**DRAFT**

**Direct Care Worker Advisory Workgroup**

**REPORT TO THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**December 31, 2013**

**Background**

Section 323.234 of Ohio House Bill 59 of the 130th General Assembly established the Direct Care Worker Advisory Workgroup. The language instructs the workgroup to (1) Determine core competencies; (2) Designate which direct care workers should meet core competencies; (3) Determine whether existing regulatory requirements are equivalent or similar to core competencies; (4) Identify funding sources that could be used to assist direct care workers in meeting core competencies; (5) Recommend policies that may be incorporated in legislation the General Assembly intends to consider. As outlined in Section 323.234, it is the intent of the General Assembly to enact legislation, with guidance from this report, to direct the Department of Health to establish a direct care worker certification program by October 1, 2014 and for the Department of Medicaid to prohibit payment to a direct care worker who is not certified by October 1, 2015. House Bill 59 requires the workgroup to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2013. This is the workgroup’s report and completes the workgroup’s charge.

**Membership**

* Jessica Hawk, Family Voices of Ohio
* Greg Moody, Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (Chair)
* Suzanne Kathman, Health Careers Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati
* Steve Wermuth, LeadingAge Ohio
* Kathy Locke, LeadingAge Ohio
* Jeff Lycan, Midwest Care Alliance
* Rebecca Jenei, Midwest Care Alliance
* Holly Saelens, Molina Healthcare
* Jean Thompson, Ohio Assisted Living Association
* Michael Hammerle, Ohio Assisted Living Association
* Cathy Hill, Ohio Board of Regents
* Beth Foster, Ohio Council of Homecare and Hospice
* Craig Smith, Ohio Council of Homecare and Hospice
* Bonnie K. Burman, Ohio Department of Aging
* Kate Haller, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
* Linda O’Connor, Ohio Department of Education
* Jayson Rogers, Department of Health
* Kim Donica, Ohio Department of Medicaid
* Afet Kilinc, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
* Mandy Smith, Ohio Health Care Association
* Phil Coury, Ohio Health Care Association
* Gingy Hershey Meade, Ohio Nurses Association
* Susan Yoder, Ohio Nurses Association
* Than Johnson, Ohio Provider Resource Association
* Jeff Davis, Ohio Provider Resource Association
* Shelley Papenfuse, Ohio Olmstead Task Force
* Kathy Foley, Services for Independent Living
* The Honorable Shannon Jones, Ohio Senate
* The Honorable Capri Cafaro, Ohio Senate
* The Honorable Anne Gonzales, Ohio House of Representatives

**Schedule**

* October 22, 2013
* November 5, 2013
* November 19, 2013
* December 3, 2013
* December 17, 2013

**Process**

(1) Determine core competencies

* Describe the core competencies adopted by the Ohio DSW Consortium.

 (2) Designate which direct care workers should meet core competencies

* Describe the direct care programs identified across the hhs agencies

 (3) Determine whether existing regulatory requirements are equivalent or similar to core competencies

* Document and summarize the crosswalk for each of the hhs agency programs and identify gaps

4) Recommend actions to establish improved methods to verify core competencies and establish reciprocity across systems

* Provide detail about Initial action step to establish program to demonstrate and test competencies for Medicaid Independent providers;
* Require each hhs agency program to recognize verified core competencies of workers from other hhs programs and only train for the additional competencies needed to provide specialized services in those other programs; and
* Describe processes for hhs agency verification of workers meeting competency standards

(4) Identify funding sources that could be used to assist direct care workers in meeting core competencies;

* Identify costs associated with initial action for Medicaid Independent providers and funding strategies

(5) Recommend policies that may be incorporated in legislation the General Assembly intends to consider

* Related to implementing 4) above