

ABLE Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
Office of the Treasurer, 7th Floor Conference Room

In Attendance

Deputy Treasurer Larry Wilson  
Assistant Treasurer Mary Phil Guinan  
Commissioner Amy Porter  
Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone  
Linda Blackburn  
Marina Derman  
Sharon Geanuracos  
Kevin Lawton  
Shelagh McClure  
Bill Pierce  
Lisa Roland  
Joseph Shortt  
Lisa Weiss-Roland

Dialing in by phone

Jack Frost  
David Guttchen  
Melissa Marshall  
Steve Pintarich

Nebraska Participants (by phone)

Rachel Biar, Assistant State Treasurer for Nebraska  
Deborah Goodkind, Managing Director, Savings Plans at First National Bank

Ohio Participant (by phone)

Juliana Crist, Executive Director Ohio STABLE

OTT Staff

David Barrett  
Emily Bjornberg  
Lydia Neals

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Mary Phil Guinan gave opening remarks and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Amy Porter made a motion to accept the minutes for the September 20, 2016 meeting. Kevin Lawton seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

Rachel Biar and Deborah Goodkind presented Nebraska's EnABLE program -- the third program to launch nationally, on June 30, 2016 -- via telephone.

Ms. Biar and Ms. Goodkind stressed their customer service and outreach efforts.

Shelagh McClure asked about the channel to the Nebraska Investment Council that Connecticut would have if it partnered on ABLE. Ms. Biar said that Connecticut would be able to offer feedback on the investments of the program.

Marina Derman asked if EnABLE had a trackable debit card. Ms. Goodkind explained that they will have checking accounts and debit cards available.

Bill Pierce asked about the percentage of currently enrolled EnABLE account holders qualified through mental health issues. Ms. Goodkind said that the number is roughly 10%.

Lisa Rowland asked about the benefits to the state of Connecticut and its residents should it choose to partner with EnABLE. Ms. Biar and Ms. Goodkind said that they are very proud of their product and they are confident that their service is second to none.

Juliana Crist presented the Ohio STABLE program -- the first program to launch nationally on June 1, 2016 -- via telephone. Ms. Crist said that STABLE has the only loadable prepaid debit card of all standing ABLE programs. The card is preloaded in order to provide additional safeguards for families who do not want their family member with disabilities to have access to all of the money in their account, she said. The card is trackable and can be audited for tax filing purposes and the system allows customers to add their own notes about each expenditure, she added.

Ms. Crist said that Ohio offers Connecticut a state specific website and marketing materials, that partnering with Ohio would mean lower fees for Connecticut residents, and that, on the back end, Ohio would handle reporting, compliance, and investments. She said that Ohio has an ABLE advisory committee and Connecticut would have a seat on it. They would also deliver an outreach playbook, she said.

Mary Phil Guinan asked about the STABLE outreach efforts. Ms. Crist explained that much of the outreach needs to be out in the community, face to face, with potential account holders to build trust and explain the program. Efforts to scale up the outreach through webinars and larger meetings have been unsuccessful, she said.

Larry Wilson asked how many state partners Ohio currently has. Ms. Crist said they have three verbal commitments. Mr. Wilson asked how many of those states went through an RFP process and she said none, though Ohio had responded to RFPs and will continue to do so.

Shelagh McClure asked for the call center hours and Ms. Crist said the call center is open 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET.

Lisa Roland asked how much control Connecticut would have in a partnership. Ms. Crist explained that the control Connecticut would retain would solely be in the branding and front end. Investments, fees, back-end management would be controlled by Ohio, she said.

Following the presentations, the committee discussed the options for partnerships. As a group, the committee indicated a partnership appeared to be the best way to set up an ABLE program

for Connecticut residents. A discussion of the process for requesting specific information from potential partners ensued. Mr. Wilson asked for volunteers to work on a committee to prepare a draft of a request for such information and Ms. McClure and Sharon Geanuracos agreed to serve.

Mary Phil Guinan gave a brief overview of federal legislation status.

Ms. Geanuracos made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Amy Porter and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.