

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
By Conference Call

Attending for the Board; Marti Adams, Tom Weaver, Janice Hall, Debbie Schmieding, Jorji Milliken, Anna Barrett, Becky Lemasters, Donna England, Adam Guinther, Pat Colombo, Steve McPeake, John Swanson, Matt Ottiger, Gary Toth, Dennis Grant, Donna Merrill

Attending for the Staff: Mark Davis, Anita Allen, Teri Derry

Janice convened the meeting of the board at 10:00 am

Mark explained that OPRA has been asked to endorse the Medicaid expansion effort and the OPRA Policy Committee is recommending that the OPRA Board endorse Medicaid expansion. The legislature has been receiving more anti calls so far; and this week is critical. AOF has established a call-in day for supporters tomorrow. OPRA will send an alert to members, if the board endorses Medicaid expansion.

Apart from the merits of Medicaid expansion, Mark pointed out that OPRA's response to this request will bear on our relationship with the Governor and his administration.

The board has been provided with talking points in support, and Mark reviewed these. For OPRA, the primary pros are as follows. 1) The expansion brings an additional \$405 million into the Ohio budget and failure of the expansion effort would lead to other, negative budget moves. We would be liable to sustain provider rate cuts. 2) The extension of Medicaid will mitigate employer expense through the ACA coverage mandate, for many of our members. Significant numbers of our DSPs will become eligible under the expansion, as our average hourly wage is very close to the 138% of poverty eligibility threshold for Medicaid under the expansion, for a 2-person household.

Donna moved to support Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Jorji seconded and the motion passed with three "no" votes.

Janice adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Schmieding