



Governor's Council on Economic Expansion: 01/10/2022

Minutes prepared by: Jenny Poole, Department of Human Services

Location: Virtual

Attendance

- Jeffrey Ettinger, Co-Chair, Hormel (formerly)
- Paul Williams, Co-Chair, Project for Pride in Living
- Scott Burns, Structural
- Joe Fowler, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
- Jodi Hubler, Medical Alley Association
- Brenda Hilbrich, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
- Neel Kashkari, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- Marcus Owens, African American Leadership Forum; Linking Leaders
- Joo Hee Pomplun, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Nonoko Sato, Minnesota Council on Nonprofits
- Traci Tapani, Wyoming Machine
- Bharti Wahni, Department of Human Services
- Penny Wheeler, Allina Health (formerly)
- Steve Grove, Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Jodi Harpstead, Department of Human Services
- Roslyn Robertson, Department of Labor and Industry

Agenda

1:30 PM	Meeting convenes
1:30 PM – 1:35 PM	Review Council Feedback
1:35 PM – 1:45 PM	Review themes and guiding principles
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM	Priorities ice breaker
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Visioning activities
3:30 PM	Meeting adjourns

Next Meeting

Date: 01/31/2022

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Meeting Notes

Meeting convenes

- Commissioner Jodi Harpstead started the meeting with the announcement that this meeting is fully virtual because an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the health pandemic, pursuant with [Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.021](#).
- Commissioner Harpstead welcomed Bharti Wahi as the new deputy assistant commissioner for the Children and Family Services Administration at the Department of Human Services, and celebrated Penny Wheeler's retirement from Allina. Both will remain part of the Council for this second phase of its work.

Review Council feedback

- Work from Phase 1 has already been making an impact and been used by the state agencies and governor.
- Phase 2 will be focused on long-term vision and strategic issues, as well as thinking more broadly and systemically than Phase 1, which centered on recommendations for the current legislative session and budget.
- Final meeting cadence settled upon was meetings every other week, which means 10 or 12 meetings before this Council closes at the end of June.
- Panels, discussions, and follow-up discussions in Phase 1 created a good base for what needs to be done in Phase 2.

Review themes and guiding principles

- The six guiding principles from Phase 1 are still relevant to this second phase's work. Strategy and implementation are where the work needs to focus now, and less on effective use of one-time funds.

Priorities ice breaker

Council members shared their priorities for the second phase through news headlines they drafted as if it is now 2032 and the state is being nationally recognized as having an equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Minnesota economy. The headlines are based on the assumption that Minnesota has done all the work that can be done based on this Council's recommendations and guidance.

- Brenda Hilbrich, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota: Minnesota's health care career pathways program serves as a national model on how to build an inclusive workforce throughout technical and professional roles in the health care systems, and addresses recruitment.
- Commissioner Steve Grove, Department of Employment and Economic Development: In the wake of the tumultuous events of 2020-21, Minnesota faced several economic challenges, and they met the moment. They built an economy that works for everyone, made substantial strides on racial equity, and re-tooled industry to shape the next chapter of the American economy.
- Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, Department of Human Services: Minnesota has built on its signature strengths since the pandemic to build a strong economy and to care for all Minnesotans.
- Jeff Ettinger, Co-Chair, Hormel (formerly): State's robust, multifaceted economy powered by inclusion of all Minnesotans addressed opportunity gaps, attracted and retained talent and enterprises, and amplified skills needed for the changing economy.
- Joe Fowler, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council: Minnesota's inclusive economy is proof that a rising tide lifts all boats and makes sure that there is enough bounty for everyone to eat.
- Jodi Hubler, Medical Alley Association: Minnesota becomes benchmark after state achieves x % of improvement in racial equity, job creation, and influx of talent in the last [such] period of time.
- Neel Kashkari, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis: More Americans move to Minnesota than any other state.
- Marcus Owens, African American Leadership Forum; Linking Leaders: Minnesota: a state where opportunities are created, people are cared for, and the economy works for everyone!
- Nonoko Sato, Minnesota Council on Nonprofits: Minnesota is a state of generosity and abundance, and is first in the country where 100% surveyed throughout the state feels safe, healthy, and has access to basic rights. All direct service nonprofits sunset as their visions and goals have been actualized in real life.
- Paul Williams, Co-Chair, Project for Pride in Living: We created voice and authentic inclusion; we institutionalized practices; we took risks; we tied BIPOC investments in communities of color to the broader economic growth of the state; and we made the case that investments in more marginalized communities in fact drive broader statewide growth.
- Commissioner Roslyn Robertson, Department of Labor and Industry: Minnesota meets the challenge to create a workforce that works for all.
- Scott Burns, Structural: Minnesota made unprecedented investments in infrastructure and entrepreneurship to open its economy to all; now it leads the nation.
- Traci Tapani, Wyoming Machine: Aiming high, Minnesota now ranked #1 in the US News and World Report 2022 equality rankings.
- Bharti Wahi, Department of Human Services: Minnesota children youth communities thrive: Minnesota eliminates disparities in income, home ownership, and economic security across race, geographic location, gender, and ability.
- Penny Wheeler, Allina Health (formerly): All thrive: Minnesota leads on outcomes that matter most.
- Joo Hee Pomplun, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability: Minnesota flipped the script and gone from worst to first in equitable economy: Nothing is impossible.

Visioning activities

Council members brainstormed individually and then discussed in small groups answers to the question: what do we want to see in place in ten years as a result of our actions?

- The Council used a participatory process to build consensus while creating the structure for the Phase 2 roadmap and for planning future meeting agendas and community engagement. The goals brainstormed individually and discussed in small groups were placed into clusters using affinity mapping.
- At the next meeting, the Council will take these statements, title the groupings, and group them across private, public, and non-profit sectors. This will help identify people, populations, and sectors with whom the Council should speak and engage, as well as what they hope to learn from those interactions.
- General discussion was spurred based on discussing the ideas and how to group them.
 - Addressing workforce challenges is multifaceted, involving upskilling, retaining the existing employee pipeline, attracting new workers, and automating current processes.
 - All jobs that are essential and critical, not exclusively in the caring professions, should pay a wage rate that allows people to support their families.
 - The Council needs to think about strategies, language, and definitions that address, not perpetuate, systemic barriers.
 - Overarching themes of equity also have very specific needs; the philosophy of how things are thought about and the behavior of delivering those needs ought to be addressed separately.
 - Equitable process leads to equitable outcomes. Strategies and end results are closely tied.
 - The concept of protecting the environment sometimes includes not using natural resources, which may not be conducive to economic expansion. If this remains in-scope, the language should focus on sustainably using natural resources to expand the economy.