

DRAFT MINUTES
New Hampshire State Commission on Aging
Special Strategic Planning Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2020 10:00 a.m.-noon
Held via Video Teleconference

Present: Rep. Polly Campion, Chair; Ken Berlin, Vice Chair; Roberta Berner, Clerk; Wendi Aultman, DHHS; Patrick Herlihy, DOT; Sunny Mulligan Shea, DOJ; Lynn Lippitt, NH Housing Finance Authority; Appointed by the Governor: Carol Stamatakis, Kristi St. Laurent, Suzanne Demers, Rev. Susan Nolan, Harry Viens, Susan Denopoulos Abrami, Susan Ruka, Daniel Marcek; Rebecca Sky, Executive Director

Absent: Sen. Ruth Ward; Rep. Jim MacKay; Richard Lavers, DES; DOS representative; Susan Buxton, Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Janet Weeks, DOL; Susan Emerson, John Kennedy, Kathy Baldrige, Mark Frank

Facilitator: Carolyn Russell, NH Department of Administrative Services

Guests: Seven members of the public (Martha McLeod, Carol Currier, Cheryl Steinberg, Bev Cotton, Kimberly Blakemore, Nancy Dorner, Nancy Rollins)

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

Chair Polly Campion called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. provided an overview of the agenda, welcomed the Commission and guests and read “A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency.” The State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A requirement of such compliance is to take roll call attendance. When each member answers, he or she also must state whether there is anyone else in the room during the meeting. Clerk Roberta Berner called the roll, also asking that the members of the public and presenters attending the teleconference identify themselves. Chair Campion confirmed that a quorum of Commission members was present.

II. Straw Poll on Mission Statement

Two options for a draft mission statement were included on the agenda for today’s meeting:

Option A: To be a catalyst for change that values, serves and celebrates people as they grow older.

Option B: To initiate and accelerate change that values, serves and celebrates people as they grow older.

In a straw poll—not the final vote of the Commission—86% of those attending preferred Option A.

Carolyn Russell led a brief discussion of universal agreement (100% agreement) and consensus (agreement to support the intent of the whole group for an acceptable solution). Chair Campion indicated that the Commission’s goal would

be to achieve consensus, and added that anyone who did not agree with the consensus opinion should voice his or her dissent.

III. Develop Commission Value Statements

Carolyn explained that values statements are intended to define desirable behaviors and outcomes. She reviewed the draft values statement created by the strategic planning committee and Commission members' reactions to the draft values statement via Survey Monkey results. Attendees broke into small groups to discuss the survey findings and consider changes to the draft. After 20 minutes, the entire group reconvened to share results of the small group discussions.

Rebecca Sky will combine notes from all of the small groups for the planning committee to review.

Among the comments were:

- Equity and inclusion need to be among the values.
- “Courageous thinking” should also include “acting.”
- When the statements say “older adults,” we imply “we vs. they.”
- Stewardship should encompass all available resources, not just public resources.
- “Courageous” perhaps should be replaced with “forward thinking.”

IV. Strategic Priorities/Goals Development Activities

Carolyn outlined the process for establishing strategic priorities by first determining goals (outcome statements), with a focus on year one. The group reviewed findings of the second planning survey, completed by members last week.

Carolyn suggested that the Commission choose three goals on which to focus, with developing Commission Infrastructure as one of the three given how new the Commission is. There was consensus to this idea.

A visual application (via the app “Mural”) provided graphic representation of “sticky notes” defining major goal areas:

- Commission Infrastructure (Organization, Funding, Policy Work, Community Engagement)
- Aging at home and in community (funding, workforce, housing, transportation, other)
- Valuing older adults (changing attitudes and perceptions, Promoting Inclusion/Engagement, Prevention of Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation)
- Catalyzing New Hampshire towards being an Age-Friendly State
- Health care access and age-friendly innovation

In discussion, Lynn Lippitt noted that adequate and affordable housing and transportation also affected workforce availability. Patrick Herlihy added that to

make changes to volunteer driver programs, we need to collaborate with the State Coordinating Council.

Commission members were asked to vote for their top three choices. Housing (aging at home and in community) received 60%; Funding (aging at home and in community), 40% (perhaps with workforce issues tied to this); Changing attitudes and perceptions, 40%; and working toward being an age-friendly state, 40%.

After discussion, members were then asked to vote for their top two choices. Changing attitudes and perceptions received 53%; Aging in home and community (rebalancing the system, funding), 40%, and Catalyzing New Hampshire toward being an age-friendly state, 27%.

Rebecca said that there will be a third survey taking place before the July meeting of the Commission.

V. Adjournment

At 12:00 p.m., Chair Campion declared the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will take place on July 20, 2020 via Zoom from 9 a.m. to noon with two hours dedicated to strategic planning.