

Special Education Cost Model Task Force

Minutes of Meeting March 16, 2018

Call to Order:

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Special Education Cost Model Task Force met on Friday, February 23, 2018 in North Hearing Room C of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

Mr. Matthew Galligan, Chair of the Special Education Cost Model Task Force, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Task force members in attendance:

- Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education
- Stephen DiCenso, Consulting Actuary, Milliman, Inc.
- Liz Donohue, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
- John Flanders, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
- Matthew Galligan, Town Manager, South Windsor
- Marie Salazar Glowski, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools
- Michael Grove, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Operations, Meriden Public Schools
- Jeffrey Kitching, Executive Director, EdAdvance
- Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Jan Perruccio, Superintendent, Old Saybrook Public Schools

Task force members absent:

- David Scata, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Jeyaraj Vadiveloo, University of Connecticut, Goldensen Center for Actuarial Research

Others in attendance:

- Kyle Abercrombie, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Martha Deeds, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Mary Glassman, Capitol Region Education Council
- Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management
- Mandi Lewis, Office of the Governor
- Katie Roy, Connecticut School Finance Project

1. Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Task force members reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the February 23, 2018 meeting. Mr. Flanders moved, and Ms. McCarthy seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2018 task force meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION:

In favor: Dempsey, DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Scata, Vadiveloo

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion of framing of task force's work and adoption of mission statement

The mission of the task force was discussed, and the following mission statement was agreed upon:

The task force is committed to ensuring that children receive high-quality, appropriate special education services while making special education costs and budgeting more predictable for communities.

Mr. Flanders moved, and Dr. Kitching seconded, a motion to adopt the mission statement.

VOTE ON MOTION:

In favor: Dempsey, DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Scata, Vadiveloo

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of work plan and review of similar requests for proposals (RFP).

Mr. Galligan will send the CT Prime RFP out and seek some additional examples of relevant RFPs.

4. Appointment of subcommittee to write a draft RFP.

The task force discussed the appointment of a subcommittee to draft an RFP. The task force members agreed that the following task force committee members will be appointed to the RFP drafting subcommittee: Mr. Flanders, Mr. DiCenso, Dr. Vadiveloo, and Ms. Donohue. The Connecticut School Finance Project will provide administrative assistance in drafting the RFP. Ms. Donohue will request technical assistance from the Connecticut Department of Insurance in drafting the RFP.

5. Discussion of special education funding models that improve predictability in other states.

Ms. Donohue has asked for the Education Commission of the States to present to the task force (in person or via Skype) on special education finance systems in other states

and to answer task force member's questions on this topic. Ms. McCarthy noted that the Education Commission of the States is a credible, non-partisan national policy organization.

6. Other Business

- Mr. Galligan and Ms. Donohue made clear that this proposal is intended to be revenue neutral to municipalities and districts.
- The group discussed securing funding for the feasibility study, which will require an approximately \$100,000 donation from a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3). Ms. Donohue and Ms. Roy will determine the process by which the Office of Legislative Management could assist in administering these funds. Alternately, the task force could solicit funding from a nonprofit organization and have them pay for the feasibility study directly.
- Dr. Kitching asked when a new special education funding model put forward by the task force would go into effect: the earliest that a new special education funding model could go into effect would be FY2021, after legislative approval.
- Ms. Demsey discussed including in the feasibility study and analysis of the potential of a risk pool for high-cost students as an intermediate step to full implementation of the co-op model.

7. Discussion of Agenda for Next Meeting (April 11)

- CT Prime will give a presentation
- Presentation from Education Commission on the States on special education funding models in other states
- Update from RFP subcommittee

8. Adjourn

At 9:35 AM Ms. McCarthy moved, and Ms. Perruccio seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION:

In favor: Dempsey, DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Scata, Vadiveloo

Motion carried unanimously.