



Charitable Advisory Council Meeting
10 a.m., May 16, 2022
Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Participants:

Advisory Council Members: Tom Poulson, Erynn Beaton, Kip Morse, Claudia Herrold, David Ball, Monica Moloney, Howie Beigelman, Mary Gallagher, Erik Farley

Ohio Attorney General's Office Charitable Law Staff: Beth Short, Tammy Chavez, Kim Bossman, Connor Lemons, Thaddius Townsend, Abigail Jacobs

The meeting was called to order by David Ball and participants introduced themselves.

Minutes – On motion of David Ball seconded by Monica Moloney, minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

COVID-19 Updates – Ms. Short shared that there's been a lot of live, in-person trainings recently as meetings return to more normal setup. There's still staffing challenges in many places.

Mr. Poulson seconded staffing challenges.

Prof. Beaton said that orgs have been able to meet with donors in person more often recently. Ms. Gallagher shared that COVID cases documented at hospitals are up from last summer, but drastically down from the peak in the winter. Medical community has made huge advantages in treating COVID-19 but staffing is a huge problem. There aren't enough professionals to treat all of the sick patients.

Topic Update, Hate Speech and Security Initiatives – Mr. Beigelman said "Any group that hates a certain group also hates the Jewish people. We can only prepare to make ourselves as safe as possible." Many synagogues and schools now are using off-duty security guards and officers to guard those institutions. There are grants available for non-profits that are at a higher risk for terrorist attacks that can they can apply for to help with costs for these increased safety measures.

Prof. Beaton asked if abortion clinics/women's health clinic would be eligible for some of the same funding that Mr. Beigelman mentioned that Jewish organizations are receiving to protect themselves from potential terrorist attacks. Mr. Beigelman said that any nonprofit that feels they are at risk of a terrorist attack could apply for this funding through the State Homeland Security Program/Federal Nonprofit Security Program.

Ms. Short suggested that there may also be planning and information on the Ohio Emergency Management Agency website, ema.ohio.gov (Preparedness Grants).

Charitable Law Section Case Update, Tammy Chavez – Ms. Chavez talked about a case in the Charitable Law Section that recently closed. Our office received a complaint in 2017 about potential board governance issues and misuse of funds. The President of the organization extended his time as President by delaying meetings and elections. The President handled nearly all of the finances and used some for personal gain. The Treasurer of the organization settled out of court for breach of their fiduciary duties, but a complaint was filed against the President and eventually was ordered to pay back much of the money that was misused so that it can be returned to the organization and others with similar charitable purposes.

General Charitable Law Section Update – Ms. Short shared that we are setting up “Charitable University” which will be a series of online trainings offered by the Charitable Law Section. If someone completes one training under each of four different categories, they will be considered a “graduate of charitable university.” We hope that certain organizations offering funding will make this a requirement for organizations applying for grants/donations etc. The goal was to have this online and ready to operate by July 1st, but it may not be rolled out until the fall. It is currently in IT and Communications' hands.

Ms. Short shared that E-Bingo for veteran and fraternal groups kicked off April 1st, 2022 with 734 licensed organizations, 6 manufacturers, and 7 distributors.

Mr. Townsend shared that the Charitable Law Section has seen several large settlement funds come in from late 2021 and early 2022. The section has done a great job doing “more with less” as we are currently a bit under-staffed.

Legislative Updates – Ms. Short said that HB 556 “Corporate Renovation Act” originated with the Ohio State Bar Association's Corporate Law Committee. She said that if there is interest, we can ask the Bar Association to informally sit down with the Advisory Council and discuss its intent and how it will impact charitable organizations.

Ms. Herrold stated that HB 556 is the type of bill often goes through without controversy.

Ms. Herrold shared that SB 135 signed and passed and signed by Governor DeWine. Their staff will continue to monitor it.

Mrs. Herrold said that many foundations including Philanthropy Ohio are opponents of Senate Bill 1981 (federal), aka the ACE Bill – Accelerating Charitable Efforts Act.

Ms. Herrold shared that HB 1785 (federal) could politicize nonprofit organizations based on who is sitting in the White House and could become another regulatory layer. Hard to tell if either this or SB 1981 would even get a hearing during an election year.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting: August 15th, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,
Connor Lemons