

Fiscal Policy WG notes

5/21/20

Staff: Jenn Foor, Jordan Hensley, Bruce Mallory, Michele Holt-Shannon

Present – Dave Luneau, Dick Ames, Rick Ladd, John Beardmore

1. Joint discussion with FPWG on AIR SOW—AIR now making modest revisions to their proposed SOW, based on conversation with exec team earlier this week. Will address definition of adequacy in order to establish base/universal costs. AIR will not provide a definition; that's commission's job. But they will share examples from other states and make the costing and weighting process explicit. AIR focus is on addressing outcome disparities within and across districts. Will distribute revised SOW to full commission for comments and final discussion at 5/26 meeting.
2. Dave reviewed task list.
 - a. Identify all current revenue sources (in process).
 - i. Data needs will be communicated to Bruce who will be point of contact with Caitlin Davies and other agency staff, in collaboration with Dave. Rick notes challenges associated with finding some cost data from DOE (e.g., transportation), may need to sample school districts directly. Dick notes that adequacy aid comes from multiple sources/accounts; need to identify all sources as well as current threats to those sources. Rick will take the lead on this.
 - b. Identify changes in mix of revenue sources (in process).
 - i. Dick will take the lead
 - ii. Good start with ADWG this morning with SBO's and special education directors to identify what costs are in and out of universal adequacy calculation

Engagement WG notes

5/21/20

Present – Mel Myler, David Ryan, Corrine Cascadden, Jon Morgan, Susan Huard

Michele shared audit for engagement participants, beginning with June stakeholder focus groups. Discussion of current plans based on doc shared by Michele earlier. Reviewed list of target groups and how they will connect with each engagement opportunity.

Focus groups

Statewide survey from UNH survey center

Educator survey

Intergenerational family and student summit

Community conversations

Rick notes role of real estate market and education system—property tax implications and quality of education as factors in purchase and sales. Asked for survey of realtors on this. Also suggests survey of military services (national guard) regarding preparedness of high school graduates.

Susan notes reduction in number of community conversations from 9 down to 5. How will we still assure opportunity for participation? Michele notes that we will be in 9 regions with the intergenerational summits (place based). Community conversations likely to be on-line now, not place based. Support for this to create opportunity for people from diverse locations to connect with each other.

Will use regional planning commission catchment areas as basis for assuring mix of types and sizes of towns. Including towns that are amici in ConVal suit and those that are not. Michele reviewed target towns within each RPC. Rick suggested Lincoln/Woodstock as possible candidate site. Mel recommended adding Sunapee to Upper Valley region to add smaller community. Support for mixed nature of on-line community conversations (mixed by location and therefore district size/ wealth/ demographics).

Dave asked about capturing community college students who recently graduated from NH high schools. Rick notes need to consider dual enrollment and CTE students in this group. Also, how will public charter schools be engaged? Need to be included in sampling.

Michele notes the value of the teaching modules being developed by RHNH as source of input, for high school and possibly community college students. Susan says similar efforts in CC system have been successful (in classes, student clubs, etc.).

Rick asks about including CTE directors in engagement. Including CTE advisory commission.

Bruce sounds note of caution about scope of engagement effort. May need to decide which stakeholder groups we want to give direct testimony to the full commission or workgroups, rather than catching through surveys or on-line dialogues.

Michele reviews the invitation letter and who will receive it; purpose is to identify invitees for June stakeholder focus groups. Jon notes concern about salutation (Friends of public education). Will revise this. Other edits suggested; e.g., input needed from preschool providers/parents. Will remove “public” to be sure other kinds of educational providers are included.

Will add emphasis on other opportunities to engage later in the year.

Dick notes role of private providers in special education out-of-district placements. Need to hear from these providers, too. Crotched Mountain, for example.

Questions for focus groups -- Carsey will hone down list of potential questions for WG review. Primary focus will be on what participants want commission to know and consider re: school funding

NH Listens staff will facilitate the focus groups and record the input.