



Volume 5 ♦ Number 1 ♦ January, 2017



## **A New Year, A New State Budget**

By Tara Britton, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Lynde Fellow

The beginning of an odd-numbered year in Ohio means we can soon expect the state

budget to be introduced. Every two years, the governor releases budget recommendations and the General Assembly takes the first half of the year to consider the proposal and develop its own versions of a budget for the state. By June 30, the General Assembly must present a budget bill to the governor to sign. The budget bill identifies funding priorities, but ultimately spells out policy priorities of the governor and General Assembly. The Center for Community Solutions aims to help make the state budget more understandable, accessible, and digestible with the content we produce throughout the course of budget deliberations (and beyond). We begin with this piece that lays out the budget process and an *estimated* schedule of budget activities. For more information on the soon-to-be introduced state budget and previous budgets, visit: <http://www.communitysolutions.com/state-budget-resources>.

**Governor's Budget Proposal (late January)**  
Governor John Kasich will release his budget recommendations, or the executive budget, in late

January (it is required to be submitted to the General Assembly four weeks after the organization of the General Assembly, which this year was January 3, 2017, and puts the budget release at January 31, 2017). This budget is presented in what is known as the "Blue Book." In previous years, the Kasich Administration has also released supplementary materials describing its policy proposals. The governor's budget is known as the "As Introduced" budget. It is not until the budget is introduced in the House of Representatives that it receives a bill number. The bill is traditionally sponsored by the chairperson of the House Finance Committee. Currently that person is Rep. Ryan Smith (R)-House District 93.

In addition to the materials released by the governor's office, the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) prepares what are known as Redbooks. There is a Redbook for each state agency, board, and commission. The Redbook describes historical, current, and proposed funding for the agency and details any policy proposal specific to that agency. Redbooks can be found on the [LSC Website](#). Once the budget is completed, LSC creates Greenbooks which detail the impact of the enacted budget on the agencies.

**Budget Process in House of Representatives (February through mid-to-late April)**

The legislative budget process begins in the House Finance Committee. Different parts of the bill are assigned to House Finance subcommittees based on topic. For example, the House Finance

Subcommittee on Health and Human Services traditionally hears testimony on the budgets for the departments of Aging, Developmental Disabilities, Health, Job and Family Services, and Medicaid (among others). Extensive testimony is heard in the subcommittees. Testimony begins with the agency directors presenting on the proposed agency budgets and answering questions from the members of the subcommittee. This is followed by testimony from proponents, opponents, and interested parties on the budget bill. This is where organizations and individuals have opportunities to weigh in on provisions of the budget that impact them.

At the conclusion of the subcommittee process, each subcommittee develops a report for the full House Finance Committee with recommendations on changes (amendments) to the bill. With the reports, the House Finance Committee formulates a new version of the bill, known as the substitute bill. LSC develops what is known as a comparison document, or “comp doc,” that compares the as-introduced bill to the substitute bill. Each subsequent version of the budget bill will be added to this comp doc, so that the changes from one version of the bill to the next can be monitored more easily. These are also available on the LSC Website. The House Finance Committee holds hearings on the substitute version of the bill, which is another opportunity to provide testimony. After this round of hearings, the Finance Committee will likely incorporate additional amendments into the bill. This is often done in an omnibus amendment, which is many amendments grouped into one large amendment. The Finance Committee votes on this version of the bill and, once approved, it moves to the House of Representatives for a vote. With an affirmative House vote, the budget moves to the Senate.

**Budget Process in the Ohio Senate (late April through early June)**

The budget process in the Senate is similar to the House process, but on an abbreviated timeline. The substitute bill begins in the Senate Finance Committee. The Senate either uses standing Senate committees to hear different portions of the budget or creates Senate Finance subcommittees. It is yet to be determined which way the Senate will go this year. Similarly to the House process, the subcommittee or standing committees hear from state agency directors, as well as testimony from stakeholders on the potential impact of the budget. After this process is complete, the bill moves back to the Senate Finance Committee where a substitute bill is created based on subcommittee (or standing committee) recommendations. There are a limited number of hearings on the substitute bill in Senate Finance committee. The committee then considers additional changes that become part of the bill. Senate Finance Committee votes the bill out of committee and it heads to the full Senate for a vote.

**Conference Committee (mid to late June)**

There are usually differences between the House-passed and the Senate-passed versions of the budget and a conference committee is required to reconcile these differences. Select members, typically from the House and Senate Finance committees, are named to the Conference Committee. These deliberations largely take place without public input. The committee develops a final version of the bill and, once the bill is voted on by the committee, it goes back to both the House and Senate to concur with the final changes. The House and Senate cannot make changes to the bill at this point and must either adopt or reject what the Conference Committee has put together.

**Budget Goes Back to the Governor**

Once the House and Senate agree on and approve a final budget, it goes to the governor for his signature. Any provision in any bill that includes appropriations can be line-item vetoed by the

governor. This means he can strike out any portion of the bill while approving the rest of it. He cannot add to the bill through line-item vetoes. The budget bill must be signed by June 30 for the appropriations to take effect on July 1, the first day of the new state fiscal year.

### Helpful Resources

*Ohio Office of Budget and Management:*

<http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/default.aspx>

- This is where the governor's budget proposal will first be posted (get ready to refresh your page on the day the budget is released!). In addition to the Blue Book, a report from the Ohio Department of Taxation on tax expenditures is posted with the budget.

*Ohio Legislative Service Commission:*

<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/budget/mainbudget.htm>

- This is where you'll find Redbooks, the Comparison Document, the Budget in Detail, and the Bill Analysis.
- There are also LSC resources on the transportation budget, which is on a different timeline and must be finalized by March 31: <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/budget/default.htm>

*Ohio House of Representatives:*

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/index>

- This page is currently being updated with new member information, but the House Finance Committee page is available under the "Committees" tab on the House of Representatives homepage. This is where you will find information on committee members, committee schedules, and posted testimony materials. Additionally, the live-stream of House Finance Committee can be found on this page. The subcommittees are not live-streamed.
- A helpful tip is to follow the House Finance Committee, as well as any subcommittees, on Twitter. Twitter updates from the committee include who is "on deck" to testify, when any recesses are taking place, and other pertinent information that needs to be disseminated quickly.

*Ohio Senate:* <http://ohiosenate.gov/index>

- This page is currently being updated with new member information, but the Senate Finance Committee page is available under the "Committees" tab on the Senate homepage. This is where you will find information on committee members, committee schedules, and posted testimony materials. Additionally, the live-stream of Senate Finance Committee can be found on this page. The subcommittees are not live-streamed.
- A helpful tip is to follow the Senate Finance Committee, as well as any subcommittees, on Twitter. Twitter updates from the committee include who is "on deck" to testify, when any recesses are taking place, and other pertinent information that needs to be disseminated quickly.

*The Ohio Channel:* <https://www.ohiochannel.org/?2>

- The Ohio Channel live-streams every Ohio House and Senate session, as well as hearings of the full House and Senate Finance committees. This allows people all around the state to watch certain parts of the budget process online. As mentioned above, the Finance subcommittee hearings are not live-streamed.

*Richard G. Sheridan's Follow the Money: State Budgeting in Ohio, Third Edition,* Edited and Updated by Terry Thomas

- *Follow the Money* is a written guide to Ohio's budgeting process produced by The Center for Community Solutions. Please contact Tara Britton at [tbritton@communitysolutions.com](mailto:tbritton@communitysolutions.com) if you would like a copy of the book or with any questions. *Follow the Money* is being updated with a new edition expected for release in 2018.



### Meet the Author: Tara Britton

Tara Britton joined Community Solutions in October, 2010, and currently serves as director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Edward D. and Dorothy E. Lynde Fellow.

Her main areas of policy research and analysis are health care and reform, mental health and addiction, HIV/AIDS, Ohio Works First, and the budget and legislative processes at the state and federal levels. Located in the Community Solutions' Columbus office, Ms. Britton serves as an author of CCS reports, including *State*

*Budgeting Matters* and the *By the Numbers* series, on a variety of health and human service topics and engages with advocates on issues ranging from mental health to HIV/AIDS. Britton serves as vice chair of the Health Impact Council of the United Way of Central Ohio and on the board of the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus. Prior to joining Community Solutions, Tara was an assistant for three years at a Columbus consulting firm, with a focus on the state legislative process. In that role, she tracked legislation and provided reports on hearings in the Ohio House and Senate. Ms. Britton obtained a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, both from The Ohio State University.

neighborhoods every day, we know that policies are impacting our services and our clients, but we don't necessarily have the opportunities to study, analyze, understand, and influence them. That's why CCS is an invaluable resource for organizations that provide direct services. CCS provides the research and analysis that service planners and providers need."

**SAVE THE DATE: October 20, 2017**  
**Annual Celebration of Human Services!**

McCullough Lecture, \$25K Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award, MTV Awards, Public Service Awards

**Budget Landscape: Ohio's Health & Human Services Agencies 2018-2019**  
 Companion to *Ohio Dept. of Medicaid: Budget Preview*  
 Tara Britton, Brie Lusheck, Will Tarter (December, 2016)



**Ohio Department of Medicaid: Budget Preview**

Loren Anthes (November, 2016)



### Recent Media Notes

- Community Solutions Public Policy Fellow Loren Anthes' blog, "[The Return on Investment of Medicaid Expansion: Supporting Work and Health in Rural Ohio](#)," was reposted in *Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families*' "[Say Ahhh!](#)," and linked in *Manatt on Health Reform: Weekly Highlights* update "[Ohio: Report Finds Medicaid Expansion Improves Health, Reduces Expenses](#)." (1/10/17)
- Community Solutions Executive Director John Corlett was quoted in *Kaiser Health News*' "[Obama's Health Care Legacy: A Landmark Becomes A Question Mark](#)" (1/10/17) and interviewed in *PBS News Hours*' "[Landmark or footnote? Obamacare legacy now rests with Trump](#)." (1/9/17)
- Public Policy Fellow Loren Anthes was quoted in *POLITICO Pulse*'s "[Obamacare defenders launch new wave of TV, digital ads](#)." (1/5/17) and *Gongwer*'s "State Assessment Finds Medicaid Expansion Boosted Health Outcomes, Ability Of Participants To Find Work." (1/4/17)



### Meet CCS Board Chair Zulma Zabala

**Zulma Zabala**, JD, MPA, takes the helm as Chair of the Board of Directors while also serving as executive director of East End Neighborhood House. EENH's

mission mission is to provide the families of our community culturally diverse and compassionate social services, education and activities so that each member — from child to senior — can become self sufficient and thrive. Zulma, who has been a board member for four years, "brings a unique advocacy perspective and a direct connection to Cleveland neighborhoods to the Community Solutions' board," according to **John R. Corlett**, Community Solutions' president and executive director. She concurs by noting, "Working in the

### Contact, Join CCS in Social Media



[info@CommunitySolutions.com](mailto:info@CommunitySolutions.com)  
[www.CommunitySolutions.com](http://www.CommunitySolutions.com)