***James Firman, Chair***

**Minutes**

**July 6, 2017**

**AFSCME – 1625 L Street NW**

1. Guest Speaker: **Katie Allen** – Senior Director, Horizon Government Affairs
* Current state of play on ACA repeal & replace debate
	+ CBO score made more it challenging for members to support legislation
	+ Those below poverty level won’t be able to afford a plan
	+ Changes submitted to CBO last week re: Medicaid growth rate, opioids, Cruz amendment. But doesn’t mean all will make it into package.
	+ Conservatives backing Cruz amendment, insurers skeptical.
	+ Moderates – Collins, Murkowski, Heller in play.
	+ Expect vote whether votes there or not.
	+ Then pivot to bipartisan effort on stabilization. Might be too late. Drop dead date is mid-September.
	+ Some taxes could drop off (like capital gains).
* Q&A
	+ What is expected in July on CHIP and extenders? House dropping extenders placeholder today. Everything in limbo due to ACA. House wants 5 years on Special Needs Plans (SNPs), Senate wants permanent (as in chronic care bill).
	+ Is reconciliation needed for bipartisan approach on ACA? No. Democrats would have to carry water. McConnell opened door already. Industry supportive. Not sure what other GOP reforms might be pushed, and what Democrats would accept. Perhaps more flexibility/waivers?
	+ How certain BCRA will be brought up for a vote if votes not there? McConnell has to show he tried, even if fails. House will take whatever Senate does. Cruz amendment focused on getting Freedom Caucus on board.
	+ Will extenders it be bipartisan, provide two years for CHIP, what other extenders included, what offsets used? Hill has been talking about doing CHIP first with clean reauthorization, but different dynamic now because it’s so late. Will have to do with extenders. Don’t see anything happening before August. Will need 60 votes in Senate so won’t be able to do a lot.
1. Approval of the Minutes
* Motion to approve LCAO June meeting minutes: approved by voice vote.
1. Committee Reports
* Health
	+ June meeting recap:
		- Met right after delay announced. Shared intel on per capita caps and other issues, events, Hill meeting recaps.
		- Medicare extenders: reaching out to Committee staff to inform timing, advocacy.
		- Drug pricing Executive Order: National Committee and CMA offered to draft response, expect EO to run counter to LCAO principles.
		- Next call: tentatively July 18, 3:30pm. Next meeting; July 25, 3:30pm.
	+ Approval of letter on revised Senate BCRA:
		- June letter had 45 total. Current letter has few changes: noncontroversial language and reflect CBO score.
		- Discussion on sign-on versus chair’s letter, opt out for signers of June letter but open to new signers.
		- Will share and also promote on press call expected July 11 featuring Sen. Wyden, with LeadingAge, Justice in Aging, caregiver also participating and NCOA moderating.
		- Motion to pursue sign-on letter with opt out and inviting new signers: approved by voice vote.
* Community Services
	+ June meeting recap:
		- Thank you to those who helped draft and signed on to FY18 approps letter.
		- Please help with scheduling appropriations Hill visits. Link in minutes to sign up.
		- Expect House Labor-HHS markup week of July 10, might be $5 billion overall cut.
		- SHIP/SCSEP DCL circulating in House.
		- Next meeting: July 27, 10am.
	+ Approval of OAA one-pager/infographic and Aging Network issue brief:
		- Drafts circulated again last month. Brief still needs layout (booklet planned).
		- Motion to approve OAA and Aging Network documents: approved by voice vote.
	+ Discussion of Care Corps letter as LCAO or non-LCAO letter:
		- Bill revised from last year. Staff still willing to make changes.
		- Discussion of concerns of how might relate to Senior Companion Program, home care workforce.
		- Conclusion: Pursue as non-LCAO letter.
* Income Security
	+ Recap of June meeting:
		- Fiduciary rule update, Lauren Rothfarb (AFL-CIO): Now is the time to weigh in on comments (15-day window – due July 21). Lauren will draft and non-LCAO sign-on letter to be circulated. Linda Bennett (AFSCME) added that individual comments also needed.
		- Tax reform and risk to medical deduction and retirement savings. Hoping LCAO will weigh in on debate and these concerns. Maria Freese organizing group to work on this.
		- Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) reauthorization pay-for cuts SSI. Justice in Aging spearheaded letter to Ways and Means to ask for discussion. Markup scheduled for June has been indefinitely postponed. Need to watch for this offset in future debates.
		- SSA FY18 budget presentation recap. Request is for level funding for SSA administration, but at least $320-350 million increase needed to maintain operations. Legislative proposals shared – most not good to beneficiaries (affect UI for SSDI recipients, etc.). Need to watch if attached to reauthorization bills. During briefing, introduced to acting Associate Commissioner Robert Patterson, who hopefully will be re-invited to speak to LCAO.
		- Rep. Lawson Social Security bill summarized.
		- Next meeting: July 26, 2:30pm.
1. Discussion/Approval of Chair’s letter on National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP) and transgender older adults
* Briefly discussed at June Community Services meeting. Moving directly to full LCAO to weigh approval of Chair’s letter because of tight deadline.
* Aaron Tax (SAGE) provided more background on changes made to NSOAAP on behalf of GLBT elders, May LCAO letter on proposal to omit all these populations from Survey, latest development just omitting transgender elders. New 30-day comment period ends July 24. Draft letter proposed as Chair’s letter updates the May letter with the latest development and adds the acting ACL Administrator on the cc list.
* Motion to send Chair’s letter: approved by voice vote.
1. Housekeeping
* Emails communications: Emails being sent to LCAO membership via lcao@lists.ncoa.org. Intending to send monthly meeting agendas by the Friday before the meeting, and meeting materials and reminders the following Monday or Tuesday. Also will resume sending weekly News & Notices emails on Fridays; the first edition will indicate the deadline for submitting content to share with LCAO members.
* Directory updates: Hard copy of directory being circulated to indicate updates and an electronic version will be sent around to check the latest contact information for each LCAO member.
* Co-Chairs meeting: July 19
* Dues: Notices have been sent out, we’d appreciate dues payment in a timely manner.
* Committee engagement: Some have asked about raising new issues for LCAO discussion, and Committee meetings are best place to begin dialogue. Typical process is for proposed LCAO discussions or actions to originate in Committee.
1. Guest Speakers:

**Ellen Nissenbaum** – Senior Vice President for Government Affairs

**Sharon Parrott**– Senior Fellow and Senior Counselor

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

* Senate ACA debate:
	+ New bill filed and sent to CBO w Cruz amendment. Cruz language seems Byrd-able. Others provisions might not have gone in – expansion, etc. Score expected next week, no floor action or new proposal until following week at earliest.
	+ Finally got Portman, others focused on per capita cap issues – concerns pushed by governors. McCain, Graham, Blunt, Boozman, Cotton, Flake, Hoeven weighing in.
	+ Targets: Collins, Murkowski Heller and Sandoval still crucial. AZ, AR, now becoming important.
	+ Handouts: CBPP piece on HCBS cuts and graphic on BRCA and seniors’ premiums; KFF piece on BCRA and coverage and premiums for older adults.
* Budget:
	+ House Chair Black wants to produce budget resolution, at least in Committee (eye on TN governorship). Leadership not as anxious to do on floor. Could happen in Committee in July, or pushed to September. Proposals might not be able to move off House floor. Won’t be on House floor until September. ACA debate has to be over in Senate for resolution to move there.
	+ Concerns: Provisions that mirror past Ryan, Price budgets. Trillions in cuts, especially in out years. Big issue: if reconcile tax cuts, puts in place mechanism to force cuts on mandatory side. Total cuts expected: $150-200 billion; could be higher.
	+ Concerns re reconciliation instructions on entitlement cuts. Reconciliation on tax cuts – has to be revenue neutral not deficit neutral. NDD cuts: House proposal below the FY18 cap.
	+ GOP leaders recognize will need Democrats to increase Defense, and Democrats will push for budget deal to raise caps. There are many CBPP pieces on the need for NDD investments. Need to pass legislation to change caps, can’t do it in budget resolution, so need 60 votes.
	+ About 20 moderate House members reportedly on letter regarding the budget resolution that mention entitlements, but could have stronger language on NDD. Could use more signers because leadership would see it would be difficult to move resolution off House floor.
	+ Focus on the Senate to ensure their resolution has no instructions on entitlement cuts and Senators saying won’t vote on resolution with entitlement cuts. Work on Senate Budget staff NOW so groundwork laid for September.
	+ Q&A:
		- FY18 appropriations in September – omnibus or CR? Expect short-term CR. Also dealing with budget resolution and debt ceiling in September.
		- Appetite for cutting entitlements to pay for taxes given ACA debate? Could separate the two in the budget resolution, being revenue neutral on tax cuts with separate instructions on entitlements to make the case they aren’t connected. Could do two reconciliation bills.
		- What price do Democrats pay for budget deal? Deal won’t give up parity, but might not raise caps as much as needed (as in past). Schumer has leverage because there is interest in increasing Defense and they need Democrats. Concerns about Democrats on revenue neutral tax reform. Potential for losing on OCO parity.
		- Governors’ extending ACA leverage to budget debate: Definitely big 5: AK, AZ, AR, OH, NV, maybe also WV.
		- Handout: slide printout on House budget expectations and recommended messaging
	+ Superwaiver:
		- Ernst bill introduced. Not expected to move this year, but central to welfare reform and superwaiver discussion later.
		- Allows states to apply for waiver of any federal rule – statutory or regulatory. Would have to seek waiver of at least two.
		- Stated goal: allow states flexibility to align programs, make improvements. Claims to address benefit cliffs (really a state rule problem).
		- Concern about impact on SNAP, especially since largest program on list. Could divert money to other things, like job training and child care. Concern that state money could be spent on anything (roads and bridges, etc).
		- Can result in smaller pie for low-income families (supplementation). When uses of money become more diffuse (like block grant), Congress doesn’t want to spend on it.
		- Also concerns about what waivable. Very broad, so states could change rules, could move targeting from less needy.
		- There is a history of past superwaiver proposals (Ryan Better Way proposal) so this is concerning. Now others joining this effort (e.g., Rubio and Purdue).
		- Need to keep key Ag Senators off this. Tried to push to keep SNAP out of Ernst proposal and failed. Could get caught up in welfare reform or Farm Bill. Roberts and Conaway opposed to block grant, but this isn’t a block grant. No GOP on Ag signed on (except Purdue – who didn’t sign on initially).
		- Urging advocates not to try to take select programs out of the mix. Won’t improve legislation.
		- CBPP will have major analysis and briefing soon.
		- Handouts: Ernst Superwaiver Programs, and CBPP piece on SNAP and seniors
1. Discussion/Approval of retaining or canceling August 2nd meeting
* Discussion deferred – will announce soon
1. Announcements
* Erik Sokol of AFA shared a Friends of the National Institute on Aging Hill briefing, Friday July 7 from 2 to 3pm in 106 Dirksen, on “Advancing the Health of and Aging Population: Groundbreaking Research Supported by the NIA”