care and personal care services, as well as keeping them in the industry. Home care stakeholders would include representatives of patients, the direct care professionals, congress, governors and state legislators, educators and many more. OHCA will keep you updated.

Mr. Anderson discussed the new State Taskforce on Direct Care (link in folder).

Ms. McCoy then reported that HHS recently released ASPE’s Workforce Study titled “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Hospital and Outpatient Clinician Workforce”. The study is in your on-line folder and has some great information that can be shared.

Ms. McCoy provided a CDC PSA update. At our last meeting, a concern over CDC PSAs airing on ESPN radio was voiced.  Debbie Jenkins followed up with her contacts at the CDC and was put in touch with Jasmine Reed who is a public affairs specialist at CDC.  She shared that the PSA is not coming directly from CDC, but that CDC gave out many grants for other entities to put out these PSAs.  She has been contacting Sirius XM and trying to determine who/where this specific PSA is coming from. Debbie has followed up with Jasmine but has not heard back from her before leaving on her vacation.

Finally, Ms. McCoy discussed the DSP Apprenticeship Program. One of our DD members (Tom Rickels) and Debbie Jenkins met with Duane Shumate from Missouri’s Division of Developmental Disabilities at the end of May about an apprenticeship program they created.  We’ll be gathering more information and watching Missouri as they implement the program to see if it’s something Ohio can or should replicate.

The meeting was then adjourned, and a reminder given that the next meeting will be held at 1:00 on Monday, July 11th.