**By Conference Call:** Salli Bolen (Memory Lane Care Services); Heather Fleshman (National Church Residences); Celeste Mackey (Bayley); Chris Parks (Bayley); Eric Murray (Youngstown Area Jewish Federation); Selena Pittman (McGregor); Steve Schnabl (Oxford Seniors); Tom Thompson (JRC)

**Not Present:** N/A

**Staff:** Kathryn Brod, Susan Wallace

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**
The meeting convened at 1:00pm. Susan introduced Salli Bolen and Selena Pittman as co-chairs of the committee.
2. **Federal & State Funding Update**
Susan Wallace reported that coronavirus relief is anticipated to be included in a compromise bill moving its way through Congress; the package includes Medicare extenders up for renewal such as renewal of the Money Follows the Person (in Ohio, HOME Choice) demonstration; and hopefully financial support for the vaccine distribution process. She noted that it is currently uncertain whether states will have relief funds renewed or expanded; in Ohio, these were the principal ways that funds were channeled to adult day providers. Committee members reviewed the ways adult day services interact with state and federal policymakers, noting that principally it is through PASSPORT and DoDD waivers, which are state-administered, but rely on approval from the federal Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), and have certain federal requirements. Some adult day is provided under Ohio’s PACE waiver, which has only one site (McGregor in northeast Ohio). Medicare Advantage plans also recognize adult day services to some degree.

LeadingAge Ohio has reached out to Ohio to learn which providers and how much CARES funding was awarded dollars in the second round of funding. The Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the Office of Budget & Management (OBM) provided this information in the first round to provider associations, which made it easy for LeadingAge Ohio to assist members. ODA is expected to provide the listing for the second round of its funding, as well.

1. **Vaccine update**

Kathryn Brod described the unfolding vaccine process in nursing homes and assisted living providers through the national Pharmacy Partnership Program. Committee members with continuum campuses reported that staff in adult day are scheduled for vaccines, but not their adult day members. In the state’s Vaccine Workgroup meeting yesterday, the state urged provider associations to help managed expectations regarding timelines, as more delays than anticipated are occurring. Free-standing Adult Day Service providers are urged to reach out ASAP to their local health departments, and some subcommittee members noted they have already done so, with no timeline yet set for vaccine administration.

1. **Opening/Testing update**

Committee members described an array of testing experiences, with several reporting positive staff tests that have either caused a short-term closure or are close to doing so. Each member described dramatically reduced census numbers, i.e. less than half of normal for all programs. Most indicated that it was difficult getting individuals back, particularly in the midst of the holidays. They shared positive reports on MAKO lab and its partnership to ensure that the testing cadence was increased to best contain the virus. Some sites haven’t yet opened, and some subcommittee members noted that other adult day centers in their areas had closed, causing increased demand for their services. Closures can create particular problems for remaining ADS providers, for even if family members are eager to have their loved one participate, transportation difficulties may emerge given the location of the remaining providers.

1. **Biennium Budget Planning**Susan reported that Matt Hobbs is moving from ODA to ODM, so we are losing an important source of information to help budget for the impact of proposed agenda items, but may be gaining a knowledgeable ally, depending on what is new role is within ODM. Susan asked committee members to further refine their thinking related to adult day funding in the upcoming budget: How should LeadingAge Ohio work to determine an appropriate increase in PASSPORT rates for adult day and transportation? Should the DD Waiver provide the model for this boost? Can we work to effectively advocate for a boost based on providers’ costs?

Alternatively, a recommendation from one member who provides both child care and adult day, is that a day-hold rate be sought so that even when there’s a missed day, the center would still receive the reimbursement planned. In this way, the proposal can be framed as creating parallel structure with other caregiver-supporting programs. Should the advocacy work include both of these initiatives, perhaps with one being a “fall-back” request, if the other cannot be achieved?

Committee members shared that pre-pandemic, their no-show rates range from 10 – 20 percent, so the impact of day-hold reimbursement would be extremely helpful. In Ohio’s childcare policy, there are 10 allowable/reimbursed absences per six months. Another possibility would be creating a program by which, after an individual has missed a certain number of days (or example, 50% or 5 days), it would trigger a review. All agreed that an appropriate increase in the daily rate would be of most benefit to all. Susan will reach out to several committee members to begin to model the financial impact/cost of each approach, so that we have a sense of the cost for each budget proposal ahead of meeting with legislators.

1. **Next meeting**

2021 Meeting dates will occur on the second Friday of the month at 11am. Outlook invitations for all of 2021 will be sent shortly. All members of the subcommittee are currently assumed to be continuing into 2021.