

**Special Education Cost Model Task Force
Minutes of Meeting
September 11, 2018**

Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Special Education Cost Model Task Force met on Thursday, by teleconference at (203) 309-6713. A meeting room for public participation with an open telephone line was provided at the Office of Policy and Management, Conference Room 3A, 450 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

Matthew Galligan, chair, called the meeting to order 9:30 AM.

Task force members in attendance:

- Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education
- John Flanders, Executive Director, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
- Matthew Galligan, Town Manager, South Windsor (Chair)
- Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management (alternate designee from OPM)
- Michael Grove, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Finance
- Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Connecticut Association of
- Jan Perruccio, Superintendent, Old Saybrook Public Schools
- David Scata, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Jeyaraj Vadiveloo, Director, Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research, University of Connecticut

Task Force Members Absent:

- Stephen DiCenso, Consulting Actuary, Milliman, Inc.
- Marie Salazar Glowski, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools
- Jeffrey Kitching, Executive Director, EdAdvance

Others in attendance:

- Kyle Abercrombie, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Martha Deeds, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Patrick Gibson, Connecticut School Finance Project
- John Harnick, Office of Legislative Management
- Cara Hart, Capitol Region Education Council
- Janet Grace, Connecticut Insurance Department
- Tina Mohr, Office of Legislative Management
- John Moran, Office of Legislative Research
- Fran Rabinowitz, Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents
- Katie Roy, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Marybeth Sullivan, Office of Legislative Research

1. Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Task force members reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the June 21st, 2018 meeting. Ms. Perruccio moved, and Mr. Flanders seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2018 task force meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: Demsey, Flanders, Galligan, Grenier, Grove, McCarthy, Perruccio, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Scata

Absent: DiCenso, Glowski, Kitching

1. Discussion of the outcome of the request for proposals (RFP): *Feasibility Study: Alternative Special Education Funding Model(s)*

Mr. Galligan informed the task force members that the RFP posted through OPM did not receive any bids. Ms. Deeds informed the task force of the four options provided by OPM in moving forward: to rebid the work through OPM with a modified scope; to apply for a sole source designation through OPM and attempt to identify a vendor and negotiate a contract for the feasibility study; to rebid the work through another entity, such as a RESC, or to not pursue completing the feasibility study.

2. Discussion of options for vendor selection and next steps

Mr. Galligan discussed the benefits of working with another entity, such as a RESC, specifically because of the compressed timeframe in which the feasibility study must be completed, and the issues previously discussed regarding the unlimited indemnity clause in state contracts, which may, among other reasons, have caused vendors not to submit bids. Mr. Galligan informed the task force members that he had approached Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) about potentially administering the RFP on behalf of the task force, and Mary Glassman, representing CREC, said that CREC would be willing to provide this support to the task force. Mr. Scata asked if there would be a cost associated with CREC doing this work. It was explained that replied that CREC would be reimbursed for the staff time related to managing the RFP process. Ms. McCarthy stated that she believed that working with CREC to bid and administer the RFP process was the only feasible option at this point in time if the feasibility study is to be completed on schedule. Mr. Grove concurred. Mr. Grove asked who would review candidates and manage the selection process. Mr. Galligan stated that the task force members who had been appointed to review the RFP bids would review submissions and make a recommendation to the task force about selecting a vendor, but CREC would manage the process.

Mr. Scata moved, and Ms. McCarthy seconded a motion to approve CREC bid the RFP for the feasibility study on behalf of the task force.

Mr. Flanders stated that because he is currently working on a separate project with CREC that he would abstain from voting.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: Demsey, Flanders, Galligan, Grenier, Grove, McCarthy, Perruccio, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Flanders

Absent: DiCenso, Glowski, Kitching

3. Discussion of the potential to break the scope of work into three parts: legal services, insurance consulting services, and actuarial modeling services

Mr. Galligan discussed the benefits of breaking the scope of work into three portions: legal services, insurance consulting services, and actuarial modeling services. Ms. Demsey asked if vendors would be allowed to bid on all scopes, or to form teams to bid jointly. Mr. Galligan responded that they may bid jointly or separately. Mr. Galligan noted that in his experience, this process would result in more bids. Ms. Grace stated that in her experience this process works more efficiently and noted that they bid with the understanding they will need to cooperate with other vendors, as the scopes of work overlap. Mr. Flanders expressed concern that any potential insurance consulting firm may not have knowledge of special education services, and therefore, supported the idea of having a broader group of consultants engaged in the feasibility study. Mr. Galligan then explained that UCONN Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research, which developed the original model, is willing to do the actuarial modeling work to create an alternative model that would finance the risks of only “excess cost” students, as requested by the task force, and that the independent actuarial services would review both the initial cooperative model and this alternative model. Mr. Flanders stated that he would support this.

Mr. Flanders moved and Mr. Scata seconded a motion to approve separating the scope of work into three scopes, one for legal services, one for insurance consulting services, and one for actuarial modeling services.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: Demsey, Flanders, Galligan, Grenier, Glowski, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio, Scata, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: DiCenso, Glowski, Kitching

Mr. Flanders moved, and Ms. McCarthy seconded a motion to approve the UCONN Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research to perform the necessary actuarial modeling to determine the feasibility of an alternative model that would finance the volatility related to students whose services result in extraordinary costs to school districts.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: Demsey, Flanders, Galligan, Grenier, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio, Scata

Opposed: 0
Abstained: Vadiveloo
Absent: DiCenso, Glowski, Kitching

Mr. Scata moved, and Mr. Flanders seconded a motion to authorize the UCONN Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research to request the necessary data required to build a high-cost cooperative model from the State Department of Education (SDE) on behalf of the task force.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: Demsey, Flanders, Galligan, Grenier, Grove, Kitching, McCarthy, Perruccio, Scata

Opposed: 0
Abstained: Vadiveloo
Absent: DiCenso, Glowski, Kitching

Ms. Demsey agreed to connect Dr. Vadiveloo to Ajit Gopalakrishnan at the SDE to facilitate the data request.

4. Update from CPAC on Parent Focus Groups

Mr. Flanders provided an update on the parent focus groups process. He reported that the State Education Resource Center (SERC) was selected by the RFP subcommittee to perform the parent focus groups, and that work on the project is underway.

3. Other Business

Mr. Galligan stated that a call will need to be scheduled early next to approve the amended scopes of work, and that a poll will be sent to members to schedule the call.

4. Adjournment

At 10:24 AM, Mr. Flanders moved, and Ms. Demsey seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.