

LeadingAge Ohio Adult Day Subcommittee: January 15, 2020 Meeting Summary

By Conference Call: Salli Bollin (Memory Lane Care Services); Celeste Mackey (Bayley); Chris Parks (Bayley); Eric Murray (Youngstown Area Jewish Federation); Steve Schnabl (Oxford Seniors); Tom Thompson (JRC); Paullecia Brown-Scott (Acclaim Senior Activities Center); Sally Gallant (Willow Brook)

Not Present: Heather Fleshman (National Church Residences); Selena Pittman (McGregor)

Staff: Kathryn Brod, Susan Wallace

I. **Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting convened at 11:00am. The minutes for the December 18 meeting were approved with one correction to a name misspelling.

II. **Federal Update**

Brendan Flinn of LeadingAge provided a federal update, noting the following:

- Regarding the paycheck protection (PPP) loans which were initially made available to small businesses (<300 employees) in March, there has been a renewed phase of lending. Currently, the portal is open to community lenders on Tuesday, January 19, the portal will be opened to the entire community for applications.
- Biden's initial proposal outlines a \$1.9 trillion package which would pay an additional \$1,400 to most Americans via direct stimulus and extend unemployment benefits through September. It also includes provisions for the production, distribution and allocation of vaccines. A less-likely proposal includes moving the country towards a \$15/hr minimum wage, but this seems unlikely to pass since any policy that would fall outside of a budget reconciliation process would require a 60-vote majority in the Senate to pass. While \$3 billion was dedicated to provider relief in the December relief package, it is anticipated there may be additional relief for Medicaid programs and providers.

III. **Opening/Testing update**

Most of the adult day providers represented on the subcommittee were in some stage of reopening, but noted that they were operating far below their typical capacity because of the restrictions placed on adult day providers. Kathryn noted that if any were still struggling to access testing for staff, that Ethos Labs had provided information about their services, which had been included in a LeadingAge Ohio daily COVID-19 report. The subcommittee members expressed concerns about other adult day providers that are currently not affiliated with an association, and they recommended conducting another survey to gauge the percentage that were still unable to reopen, as well as demonstrate value of LeadingAge Ohio membership.

Susan reminded members that the deadlines for expending the provider relief funds, which had previously had a deadline to spend them by December 31, had been extended through the end of March. The same extension was granted for providers who were awarded dollars via the Bureau of Worker's Compensation grants for indoor air quality. While funds went unclaimed during the second

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round of provider relief that was specifically targeted at senior centers and adult day, these funds are unlikely to be offered again to adult day, but rather will be expended in other COVID relief initiatives. The subcommittee recommended LeadingAge Ohio advocate for additional funding in the future.

IV. Vaccine update

Committee members shared their vaccine status. While some reported their local health departments had been very helpful in providing their staff and participants vaccines, others reported that their local health departments were not including adult day in the 1a priority group.

V. Biennium Budget Planning

Susan shared that, following a late-December meeting, the Advocacy Committee asked LeadingAge Ohio staff to take its comments and develop a budget platform based on those comments. To that end, LeadingAge Ohio identified the following priorities for the biennial budget:

- Support workforce through adequate payment and other supports;
- Preserve nursing facility payment through continuation of the quality incentive payment and rebasing;
- Support Ohio's assisted living waiver as an important alternative to nursing facility care;
- Address regulatory burden in the Medicaid eligibility process;
- Support adult day providers and transportation by addressing historic shortfalls in reimbursement.

Subcommittee members provided speaking points on issues, including pointing out the higher cost of nursing facility care, and that supporting adult day allows care to be provided in the "right place and right time."

VI. Adjournment

The Subcommittee adjourned at 12:04pm.