

Task Force to Promote Municipal Shared Services

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

9:00 AM in Room 1E of the LOB

I. CONVENE MEETING/INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Chairman Rep. Rojas.

The following task force members were present:

James Albis, Maureen Brummett, John Filchak, Dan Giungi (alternate), Mary Glassman (alternate), Leah Grenier (alternate), Rick Hart, Martin Heft, Rudy Marconi, Francis Pickering, Lon Seidman, Scott Shanley, Brendan Sharkey, Bob Valentine, Lyle Wray, State Senator John Fonfara, State Representative Jason Rojas, State Representative Chris Davis, State Senator Dan Champagne, State Representative Cristin McCarthy-Vahey

II. LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF SECTION 366 OF PUBLIC ACT 19-117:

Rep. Rojas explained that this group was developed during the construction of last year's budget when several legislators acknowledged the need for additional work around the topic of shared services. Furthermore, he stated that ACIR was thought of to be the appropriate and best body to help deliver on this work.

III. PRESENTATION OF ACIR WORK GROUPS:

Task force members Lyle Wray and John Filchak proceeded to give a presentation entitled "**Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to the Task Force to Promote Municipal Shared Services.**"

A copy of this presentation can be found by clicking on the link below:

http://cga.ct.gov/fin/tfs/20200201_Task%20Force%20to%20Promote%20Municipal%20Shared%20Services/20200129/PowerPoint%20Presentation.pdf

During and following the presentation task force members engaged in conversation regarding several topics of interest including but not limited to:

1. The examination of functions, activities or services, currently performed by municipalities individually, that might be more efficiently performed by the Office of Policy and Management on behalf of municipalities willing to opt in or opt out of accepting such performance on their behalf
2. The examination of functions, activities or services, currently performed by the state or municipalities that might be provided in a more efficient, high-quality, cost-effective or responsive manner by regional councils of governments, regional educational service centers or other similar regional bodies that are responsive to residents

3. The cost savings of government services, including, but not limited to, joint purchasing, for a municipality and its local or regional school district
4. The cost savings through the sharing of government services, including, but not limited to, joint purchasing, among municipalities
5. The standardization and alignment of various regions of the state
6. The analyses of any other initiatives that might facilitate the delivery of services in a more efficient, high-quality, cost-effective or responsive manner
7. A recommendation of revenue in the regionalization sub-account within the regional planning incentive account established under section 4-66k of the general statutes, between the Office of Policy and Management and the regional councils of governments, regional educational service centers or similar regional bodies for the purposes of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

Following the discussion of the above listed topics members then commented on both the priority recommendations and other recommendations that ACIR offered within their presentation. These recommendations are listed below:

Priority Recommendations:

- Shared and regional services should be built on work done previously
- Connecticut, at each level of government, must embrace the application of technology and data innovation (Administrative and Legislative Action Required)
- Expand, within OPM, a government efficiency unit, within the Intergovernmental Planning and Policy Division to provide the bandwidth needed to implement and foster collaboration at each level of government (Legislative Action Required)
- Flexible school governance is essential to the function, sustainability and excellence of public education (Legislative Action Required)
- Collaborative regional programs are needed to help local school districts provide cost effective and efficient high-quality services for Special Education (Legislative Action Required)
- Pilot and incentivize shared/regional services to foster real change (Legislative Action Required)

Other Recommendations:

In addition to the six Priority Recommendations, ACIR has identified Forty-two potentially actionable recommendations for the Task Force to consider. Key amongst these recommendations are:

- Require ACIR to recommend to OPM focus areas for the use of regional performance incentive program funds (Legislative Action Required)
- Amend the Regional Performance Incentive Program RPIP to include a cost share element for grantees (Legislative Action Required)
- Amend the current Fiscal Indicators Report for the effective use of data measures to inform improvement of municipal operations and service delivery (Administrative Action Required)
- Diversification of Local Revenue Sources

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT:

No future meetings of this task force group are scheduled at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.