

## **OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**

**April 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m.**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Chair John Goodman welcomed committee members to the call and pointed to the conflict of interest, antitrust and confidentiality policies. Committee members Shanna Barns and Eric Hutchins approved the minutes from the previous meeting. Attendance can be found at the bottom of this document.

Chair Goodman invited Pete Van Runkle to lead the discussion on public policy issues. He started by stating that no decision has been made in the writ of mandamus case against the Ohio Department of Medicaid, and that the budget would be impacted by the outcome of that decision. The Supreme Court's schedule for making decisions is unclear, and the outcome may not be known before the finalization of the State budget. He also discussed the budget process, stating that they are about a third of the way through and that the House budget was finalized last week. He mentioned that they had some success in getting amendments through, such as stopping the use of EVV to deny claims and removing the language prohibiting REIT financing for SNFs, but were unsuccessful in getting funding for upskilling direct care workers and additional funding for home and community-based services. He also noted that the house reduced the number of private rooms from the 28,000 already approved to only 15,000. OHCA would shift focus to the Senate, which would finalize their portion of the budget on June 12 before entering conference committee and ultimately sending the budget to the Governor for signature or line item veto. He indicated that the association is currently strategizing on how to reposition the amendments for greater success in the Senate, whether that is at a lower funding amount or splitting out amendments further. Erin Hart added that the House also reduced the Personal Needs Allowance amount from the \$100 proposed by the Governor to \$75. Mr. Van Runkle noted that this was still an increase for residents.

Debbie Jenkins then discussed the recent win for AHCA/NCAL on the court case surrounding CMS' minimum staffing requirements for SNFs, with the Texas court ruling that CMS had exceeded their authority. She reminded committee members that the other parts of the minimum staffing rule, such as facility assessment and Medicaid transparency reporting requirements, were not challenged in the lawsuit and will remain in place. The federal government can and may file an appeal. Even though AHCA/NCAL has communicated that the Trump Administration is not supportive of the staffing rule, Congress may wish to use the rule as a pay-for during reconciliation. In order for that to be possible, the rule must still be in appeal status.

Ms. Jenkins also provided an update on the federal Reconciliation process, first defining reconciliation and noting that Republicans held a slim majority in both houses, making this the best option for their success. The House and Senate both passed different versions of the reconciliation bill which has conflicting guidance on cuts to Medicaid. AHCA/NCAL continues to voice concerns over any cuts to Medicaid. The reconciliation bill will have to outline where prescribed cuts are being allocated and the Parliamentarian must also agree.

Erin Hart provided updates on several important administrative and immigration matters. She informed the group about a new version of Form I-9 released in January 2025, with an expiration date in 2027, and changes to citizenship status language. She also mentioned an unofficial pause in the CMPRP grant approvals nationwide, linked to an ongoing communication approval freeze. Additionally, she discussed recent developments in immigration policy, including a stay on Temporary protected status revocation for Venezuelans and the termination of parole status for CHNV newcomers, which could impact various immigrant populations. She noted that the newcomers, specifically, would lose their parole status on April 24 and employer action would be required to avoid any negative outcomes. She advised checking official websites for the most up-to-date information and instructions on how to protect impacted workers for these evolving situations.

Debbie Jenkins shared that HHS announced the termination of 10,000 employees and the consolidation of 28 agencies into 15. The impact on CMS is expected to be minimal, with only 300 positions affected. However, other agencies like FDA and CDC may face significant cuts. The team is monitoring the situation and considering potential delays or changes in services. She also announced a request for information on regulatory items that could be reduced or eliminated, and encouraged the team to provide input on any Federal workforce-related regulations they find challenging.

Kathy Chapman discussed the upcoming convention, emphasizing the need for attendees to book hotel rooms early as many are already sold out. Kathy also highlighted the availability of SHRM and legal credits for attendees. Diane Dietz announced the foundation's scholarship program, which awarded 79 scholarships totaling \$280,000. She also introduced a new certification scholarship program, which will be announced after the convention. The program will provide up to \$1,500 for certification costs, with the recipient responsible for the other half. Kathy Chapman then brought up the topic of convention and the complementary coupons that are sent out for each provider member. She mentioned that these coupons can be used as a staff benefit or for training purposes. Erin Hart then discussed the upcoming premiere of a documentary during the convention on May 7th at the Southern theater. She also mentioned that the documentary will be available to watch on their website after the premiere.

Erin Hart also discussed a communication she received from Medicaid regarding the OHCA CMP Grant request to train medication aids, indicating that the state would be applying to CMS to take the initiative statewide. However, noting the previous communication on CMP grant freeze, she felt that this was uncertain and did not receive any additional details from ODM. She also indicated that ODJFS had communicated a delay in awarding apprenticeship grants due to complications involving federal DEI policy omission requirements.

Ms. Hart also highlighted the resources available for the National Skilled Nursing Care Week from AHCA/NCAL linked in the agenda and the upcoming Congressional briefing June 9-10 in Washington, DC. She also pointed the committee to the recent reminder about the Employment Barrier Tax Credits issued from ODJFS. She explained that employers who hired workers in various categories that indicate a barrier to employment could apply for tax credits ranging from 1200 to 9600. The notice from ODJFS also pointed to a bond program that would authorize an additional 5000. She dropped the contact email address for both programs in the chat.

Ms. Hart discussed the National Dementia Workforce Study, encouraging participation. Lastly, she introduced the Gen Z Virtual Career Fair on April 29th, recommending employers to sign up before the orientation on April 23rd.

Diane Dietz discussed the upcoming Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Safety Congress, a free event for those insured by the State fund. The conference, held at the Columbus Convention Center from April 16th to 18th, offers educational sessions on workplace safety, wellness, and emergency preparedness. It also includes virtual sessions and podcasts. Participants can earn Safety Council credits, which can lead to reductions in workers' compensation premiums. Diane encouraged staff to attend and participate in the event.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2025

Attendance:

First Name	Last Name	4/14/2025
Alex	Nault	X
Ashley	Buga	X
Bob	Webster	X
Brandi	Johnson	X
Brian	Kinzer	X
Chris	Stach	X
Cindy	Gensamer	X
Debbie	Jenkins	X
Diane	Dietz	X
Eric	Hutchins	X
Erin	Hart	X
Gina	Cappitti	X
Heidi	McCoy	X
Jason	Umstot	X
Jill	Herron	X
Joan	Longhin-Howard	X
John	Goodman	X
Kathy	Chapman	X
LaShonda	Campbell	X
Megan	Schimmoeller	X
Melissa	Courtock	X
Michael	Freeman	X
N	Cubbison	X
Nicole	Breving	X
Pam	Cooke	X
Pete	Van Runkle	X
Peter	Lienert	X
Sarah	Sonego	X

Santanna	Rapp	X
Shanna	Barns	X
Steve	Miller	X