

**\*\*\* D R A F T \*\*\***

**Minutes of the ABLE Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 30, 2017  
Office of the State Treasurer, 7th Floor, 55 Elm Street, Hartford CT**

In attendance:

Kristie Barber  
Linda Blackburn  
Jessica Carroll, DSS  
Marina Derman  
Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone, DAS  
Jack Frost  
Sharon Geanuracos  
David Guttchen, OPM  
Kevin Lawton, DDS  
Shelagh McClure  
Steve Pintarich  
Commissioner Amy Porter, DRS  
Joseph Shortt  
Kerry Tedford-Coles

David Barrett, OTT  
Emily Bjornberg, OTT  
Christine Shaw, OTT  
David Bell, Oregon  
Michael Parker, Oregon  
Doug Magnolia, BNY  
Chelsea Power, BNY

The meeting was called to order at 1:06pm.

Christine Shaw welcomed the committee and gave opening remarks.

Toni Fatone made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, which was seconded by David Guttchen. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Kerry Tedford-Coles who abstained due to absence at the previous meeting.

David Bell gave an update on the national landscape of ABLE. He stated that the goal for Connecticut is to end up with an ABLE program that looks and feels “Connecticut-specific.”

Steve Pintarich asked about tracking veterans and Michael Parker responded that this is something that needs improvement. He also mentioned the need to involve the veteran community in reaching out to Congress regarding the maximum age of diagnosis which needs to be raised. Mr. Pintarich then said that the American Legion could be quite helpful.

Jack Frost asked for statistics that track savers vs. spenders. Mr. Parker responded that the programs are too new to track that effectively; however, Oregon has over 1,000 ABLE accounts with over \$3.2million of assets under management. Across the nation there are 10,500 accounts with \$37million worth of assets under management.

Mr. Bell mentioned that the Maryland launch was two days ago and went very well. Two self-advocates spoke so that the ceremony was quite meaningful.

Shelagh McClure asked if there may be a propensity to spend more once the accounts had more money. Mr. Bell responded that Oregon is doing increased outreach to families with younger members with disabilities which might help track that specific point.

Ms. Shaw asked if there were states with existing tax deductions. Mr. Parker responded that 7-8 states have a tax deduction in place, one of which being Oregon.

Emily Bjornberg asked about the accuracy of information being disseminated by the Social Security Administration. Mr. Bell responded that there are regulations being drafted that will help SS to distribute better information to potential account holders.

BNY Mellon then walked through the branding process. Doug Magnolia and Chelsea Power covered logo design, photography, branding, website and ADA compliance using the State of Washington as an example. Ms. Power then covered the marcom website, the brochure, the PowerPoint presentation template, the ADA compliant forms and the prepaid card design.

The committee then discussed their desire to have the prepaid card in place for or soon after launch.

Ms. Power covered upcoming milestones and deadlines in regards to branding.

Ms. Shaw then gave an overview of where the Office of the State Treasurer stands today in terms of implementation. Its legal and policy units are working to negotiate contracts with both Sunday and Oregon. Its general investment consultant is reviewing the investment options.

Ms. Bjornberg introduced the idea of forming two subcommittees. The first would work on a plan for targeted outreach and the second would review marketing materials moving forward.

Linda Blackburn, Shelagh McClure, Melody Curry and Kevin Lawton all agreed to serve on the outreach committee or to send someone from their respective organizations in their stead. Jack Frost agreed to serve on the marketing subcommittee.

Ms. Shaw thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. McClure and seconded by Amy Porter before passing unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.