

Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 31, 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; Josie Robles; Anne Ruwet; Barry Simon; Commissioner David Wilkinson; Bill Hass; Commissioner Jordan Scheff; Rick Porth; Robert Dakers; Gary Roberge; and David Stevenson.

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

Absent: Maureen Price Boreland; Jim Maloney; and Roberta Cook.

Other Attendees: Jeannette Archer-Simon.

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Co-Chair Foley called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Members introduced themselves. Co-Chair Foley acknowledged the absence of Commissioner Ritter. She noted that the enacted state budget eliminates the Department on Aging, and as a result, Commissioner Ritter will no longer serve as Commissioner and a member of the Cabinet. Co-Chair Foley thanked Commissioner Ritter for her service on the Cabinet and most especially for her strong leadership and advocacy on behalf of Connecticut's elderly residents.
 2. **Public Comment:** Co-Chair Foley opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.
 3. **Approval of Minutes of 7/24/2017 Cabinet Meeting:** A motion was made by Anne Ruwet and seconded by Alyssa Goduti to approve the July 24, 2017 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.
http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/np_cabinet_july_24_2017_meeting_minutes_draft.pdf
 4. **Updates**
 - a) **Legislative Updates:** Co-Chair Foley reminded members that, at the last meeting, Kelly Sinko from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provided an update on legislation enacted during the 2017 session impacting nonprofit providers. Members asked for follow-up on the nonprofit legislation regarding Public Act 17-122 concerning an Innovative Incentive Program and Public Act 17-146 concerning Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

- [Public Act No. 17-122](#) – An Act Concerning an Innovative Incentive Program for Nonprofit Providers of Human Services – gives the OPM Secretary the authority to create an innovation incentive program limited to nonprofit providers of human services whose contracts do not exceed \$1 million and who provide direct services to not more than 150 people. Members requested information on how many providers would be eligible for the program given these parameters. Co-Chair Foley reviewed a chart of the current Purchase of Service (POS) contracts with state funding under \$1 million. She indicated that, based on the list of POS contractors, it is not possible to identify those that meet the other eligibility criteria. She noted that, if OPM pursues this initiative, the providers will be asked to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria.
 - [Public Act No. 17-146](#) – Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors – clarifies the services that can be provided by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor (LADC) under their existing scope of practice. Co-Chair Perez had previously asked OPM to coordinate a meeting of non-profit providers and other entities to discuss the scope of practice of LADCs. Co-Chair Perez noted that the meeting was held with representation from the Departments of Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services and OPM. The group discussed and received clarification regarding the existing scope of practice for LADCs. Co-Chair Perez informed members that a request for scope review has been submitted to DPH and it is likely that different entities will submit recommendations on language that provide guidelines for continuing education to be achieved in order for LADCs to provide services beyond addiction assessment and referrals.
 - [Special Act No. 17-21](#) – An Act Establishing a Working Group to Review the Licensure and Certification Process for certain Nonprofit Community Providers – Co-Chair Foley asked Alyssa Goduti to provide an update on Special Act 17-21. Ms. Goduti noted that the legislation requires that a Licensure and Certification Workgroup (LCW) be established to review the current certification and licensure processes of nonprofit providers and state agencies to determine potential efficiencies. The workgroup submitted an Interim Report in September 2017. The report can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/hhs/licensure_and_certification_workgroup/sa_17-21_interim_report_september_15_2017final_with_transmittal_letter.pdf . A five day Kaizen event will be held to develop recommendations on efficiencies to the state's licensure and certification processes.
- b) **State Budget Update:** Co-Chair Foley noted that Governor Malloy signed the state budget and line-item vetoed the appropriation for hospital supplemental payments because the language in the budget makes federal approval unlikely while omitting language that makes payment contingent on federal approval. Co-Chair Foley suggested that providers should work with the state agencies that are contracted with regarding budget issues.
- c) **Nonprofit Grant Program** – Co-Chair Foley asked Robert Dakers to update the members on the Nonprofit Grant Program. He noted that, as of October 31, 2017, the nonprofit

agencies received about \$70 million in grants for capital projects. An additional \$10 million in grants has already been awarded to nonprofit organizations throughout Connecticut. A total of \$25 million is pending approval from the State Bond Commission. The recent enacted state budget recommends authorization of \$25 million in each year of the biennium for a total of \$50 million for the nonprofit grant program.

5. **Cabinet Activities:** Co-Chair Foley asked the Team Co-Chairs, Cheryl Cepelak, Jeannette Archer-Simon, Robert Dakers and Barry Simon 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/10-31-17_np_cabinet_presentation.pdf

a) Team 1 Human Resources, Collaboration, and Technical Assistance
Team Charge:

- Strategies for recruitment , training, retention and career advancement
- Foundational component for effective collaborations
- Access to Department of Economic and Community Development (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

b) Team 2 Data Collection, Rate Setting, and Contract Management

- 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

Communication Plan: Co-Chair Foley asked Commissioner Amy Porter and William Hass to provide an update on the development of the Cabinet's communication plan. Commissioner Porter noted that they are just starting the process of developing a communication plan and will begin to work with Team Co-Chairs to gather ideas on how to effectively communicate the work of the Cabinet externally.

Next Steps: Co-Chair Foley asked members for input regarding the submission of a Cabinet Report to the Governor. After discussion, members agreed to have recommendations from the teams ready for final review and approval at the January 11th Cabinet meeting. Once recommendations have been approved, Cabinet staff will develop a draft report for members' review and comments.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.