



# DAVE YOST

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**Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council  
May 18, 2020  
Meeting By Skype**

**Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
4. COVID-19 Issues
5. Updates from the Charitable Law Section
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting: August 17, 2020
8. Adjournment

*The Charitable Advisory Council shall advise the attorney general in determining training and educational needs of charitable organizations and model policies related to governance and administration of charitable organizations in accordance with fiduciary principles, assist the attorney general in identifying emerging issues and trends affecting charities, and advise the attorney general on other related issues at the request of the attorney general.*



**Minutes**  
**Charitable Advisory Council**  
**February 24, 2020 10AM**  
**150 East Gay Street 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**Participants:**

- Charitable Advisory Council Members: David Ball, Erik Farley, Erynn Beaton, Mary Gallagher, Claudia Y. W. Herrold, Monica Moloney, Elaine Pierce, Jane Pfeifer, Thomas Poulson, Marcy Williams. Ohio Attorney General Charitable Law Staff: Beth Short, Daniel Fausey, Matthew Jalandoni, William Sieck, Abigail Jacobs.

- 1.) The Meeting was called to order.
- 2.) The board members introduced themselves.
- 3.) On motion of Ms. Gallagher, seconded by Ms. Pierce, minutes of the July 29 and Sept 17 meetings were approved.
- 4.) Update from Charitable Law Section:
  - Section Daniel Fausey welcomed everyone and reviewed some observations he made and ideas he is considering after being at the helm for a year. He said that while the section deals with hundreds of complaints filed against charitable organizations each year, the majority of the 50,000-plus charities in our database don't present problems. So, he is interested in exploring ways to help solidify the relative health of the overwhelming number of charities that are providing valuable services throughout the state. He said he is working through ideas that might center on Charitable University, which might provide certificates to those who complete webinar trainings on issues such as board governance, internal controls, fundraising, compliance and bingo. Additionally, he is interested in the idea of microgrants to organizations that can demonstrate they have completed training. Council members predicted that the Section will be overwhelmed by the high level of interest charities will have in the grants concept. In addition to elevating the visibility of training resources, Mr. Fausey said that the Section is working on a new web page.
  - Council members discussed the difficulties in trying to get members of the public to be wise donors, ensuring they are giving to real charities. A new pricing plan from GuideStar will require paid subscriptions for those seeking to review more than a certain number of 990s each month. Mr. Fausey said he would also like to discuss ways to enhance the amount of information the public can find about charities on the AGO web page.
  - AAG Jacobs advised the Council that Rep. Ginter had provided sponsor testimony for his charitable solicitation bill earlier this month. There is no timetable on next steps for the bill.
  - AAG Sieck discussed the various tools that are available when the Section is

undertaking an investigation of a charitable organization. In addition to discussing the roles of the investigators and charitable funds auditors, he also spoke about the broad range of possible outcomes that are possible based on the specific issues at play. The majority of cases do not end up in litigation and AG staff may work with charitable leaders to help strengthen the organization with enhanced board governance or internal controls.

#### **5.) Other Business**

- Because the Charitable Law Section is eager to hear from the Council members about their observations within the charitable sector, Ms. Short discussed the concept of having a topic for each meeting that could be discussed in a roundtable format. Council members would be invited to share materials with the group and discuss the various dimensions of the issue. At the next meeting, Ms. Short and Mr. Farley will lead a discussion on diversity within charitable boards. The council discussed other topics that could be included for future discussions: Volunteerism, civic engagement, service learning and leadership development; charitable giving and tax policy; growth of online fund development, donor advised funds, etc. Council members were invited to contact Ms. Short with additional ideas.

#### **6.) Adjournment**

#### **7.) Next Meeting: May 18, 2020**

**Respectfully Submitted by: Amy Hardbarger**

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