

Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services

Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 24, 2017

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

Cabinet Members Present: Co-Chair Anne Foley; Co-Chair Luis Perez; Alyssa Goduti; Amos Lee Smith; Commissioner Amy Porter; Anne Ruwet; Barry Simon; Commissioner Betsy Ritter; David Stevenson; Commissioner David Wilkinson; Kathleen Stauffer; Roberta Cook; Maureen Price Boreland; Commissioner Jordan Scheff; Rick Porth; Robert Dakers; and Gary Roberge.

Designees: Cheryl Cepelak for Commissioner Scott Semple; Deb Ennis for Commissioner Joette Katz; Dimple Desai for Commissioner Evonne Klein; Ann Simeone for Kathleen Brennan; and Michael Michaud for Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon.

Absent: Bill Hass; Jim Maloney; Josie Robles; and Commissioner Raul Pino.

Other Attendees: Kelly Sinko; and Jeannette Archer-Simon.

Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chair Foley called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. She welcomed David Wilkinson, Commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood as a new member. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that he has past experience working with the nonprofit sector under the Obama administration and is honored to be a part of the Nonprofit Cabinet. Members introduced themselves.

Public Comment: Co-Chair Foley opened the floor for open comment. No public comments.

Approval of Minutes of 3/28/2017 Cabinet Meeting: A motion was made by Anne Ruwet and seconded by Barry Simon to approve the March 28, 2017 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

State Budget Update: Co-Chair Foley provided an update on the State Budget. Major points included:

- There is no enacted state budget.
- Governor Malloy presented a recommended budget for the biennium in February to the General Assembly.
- The Appropriations Committee did not act on a budget or any bills.
- Governor Malloy's budget was based on the January consensus revenue forecast by OPM and OFA. A revised consensus estimate released in May projected substantial revenue declines and created an imbalance and on May 15, Governor Malloy presented recommendations to the General Assembly for addressing the impact including proposed revisions and revenue.

- The legislature did not act on a state budget before the end of session and did not act before June 30, the end of the fiscal year, and still has not acted.
- Governor Malloy, at the end of June, issued Executive Order 58. He evaluated the various demands for state services and resources, the existing legal requirements of state agencies, and available resources. With these considerations in mind, he released “Proposed Resource Allocation Plan for FY2018.” The Governor released a full year plan in order to provide some measure of predictability for citizens and providers and in most cases, quarterly allocation is one quarter of that annual amount.
- Acting solely within the executive authority limits the tools available to the administration, resulting in more drastic cuts. When it became apparent the legislature was not going to act on a two year budget, the Governor developed and released a “mini budget” which would require legislative approval. The mini budget restores over \$56 million for nonprofit providers.

Co-Chair Foley noted that members may want to consider speaking to legislators about enacting a budget or at least passing the mini budget.

After the update, Anne Ruwet raised concerns regarding the reductions to the nonprofit providers given the intent of the Nonprofit Cabinet is to ensure the stabilization of the nonprofit organizations.

2017 State Legislature Update: Co-Chair Foley introduced Kelly Sinko from OPM to provide an update on the 2017 Legislation impacting nonprofit providers. The 2017 Legislative Update can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/nonprofit_cabinet_legislative_update.pdf

Members asked for two follow up items on the nonprofit legislative update:

- (1) Public Act 17-122 gives the OPM Secretary the authority to create an innovation incentive program for eligible nonprofit providers. The program would allow providers to keep certain percentages of savings realized by providers who otherwise meet contractual requirements. Eligibility to the program is limited to nonprofit providers of human services whose contracts do not exceed \$1 million dollars and provide direct services to not more than 150 people in state-funded assistance programs in specific geographic areas of the state. OPM will provide more information about how many providers would be eligible for the program given those parameters.
- (2) Public Act 17-146 clarifies the services that can be provided by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor (LADC) under their existing scope of practice. Before the next meeting, upon request of Co-Chair Perez, OPM will coordinate a meeting with Co-Chair Perez and other representatives of non-profit providers to further discuss the scope of practice of LADCs and report back to the Cabinet on such discussion.

Nonprofit Grant Program – Co-Chair Foley asked Robert Dakers to update the members on the Nonprofit Grant Program. He stated that nonprofit providers received \$70 million in grants for capital projects since March 2014. Currently, an additional \$15.1 in grants are being awarded to fifty nonprofit organizations throughout Connecticut. The Governor’s Revised Budget recommends authorization of \$25 million in each year of the biennium for a total of \$50 million for capital projects for nonprofit organizations; however, the Capital Budget has yet to be enacted. The link to the Nonprofit Grant Program Summary can be found at:
http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/ngp_update_2017.pdf

Cabinet Activities: Co-Chair Perez thanked Cheryl Cepelak and Jeannette Archer-Simons for co-chairing Team 1 and Robert Dakers and Barry Simon for co-chairing Team 2, as well as all participating members. Co-Chair Perez asked the Co-Chairs to provide an update on their team’s work. Team 1 and Team 2 presentations can be found at:
http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/final_ppt_07242017_meeting.pdf

Team 1

Team Charge:

- Strategies for recruitment , training, retention and career advancement
- Foundational component for effective collaborations
- Access to DECD capital and technical assistance
- Access to process improvement and technical assistance

Summary: Team 1 will:

- Develop opportunities for educational partnerships that advance organizations
- Increase awareness of resources and incentives for nonprofits from DECD
- Create opportunities for accessing data which add value and effectiveness
- Advance understanding of collaborative opportunities through training activities
- Promote opportunities for partnership on Second Chance Initiatives

Comments by Cabinet members: The Team should consider the concept of “returning citizens” when referring to individuals transiting from incarceration to society. Also, the Team may want to review the State Department of Labor’s definition of paid and unpaid internships when making recommendations.

Team 2

- Data Use /Reporting
- Rate Setting Office
- Best practices in contract procurement

Summary: Team 2 will:

- Create consistent, streamlined set of data and reporting methods that can be used uniformly across state agencies
- Review and recommend to the Cabinet cross-agency data management tools that show population level results
- Define the true cost of doing business as a nonprofit agency
- Complete research on models for establishing a Rate Setting Office and make recommendations to the Cabinet
- Identify policy changes to prioritize paying for cost of services to ensure sustainability of the Nonprofit Health and Human Services system
- Identify best practices in contract procurement
- Identify three best practices for implementation in cooperation with OPM

Other Business: Co-Chair Perez reminded members that the CT Data Academy is asking for nonprofit cabinet members to serve on their Advisory Board. He stated that if members are interested they should contact CT Data Academy directly.

Next Steps:

Co-Chair Foley noted that the next Cabinet meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 31th from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Teams should have concrete action steps and recommendations to report out at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Recorder: Pamela Trotman, Office of Policy and Management