



Governor's Council on Economic Expansion: Meeting #7

Date: 10/25/2021
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
- Brett C. Carter, Xcel Energy
- 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
- Tuleah Palmer, Blandin Foundation
- Joo Hee Pomplun, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Nonoko Sato, Minnesota Council on Nonprofits
- Traci Tapani, Wyoming Machine
- Bharti Wahi, Children's Defense Fund
- Penny Wheeler, Allina Health
- Steve Grove, Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Jodi Harpstead, Department of Human Services
- Roslyn Robertson, Department of Labor and Industry

Agenda

2:00 PM	Meeting convenes
2:00 PM – 2:10 PM	Welcome and overview
2:10 PM – 2:40 PM	Small group world café Round 1
2:40 PM – 3:05 PM	Small group world café Round 2
3:05 PM – 3:30 PM	Small group world café Round 3 Topics: Housing, healthcare, environment and community Workforce, child care, youth employment and engagement Entrepreneurship, small business, infrastructure, technology
3:30 PM – 3:55 PM	Report out Round 3 discussions

4:00 PM Meeting adjourns

Next Meeting

Date: 11/1/2021

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Meeting Notes

Meeting convenes

- Commissioner Steve Grove 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](#).

Welcome and overview

- Co-Chair Paul Williams greeted the Council with a message of appreciation for all of the ideas the members contributed over the past week. He thanked all the speakers who have met with the Council for their insight, and the Council members for their time and commitment.
- Paul Williams described the structure for this meeting as a world café-style set of sessions to refine and clarify the ideas submitted by Council members. In each of three topic-specific sessions, Council members were to build off of what was discussed prior to their group to come to a more refined set of ideas. After the third session, the Council was scheduled to come back together and report out their final discussion.
- Issues around culture, geography, and mental health are woven throughout the ideas, though there are some ideas specific to these.
- This set of ideas is what should be discussed, not new ideas brought forward during the sessions today. Additional ideas can be submitted to staff after the meeting.

Small group world café sessions

- Each group discussed all three sets of topics with a different facilitator joining their Teams room for each of the sessions.
 - Housing, healthcare, environment and community
 - Workforce, child care, youth employment and engagement
 - Entrepreneurship, small business, infrastructure, technology

Report out Round 3 discussions

Entrepreneurship, small business, infrastructure, technology

- The group started their review of each idea with a conversation of whether there would be an ongoing funding need, or, if it was to use one-time funding to kick-start a process, their confidence in its ability to keep going after that funding was gone.
- Cautions were raised about subsidies and unintended consequences.
- There is a desire to scale ideas so that they impact several initiatives and crosscut many areas.

Workforce, child care, youth employment and engagement

- Incentives to create new jobs should include requirements that they pay well and offer benefits to the workers.
- The group noted concerns about the lack of success in some existing upskilling and reskilling programs, but thought that focusing on improving current industry-specific programs could be more successful.

Housing, healthcare, environment and community

- There were a lot of questions about whether ARP funds should be going toward the health care industry, or if it would be better to focus on trauma, wellness, and mental health supports that sit outside the typical health care system.
- The group wanted to hear more about how environment could be pulled into all of the ideas as a lens.

Meeting conclusion

- Co-Chair Paul Williams noted that this Council is constrained by a very tight schedule. Ideally, staff would be asked to get more depth and consistency for each of the ideas, but there is the conflicting need to quickly get the information out to Council members for review. The Co-Chairs will work through the best approach.
- An idea ranking process will be developed for the next meeting.
- Some of the areas did not have as much thought put into them, so it would be good to have more time to submit ideas or go more in depth to explain the proposed solutions.
- The categories that the Council wants to include in the final report are getting firmed up. Some of the ideas submitted on the public portal about suggested ARP spending may fall into these categories, and should be leveraged as more ideas for the Council to discuss.
 - Commissioner Steve Grove said that he will look into getting the list for the Council. He shared that the list is vast, and is being reviewed extensively by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State agencies.
- As the Council moves to solidify the recommendations, topic-specific subgroups might be the best approach. Staff should answer the big questions that were raised, and then the Council should split into subgroups next week to drill down, refine, and create consistency for the ideas. It may be beneficial to have a first round of ranking prior to writing more polished recommendations.
- Due to the Governor's schedule, the presentation of the Council's recommendations to him and the Lieutenant Governor has been moved to December 1, 2021.