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Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Division of Disability Determination

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council

Sunset Review Committee

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Chairwoman Roegner, Vice-Chair Wiggam, and Members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Alex Moormann, and I am the Legislative Liaison for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). I am here to testify on the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Council.

Under Section 316.16 of the Code of Federal Regulations, in accordance with the regulations made by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, the OOD Council serves as the State of Ohio's State Rehabilitation Council.

The OOD Council's purpose is to advise OOD regarding specific aspects of the vocational rehabilitation program as outlined in the federal regulations. Specifically, it provides feedback to OOD on its Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired programs. The Council is responsible for reviewing state goals and priorities related to the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan.

The OOD Council consists of 16 members appointed by the Governor. The makeup of the Council follows criteria established by the federal government, including that a majority of the members have a disability. Council members include an individual who has applied for or received vocational rehabilitation services; an individual who represents community rehabilitation program service providers; and an individual who represents an organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disabilities.

The OOD Council meets on a quarterly basis with one or two subcommittees regarding specific items for the full Council to consider. One OOD staff schedules meetings, takes minutes, arranges for travel, and coordinates all meeting details for the OOD Council. The OOD staff person is also responsible for records retention of the OOD Council.

The OOD Council was established by Senate Bill 144 and signed into law by Governor John Kasich on March 1, 2018. The law streamlined the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commissioners (7 members), the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (21 members), and the Consumer Advisory Committee (17 members) into a single, more inclusive council.

The newly created OOD Council consisted of 16 members. The budget for the newly created OOD Council for FFY 2019 was \$8,660. In FFY 2020, the OOD Council's budget is \$17,300. We anticipate the OOD Council's budget for FFY 2021 will be approximately \$17,300. The OOD Council's budget includes costs for travel and hotel reimbursement for Council members to

attend six meetings and two national conferences per year. The OOD Council members' travel reimbursement funds are incurred by OOD's Indirect funds/Program Management.

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Wiggam, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief overview of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council. I would be happy to answer any question you may have.