Advocacy 201

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spring into action

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Advocacy 201

Workshop Overview
- Introduction & Opening Activity
- Advocacy Continuum and the Public Policy Process
- Group Activity
- Closing & Questions
Advocacy 201

Objective

To help advocates better understand the policy process, value advocacy, and embed advocacy in their organizations.
What is Advocacy?

Taking **action** to speak out against or build support for an issue, idea, or social cause
Advocacy Continuum

- Individual change
- Changes that impact a person
- Community change
- Changes that impact a community that help change the community’s resources or knowledge.
- Societal Change
- Changes that have broader change – such as changes to policies, laws, or public awareness.
What is Public Policy?

Public policy is the result of decisions, actions, or inactions taken by public officials to address an issue that affects the “public”
Types of Public Policy

- Legislative
  - Laws, statute
  - Legislation passed by IL General Assembly, US Congress

- Administrative
  - Rules, regulations
  - Adopted by state/federal agencies
  - Often specify how new legislation will be implemented and enforced

Both legislative and administrative policies can be influenced by advocacy from the public – but the advocacy takes different forms for each
**Illinois Legislative Cycle**

**January:** Illinois General Assembly Begins

**February:** Governor's State of State & Budget Address

**March - May:** GA files bills; holds public hearings; votes on bills/budget

**June:** End of fiscal year

**July:** Begin new fiscal year

**October - November:** Veto Session

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Administrative Policy

- Illinois Administrative Code
  - Illinois Register; Flinn Report

- Joint Committee on Administrative Rulemaking (JCAR)
  - Committee of 12 legislators who review proposed rule changes, public comments, department testimony
  - JCAR must review before agency can officially adopt rule
Administrative Policy Process

Agency Drafts Proposed Rule

First Notice Period (min. 45 days)

Second Notice Period (max. 45 days)

Agency Adopts Rule

JCAR Hearings

Agency will accept public comments and can make changes to the proposed rule language.

Upon request, public hearing may be held

JCAR motions:
- Certificate of No Objection
- Recommendation
- Objection
- Filing Prohibition/Suspension

Agency may or may not make changes to the proposed rule.
Influencing Legislation

- Call your legislator – or go to their office at the capitol (tomorrow!) and urge them to support or oppose a specific bill
  - IAFC action alerts always include talking points
- File “witness slips” when bills are being heard in committee
  - Official record of proponents and opponents
- Written and oral testimony at committee hearings

Senator Toi Hutchinson and IAFC’s Samir Tanna testify on SB1705 in Senate Human Services Committee. (Photo: Twitter, Illinois Senate Democrats)
Influencing Legislation: Witness Slips

Step 1: Go to my.ilga.gov

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4: Click House Human Services Committee on 4/10

Step 5: Find HB 4965 and click Create Witness Slip

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RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS - ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 496
BILL OR RESOLUTION NUMBER

Human Services Committee Committee
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:00 AM
Other (Subject Matter) Unavailable

I. IDENTIFICATION

☐ All fields are required unless noted as optional.

Name:
Address:
City:
Zip:
State:

Fax (Optional):

Email:

(Confirmation email will be used if a email address is provided)

II. REPRESENTATION

☐ This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of a group, organization or other entity.

Persons, groups, firms not retained in this appearance:

III. POSITION

☐ Select your portion(s) on the legislative item:

Description: Original Bill

☐ Proponent

☐ Opponent

☐ No Position On File

IV. TESTIMONY

☐ Select the testimony type that you will supply for the hearing. (Check all that apply)

☐ Oral

☐ Written Statement Filed

☐ Record Of Appearance Only

Please Agree to the Terms Of Agreement:

☐ I Agree to the ILGA Terms Of Agreement
Influencing Administrative Rules

- Monitor Flinn Report, Illinois Register
- DCFS Sunshine website
  - Notice of proposed rules
  - Comment submission form
- For major rule changes, IAFC will create comment templates

Submit public comment during First Notice Period

Tips:
- Comments should include both concerns and appreciation
- Be sure to state how the rule impacts you
- Be concise and stick to the matter at hand
- Offer recommended changes when possible
Influencing Policy at All Levels

2018 Elections – November 6, 2018

Statewide Offices
- Governor and Lt. Governor; Attorney General; Secretary of State; Comptroller; Treasurer

All US Representatives
39 State Senators
All State Representatives (118)
Activity: Embedding Advocacy in Organizations
Questions?
Advocate!

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www.actforchildren.org
Contact Information

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