

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting  
October 4, 2017**

**Minutes  
(Approved 12/6/17)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, North, Meeting Room A, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on October 4, 2017.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones, and Malia Sieve.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Chief of Staff Laura Stefon, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Bureau Chief John Frassinelli, Education Consultant Louis Tallarita, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

Also present was Lisa Tepper Bates, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by William Davenport, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the September 6, 2017, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

**III. Ensuring Education Stability for Students Experiencing Homelessness**

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, who provided a brief introduction to the topic. Ms. Russell-Tucker then introduced Education Consultant Louis Tallarita, who is the State Coordinator of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“McKinney-Vento Act”). Mr. Tallarita commenced the meeting by referring the Committee members to a handout in their folders of a PowerPoint entitled The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. He gave a background and overview of some of the key aspects of the McKinney-Vento Act. The presentation covered the following topics:

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Part B
- School District McKinney-Vento Act Liaisons
- Definition of “Homeless” under the McKinney-Vento Act
- Definition of “Accompanied Youth”

- Overcoming Homelessness: Educational Stability
- Overcoming Homelessness: Immediate Enrollment
- Overcoming Homelessness: Graduation and Beyond

A copy of this PowerPoint presentation is filed in the official file of the office of the State Board of Education.

Ms. Russell-Tucker introduced Ms. Lisa Tepper Bates, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (“Coalition”). Ms. Tepper Bates shared a handout highlighting recent accomplishments in the effort to end homelessness in Connecticut, including:

- Launching a Coordinated System to Access Homeless Response Resources across CT (2015)
- Ending Chronic Veteran Homelessness (2015) – first state certified by federal government
- Ending Veteran Homelessness (2016) – one of first two states certified
- Housing over 1,700 chronically homeless individuals between 2015-2017
- Decreasing total homelessness by 24% in three years

Currently, the Coalition is working diligently to end family and youth homelessness by 2020.

A discussion ensued followed by a question and answer session.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked Mr. Louis Tallarita and Ms. Tepper Bates for their informative presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **IV. Other Matters**

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder