



Family Child Care Task Force Transcription

September 19, 2019

6:05 pm to 8:49 pm

Four Points Sheraton, 7745 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423

Conference Center

Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer: So we're just really happy to have you here and appreciate what we're going to do today. So the first two items on the agenda are basically a welcome from the Task Force co-chairs, and so we do welcome you. It's been a long time coming, longer than maybe we'd have liked, but nevertheless, we're here and we're at least getting a start and a beginning, something that is really important. So I'm just going to keep it real short. I don't know where the clock is right now. I guess I'll have to get out my—there it is. Now, that is creative. Wow. Okay. That's good. Anyway, I'm going to just hand it over to Representative Wazlawik to go ahead and give some welcoming remarks.

Rep. Ami Wazlawik: Sure. Hi, everyone. Thank you for being here today, my name is Ami Wazlawik, I'm a representative from district 38B which is the White Bear Lake and surrounding suburbs. I'm also a child care worker. I work in a school-based child care program in the White Bear Lake school district. And I'm excited to get started on this work. I've had conversations with family child care providers in my district and other folks through my work on early childhood committee and health, and looking forward to doing this work with all of you and seeing what things we can come up with together to help address our child care shortage in the state. Thank you for being here.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Thank you very much, Representative Wazlawik, I'm glad we have you here be part of this. I had mentioned having her sit next to me. I'm used to co-chairs doing that, however, they had a seating arrangement and a purpose for it, so don't mess with them right now. We'll see about that, but I would sure prefer my co-chair to be up here with me. Anyway, the DHS staff and Reggie, are you going to take that spot for now?

Reggie Wagner: Thank you. Thank you for just giving us a chance to—on behalf of Commissioner Harpstead, I'm Reggie Wagner with the Department of Human Services. I oversee the licensing division. And part of what we oversee is the county's work, these are our providers, perhaps even the parents fully understand the role that

the county plays in that licensing. And so we do have some representatives from child licensers, and we at the department are as representative and senator, excited about the work that is before us here. We're very committed to working with a range of stakeholders on issues that are affecting family child care.

We appreciate all of you from the range of interest and places literally around the state in the time to be able to be here or to call in and to carve out some time in your days as well. So there may be—I'll be the commissioner's designate for this. There may be other times when someone from DHS might sit in, it could vary depending on the agenda. So we just work with the co-chair to keep some consistency, but to realize that there may be a different time for someone else as needed, so thank you.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Thank you, Reggie. Okay. We've gotten ourselves other than—for ACET, for you to go ahead and give your introduction as well. I think by the time we get through that, we're going to be pretty much on schedule.

Stella Zimmerman: That sounds good. Thank you. And welcome, my name is Stella SiWan Zimmerman, and I'm the president of ACET, and will serve as facilitator for today's meeting. I also have two members with me from the facilitation team that I'd like to introduce who has worked hard on coordinating efforts for this meeting. I have Ashley Kitchen over here and then Jolene Roehlkepartain. I wanted to take the opportunity to share my excitement for this role as the facilitator. The work that you will be doing over the next 18 months will pave the way to building the family child care workforce, and improving licensing. You each bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Task Force. I also want to thank the public for coming and observing this meeting.

Please note that we will not be taking any public testimony or questions. I have an extra copy of the binders to circulate so everyone gets a chance to review this information. Meeting materials will also be available online at the Family Child Care Task Force website. I do ask the public that if you have any questions for the Task Force to please write them down and e-mail it to us. We'll provide our e-mail address on here so that you could get back to us.

But before we go into the [inaudible 04:30], I wanted to share the process of co-creating the agenda. We have several planning correspondents with the co-chairs and with DHS. We've heard the importance of allocating time for members to talk, get to know one another and build relationships. So we allocated the first half of the agenda doing that. We also heard that it was important to allocate time so that we can look at those duties together and identify the priorities. So the second part of the agenda is really focused on that.

My role today is to moderate the discussion from topic to topic on the agenda. Senator Kiffmeyer will be the lead for today's meeting, followed by the next meeting will be Representative Wazlawik, so they're going to take turns leading the meeting. I want to just point out a few things on the binder before we do the introductions under task one. So right now, we have it—so for every meeting, you could put all your materials under the meeting numbers. So all your meeting materials for our meeting, one is under one. And then you also have additional resources in the back that are available for you to read at your leisure for background information. So those are the things that were also sent to you.

So now that you have this information, let's go ahead and begin. If we could please go around the room. Representative Wazlawik, if you would be willing to start, and then we're going to go clockwise. If we could please state your name, your role, what aspect of being a member of the task force are you looking forward to most. And what we're looking for is—it's really short because we have some other activities for building relationships and stuff like that, so I'm really excited to do that and for you guys to get to know each other. So one minute, name, role, what aspect of being a member of the task force are you looking forward to?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So Stella, we need to realize that Senator Wiklund has to leave at 6:30, so we won't get to her on your schedule, so somehow we need to get Senator Wiklund in.

Stella: How about counterclockwise? Would that work? All right. Yes, please, Tiffany.

Tiffany Grant: Hello, everyone, I was looking forward to going that way. Hi, my name is Tiffany Grant, and my role, I'm a family child care provider in a charter school, so we have a group, [inaudible 07:01] license, capacity of 14 children. I have been doing that for four years. We are singular rating. I'm just looking forward to learning things about family child care and learning from your experiences and discussing the issues that we've been facing in the State of Minnesota so that we can help our families and us as well.

Ariane Bromberg: I'm Ariane Bromberg, I'm representing Family Child Care Incorporated of Olmstead County. I've been a family child care provider for 23 years. I'm excited to come up with solutions and see the change that we can bring to the child care system.

Heidi Hagel Braid: I'm Heidi Hagel Braid, I'm the chief program officer at First Women's Finance. I'm really looking forward to being here and hearing what ideas are at present,

and adopt it and move forward, and also to think about the financial viability of family child care.

Sen. Melissa Wiklund: I'm Melissa Wiklund, I'm representing the state senate, the minority caucus, and I'm really happy to be a part of this. I was co-chair of the Task Force in 2016 on Access to Affordable Child Care, and really was a great learning opportunity for me to understand the issues facing the child care workforce in the state. And I think since then, we've had lots of conversations about ways to make things better and we always have more things that we could be doing. And so I'm excited to hear more from all of you about ways that we can improve the child care system in the state and improve things with family child care.

And I apologize, I have to leave early. I'm hoping to come back. This is in my district, so it's really convenient for me, which is fortunate, and we're having a town hall tonight at Richfield City Hall, so I need to run over there and participate with my house members, my cohorts. And I'm hoping that that will be finished early and I'll come back. So I probably will for [inaudible 09:12].

Julie Seydel: I'm Julie Seydel and I am the public policy director for MACCP, which is Minnesota Association of Child Care Professionals. I have been a licensed child care provider for 17 years. And what I'm hoping to get out of this is to put back the common sense licensing rules and regulations back to the basics.

Dan Dorman: I'm Dan Dorman, executive director of the Greater Minnesota Partnership. We do economic development [inaudible 09:44]. We have great results at the capital. And our members the last couple years have been encouraging us or demanded of us or whatever, but made us involved in child care, and we're happy to do that. So [inaudible 09:58] and we could help you out, help to make a better path forward to alleviate some of the issues that we all are facing.

Ann McCully: Good evening, everybody, Ann McCully, I'm executive director of Child Care Aware of Minnesota. So we're, I describe officially as the behind the scene support for the 14 local agencies that hopefully many of you have interfaced with that do the really, the infrastructure work, so professional development and grants. We do teach scholarships, retain grants, CBA awards, and then Parent Aware implementation. So because the legislative directive includes so many to interface with what we do, I'm just excited to have an opportunity to really explore those and setting it in a way that we can't always do during a legislative session.

Liz Harris: I am Liz Harris, I am a family child care provider in Cottage Grove. And I'm excited for this. I think that everyone at the table is hurting in some way, and I think everyone was still overwhelmed and just bogged down with everything

coming at them from us all the way up to DHS, everyone. So I'm really looking forward to hopefully helping implement some change for everyone.

Reggie Wagner: Reggie Wagner, deputy inspector general of the licensing division at the Department of Human Services and the commissioner's designate. And what I am most looking forward to is really the rich diversity of voices and perspectives here. And as Ann mentioned, maybe we found some of the constraints of the legislative hearing, so it's nice to be part of it.

Lanay Miller: Lanay Miller, I'm a child care licenser for family child care, I work in Chisago County. I'm here representing the Association of Minnesota Family Child Care Licensors. And just looking forward to making some changes and actually putting something in place, getting past talking points and representing licensors, having—

Kelly Martini: I'm Kelly Martini, I am a family child care provider. I am [inaudible 12:10] Family Child Care Association representative from Greater Minnesota. I'm from Avon, so Central Minnesota. What I'm looking forward to this Task Force is having providers sitting at the table with you guys and being in the discussion about us and our profession. I just want to make a comment. I was at our township meeting today and there was a gal that went to Washington DC for township. And one of the comments that the DC people told her was, it's better to have a seat at the table because you don't need all these people. And I thought, "You know what, that's what we're here for." So I'm glad to be here.

Scott Marquardt: I'm Scott Marquardt, I live in Montevideo. I'm here representing the Minnesota Initiative Foundations, and I'm just grateful for the opportunity to be here, especially to listen to the providers in a format like this. And what I'm looking forward to is just learning a lot and trying to figure out how regional organizations like us be part of the solution beyond what we're doing now. Thank you for having me.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: And you also win the award for the longest distance traveled. How far?

Scott: Dallas. I get an extra cookie.

Stella: Maybe a chocolate.

Rep. Lisa Demuth: Good evening, I'm Representative Lisa Demuth, representing District 13A, Central Minnesota, Greater Minnesota. Something that I'm looking forward to getting out of the task force is how can we best encourage family child care providers to help meet the needs that are still evident in our area, and the need for quality child care within our family setting.

Hollee Saville: Hollee Saville, I am a licensed family child care provider and a senate employee for Greater Minnesota, I'm from Saint Michael. Been a licensed provider for 15 years, and I've been a strong advocate of our profession and early childhood for as long as I've been doing this. And I really look forward to going back to being able to spend more time with the children and focusing on that where our evenings and nap times are spent on looking for ideas that we can do directly with the kids instead of stressing about more paperwork or what's the next requirement or worrying about the next hearing when things might feel like they're going to come crashing down on us.

And I think that we have an awesome task and an awesome responsibility to be able to make easy, simple, low-cost solutions that will help providers and in turn, help the children and families who are struggling because we're losing more and more providers, right? I truly believe that we can [stem 14:58] that loss, so we can stop it. I mean, we've lost 443 providers, licensed family child care providers in one year, and then it's just going to keep continuing, but we can actually stop it. So I look forward to working with everyone to see that.

Marit Woods: Good evening, everyone. My name is Marit Woods. I recently moved to Minneapolis about a year ago, I lived in Europe for a while. And having a five-year-old kid, coming here and trying to contract here, I mean, is very, very difficult. I'm hoping to understand how policies are treated and how that impact providers and in turn, impact how we as parents have this child care usage.

Kim Leipold: I'm Kim Leipold, I am the metro representative for the Association of Minnesota Family Child Care Licensors. I've been a licensing worker for 13 years and been on the board for 9. And before that, I worked in centers in juvenile detention. My goal is to, or what I hope to get from this is the sharing of information and get accurate information out to parents, other stakeholders, and supporting providers to provide safe and comfortable care for others.

Cyndi Cunningham: Cyndi Cunningham, I am the designated—Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network. Nothing drives me crazier than [inaudible 16:30]. Anyway, we are 501c3 in the State of Minnesota. I'm the public policy chair for the organization, have been working for efficacy and as a child care provider for 21 years in St. Paul, it was the longest drive down here from St. Paul. Bad traffic. I'm not used to that. So I'd better [inaudible 16:53]. Okay. So what I'm most looking forward to this is, as someone else mentioned, the opportunity that is under pressure instead of make a decision that we can actually have some engaged shared conversation about how all of the decisions impact every one of these stakeholders.

And because that to me, it ends up more on letting kids and not rich. So I'm really looking forward to coming up with some good approaches and discussions and open honesty to where we can support family child care providers to be able to be a viable option for parents and for their children. So it's not so hard and I don't have people crying on the phone to me when they can't find care. That was yesterday. Yeah.

Rep. Wazlawik: Representative Ami Wazlawik, and I am one of the co-chairs of the Task Force. And I think for me, I am really looking forward to I think coming up with solutions. Really finding solutions to a lot of the concerns and issues that people are creating. And specifically, what we can do legislatively, as I said, it's my lead role, and what we can do on that in order to help child care providers.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I'm just going to wrap it up then.

Rep. Wazlawik: And we have three on the line.

Stella: Yeah. Well, we might have just one on the line. We have two on the line.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Let's get to them first.

Stella: Yes. Is Samantha on the line or JoAnn?

Samantha Chukuske: I'm Samantha.

Stella: Okay. Yes, Samantha. If you could just state your name, role, and what aspect of being a member of the task force are you looking forward to most.

Samantha: Sure. I'm a daycare provider in Southwest Minnesota. And what I'm looking forward most is just making sure that our little town, Minnesota, gets a say in some of the things that we can change or continue to do throughout Minnesota.

JoAnn Smith: This is JoAnn Smith. I'm a parent of a child enrolled in family care in International Falls. I am excited to be on this because I want to partially be a voice for child care providers and parents in rural communities and learn and create action around ways that we can help providers overcome barriers between starting up and having child care and then staying in business and being sustainable.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Was that JoAnn?

JoAnn: Yes.

Stella: And Erin, are you on the line as well?

Sen. Kiffmeyer:

So I'm Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, and my role here is to represent the senate. I probably feel more than anything that my role here is to help facilitate the whole provider situation. I've never had my children in daycare, all right? I'm a stay at home mom, I'm a registered nurse professionally, so I just had to take care of people anyway. But I think for me, as I heard from my providers in my district and then from around the state that carried several pieces of legislation successfully through, signed by the governor and worked with a lot of them. So my thing is just feeling for them the pain that they have and how grateful I am for those who do need child care that we not make them go through the hassle more than they have to.

We would want them to focus on children and not on paperwork, and so my goal also, in particular for this child support, is to have legislations agreed to that we can do and ready for next year so that when we come into session that—I always believe in measurable goals and we can accomplish something and that cohesiveness will be really, really important to us as a task force to be able to work to that goal, and that for me is really important. And then, I think also this is about the family child care providers. And so just really staying focused on what is causing the plight, 443 just in this past year. If you keep putting in more new providers but they keep leaving, you're not ahead.

My goal is to stop the losses, why does that situation—and then also bring in the new but we got to keep them also because if they just come in and they leave, we're not really ahead anything, and also, that's disrupting to parents to have them for a while and then they're gone and they have to look for somebody else. So those are my goals for the Task Force.

Stella:

Thank you. Okay. So now, what we're going to do is I like to pick out three simple steps we're looking to do. So the next part, everybody should have one piece of paper. And then for you guys joining remotely, if you could—you have access to the Internet, go ahead and send Ashley an e-mail with the fpctf@acetinc.com e-mail, the one that you've been using, just go ahead and send Ashley an e-mail. She'll be able to access that with—and here's the question. Think back to when you first received that news of being appointed to the Task Force. What two or three words or phrases, positive words or phrases come to mind?

So in thinking about that, you have a notepad on your desk. If you can write two to three, one on each note. And then what we're going to do is collect it and then we're going to get you in groups shortly. So if you can spend maybe a couple minutes thinking about two or three words or phrases that come to mind when you first received the news of being appointed. What we're going to do is

when we collect it, we're going to theme it when you guys go on break so that you could see what the responses are.

Okay. So we do have a few minutes before we do the next one, which is the Venn diagram. Before we do that, could we please take a moment, the public in the back, thank you again for coming. If you could please start with the left and introduce yourself, we would love to hear from and say your name and if you're with an organization, what's your organization.

Unidentified Speaker: My name is [Kat Laura 23:34], I'm a family child care provider in Egan, Dakota County.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 23:40], family child care provider in Dakota County.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 23:45].

Unidentified Speaker: [Cindy Mullerman 23:51] from Financial Department.

Unidentified Speaker: [Anne Doniston 23:54] child care provider in [inaudible 23:57].

Unidentified Speaker: [Dolores Christy 23:59], family child care provider from [inaudible 24:01] Minnesota.

Unidentified Speaker: [Linda Shezling 24:03] family child care provider, Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network.

Unidentified Speaker: [Betsy White 24:11], I'm a family child care provide in Bloomington, Hennepin County.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 24:17] director of child care services [inaudible 24:19]. I oversee child care assistance program, child [inaudible 24:28].

Jennifer Sommerfeld: I'm Jennifer Sommerfeld, I'm the legislative director for Children and Family Services. Included in the legislative work that I do is child care services.

Unidentified Speaker: I'm [inaudible 24:46] family services and operations at DHS.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 24:50] manager at Child Development Services, Inc.

Scott Parker: Scott Parker, I'm a supervisor in the child development services team at DHS.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 24:59] supervisor at [inaudible 25:01].

Barbara Wagner: Barb Wagner, manager at Family Child Care Licensing at DHS.

Beth Fraser: Beth Fraser, I'm manager of public policy to the licensing area at the department.

Unidentified Speaker: I'm [inaudible 25:15].

Sean Stewart: I'm Sean Stewart, I work in the family child care licensing division, and I'm a former child care provider.

Unidentified Speaker: And I'm [inaudible 25:26], communications manager at [inaudible 25:29] Office of the Inspector General.

Stella: Thank you. So in the back, we have identical sets of samples here, but for the Venn diagram, if you could each shift into clusters of three. So Senator Kiffmeyer, Cyndi, and Ariane, you guys would make one. And then the three of you, and then the three, three, three. So it will be teams of three. If you can get together and spend about 10 minutes talking about what you have in common. So that could be anything that you and your partner next to you would have in common, whatever that is, you can write that in here. And then the second person or the third person, what do they have in common? Write that in here. And then the first and third person, again, what they have in common, write that in here.

And then whatever all three of you have in common, if you could have a spokesperson for your group that would share what your group have in common together, okay? Okay. So do we have a volunteer who wants to share their group?

Unidentified Speaker: Heidi is.

Stella: No kidding. Heidi, would you be willing?

Heidi: Okay. So we [inaudible 27:09]. We talked about—we'll see what we had in common, not as much about what we did in common. But kids, like to travel, road trips, we all, according to Dan, are good people [inaudible 27:23]. And we talked about we care about the relationship this much, that we care about child care providers fixing problems, looking at how to solve problems with [inaudible 27:37] regulation or paperwork. We care about the families who experienced bad child care, and we're concerned about the direction child care has been going. And we're very concerned that Dan lives on a lake and he does not fish.

Stella: We'll see. Now we know more about you than we did before.

Unidentified Speaker: But they want to know.

Stella: Thank you. Who wants to go next?

Unidentified Speaker: I have the favor of taking this.

Unidentified Speaker: This is you and I.

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah. So [inaudible 28:21] we want to—

Unidentified Speaker: Well, what I got from their conversation is that they both are into the sharing and communicating between providers and parents and talking about their connections between as a provider and where and openings and updating and referrals and their shared communication.

Unidentified Speaker: Making sure the information is up to date and available for parents so that we can help her with her child care.

Unidentified Speaker: And then [inaudible 28:54]. And then Reggie and I, we see child care alive and as a real viable option for parents. And all of us agreed or have in common, we are here for the children, and we want to provide a future for our children by working together.

Stella: Thank you. All right. Okay. So who wants to share next?

[crosstalk 29:40]

Rep. Wazlawik: So ours are completely unrelated to our work here, but [crosstalk 29:50]. So I'll do the things that are unique first. I have a twin, so that would be of the three of us. Cyndi has two children in the military and came in from Illinois. Cyndi and I have in common that our names end in I and are frequently misspelled. Kim and Cyndi have in common that they both love camping, and I don't think [crosstalk 30:21] okay.

Kim: We'll figure it out.

Rep. Wazlawik: And then all of us have in come in that all of us—none of us are married.

Unidentified Speaker: You're just saying that to make us feel better.

[crosstalk 30:37]

Unidentified Speaker: Set low expectations [inaudible 30:43].

Stella: So what did the next group decide?

Unidentified Speaker: So we did personal stuff because I thought it was really fun. So we're all parents. We all have at least one boy in our families. Marit and Lisa had both used child care and they provide child care. And we all love biking, we all have dogs, also, we have—we love doing community service and believe in its important. We believe that healthy communities, people helping families and vice versa, they agree about both. We believe in the importance of lifelong learning, and we all love using natural products, and we all like going up north to the Grand Marais, Duluth areas. Those I think were the things we had in common.

Stella: All right. Thank you.

[crosstalk 31:52]

Unidentified Speaker: With the [inaudible 32:01] licenser and my role in the regional economic development plan, so we really talked about opportunities that we could coordinated. She's going to see things that I won't, I could see things that she might not support sustainability and success of providers. Help get intel between each other to try and get better investments made on the streets and to providers with Kelly and Lanay together being first and foremost, paramount, keeping kids safe in both of their roles, it's top of mind for both of them for their day jobs. Kelly and I, again, both being in communities all the time, working for families, realizing this is about helping the kids first.

And then three of us together, we are all from Greater Minnesota, which is we're grateful to have sat together to talk about that. And we also talked a lot about how we could collaborate better to just overcome barriers for something as simple as a way to buy down the cost for training events so more folks can go more affordably or conveniently and just invest in providers as business people.

Stella: Thank you.

Unidentified Speaker: It was Senator Kiffmeyer, Tiffany and I. And we focused on more what we had in common. First of all, we're all women, we have children and we're part of this task force, all three of us like to read. And our goal is to focus on child care, and we believe there's many models to come in to the child care solution for family child care.

Stella: Okay. Thank you for sharing. How about the folks on the phone? Samantha and JoAnn and Ashley? Are you two still online?

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Stella: Okay. Great. So JoAnn and Samantha and Ashley, did you guys decide on who would be sharing with the group?

Unidentified Speaker: I believe Ashley was.

Ashley: So we all have children. We are all—something different about us I guess is that we are all from different parts of Minnesota. Well, I'm not from Minnesota, I'm from Ohio actually. So we all live in different parts of Minnesota, we all enjoy sports, or watching sports, and that was most of the things that we had in common. Yeah. Little difference since I'm part of a facilitation team, so I don't necessarily have a role on the Task Force or anything. But yeah, I think we just talked about Task Force and other things we think we had in common. So we didn't get to talk about tests or anything, but we all have kids, so we further talked about that, and yeah.

Stella: Great. Thank you. All right. So right now, we're doing pretty good, which means that we can break and come back. When we come back, we got some work to do. So when we come back, we'll be looking at some priorities, these are in the binder and then talk to about that a little bit more.

Unidentified Speaker: I forgot, also, we all love Target.

Stella: So if we can break for 10 minutes, please. And then the restrooms are on this side and drinking fountains as well. We have lots of [inaudible 35:53] in the back. And if you want to take a look at the [crosstalk 36:00].

Sen. Kiffmeyer: —we have here on our agenda, and this is very typical when you have a task force starting to just go through some basic stuff for us. So if you notice on your agenda, there are roles and responsibilities, ground rules for activities and improved guidelines for the per diem. So we're just going to take those right in order, and roles and responsibilities, and we're just going to cover those.

Rep. Wazlawik: So if you want to follow along, it's on your tab, one of the few documents back. Family Child Care Task Force is the title and the [inaudible 36:35] back real quick. So I'm going to talk about roles and responsibilities and go through these real quick. So the Task Force, as you knew is co-chaired by the DFL members from the house of representatives which is me and the republican member from the senate which is Senator Mary Kiffmeyer. And then the co-chairs [inaudible 36:51] between me. And then we have [inaudible 36:57] facilitator that'll be moderating each meeting, and the co-chair, the Commission of Human Services or designate, and the facilitator will determine the agenda for each meeting. And then meetings are open to the public under the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. So we see we have members of the public here this evening.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Okay. Some of the ground rules are posted up there. There's one, there's one over there as well. And we tried—it was a list of 25 but we said no. So basically, these five are just real common sense. So [inaudible 37:32]. I know it's hard, the first one getting familiar. Agreed to the agenda and stick to it, that's really important so we stay focused, stay mentally and physically present, then listen actively and with an ear to understanding other views and tackle issues of people. Pretty basic, right?

Rep. Wazlawik: And then I'll just briefly talk about reports. The Task Force will be submitting an interim report to the legislature by March 1st of 2020, and a final report by February 1st, 2021. The reports will explain the Task Force's findings and recommendations related to each of the duties and [inaudible 38:14]. And then any draft legislation needed to implement the recommendations will also be included in those reports as well.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So the next one on it is duties. A little bit longer. This is taken directly from the statute itself. So this gives us added ways. Identify difficulties that providers face regarding licensing and inspection, including specific licensing requirements that have led to the closure of family child care programs by reviewing previous survey results and conducting follow-up surveys if necessary. Number two, propose regulatory reforms to improve licensing efficiency, including discussion of criteria that would qualify a provider for an abbreviated licensing review based on statistically significant key indicators that predict full compliance with all applicable rules and statutes, and discussion of the developments that are risk-based, data driven, tiered violation system with corresponding enforcement.

Third one, review existing variance authority delegated to counties and recommend changes if needed, or recommend business development and technical assistance resources to promote provider recruitment and retention, including the potential need for a mentor, a family childcare provider network, or shared services. Five, develop recommendations for alternative childcare delivery systems that could be more financially viable in smaller communities with unmet child care capacity needs in greater Minnesota, which could include new licensure models for large group family child care or small capacity child care centers.

Number six, review Parent Aware program participation and identify obstacles and suggested improvements. Seven, review how trainings for licensed family child care providers are offered, provided, coordinated, and approved, and make a recommendation on the establishment of a family child care continuing education training committee, to advise on compliance with federal and state

training requirements. And the eighth one, consider methods to improve access to and understanding of the rules and statutes governing family child care providers. And I would say, wow, we got our work cut out for us. But I would say these are things that we heard from all of you all the time, and that's why they got into statutes because it has that level of consensus, things that were there.

So that was done last spring. I don't know about you, but it's a good refresher for me when getting into it. The next one, sorry. There are guidelines for per diem, and we're actually going to have to take a vote on this. And so the guidelines for per diem payments and for child care reimbursement. For the purpose of Minnesota Statute section 15.059, subdivision 3, a day on which the Task Force holds a public meeting constitutes a day spent on Task Force activities, for purposes of making daily per diem payments to members of the Task Force. The Task Force authorizes the reimburse for the reasonable child care expenses that Task Force members incur as a result of the time spent attending Task Force meetings, that the members would not have otherwise incurred. In this case, time spent attending Task Force meeting includes time spent traveling to and from the meeting location. Do we have any questions about what that means at all?

Okay. You're going to have a—there is a form, it's called a vendor's invoice. This is government language that when you are submitting one of these, you're just given a vendor name. So think of that commercially, but it's not. So in order for this to be done correctly, we need to take a roll call vote. All right. And so I'll call out your name and just say aye or nay, whichever you feel comfortable with, yes or no. So the first one—are you ready to vote? Do we need a motion? Okay, we're voting on the actual per diem of the standards for claiming per diem or expenses such as child care.

Rep. Wazlawik: It just needs to be—because it involves the financial, the money, it needs to have people affirmatively vote one by one or not.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So I think they get that. I think the question was, what are we voting on [inaudible 43:20] motion. Well, let me put it this way, Cyndi, a motion is using the language—page, you have printed in your book. It's so long, I don't want to—so if you go to tab two, right in front of tab two.

Unidentified Speaker: After page two. Looks like this.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Looks like that. Okay, do you all have it? Anybody not have it?

Stella: And I thought I heard something on the phone. I just want to make sure. Was there a question that came through Samantha or JoAnn?

Unidentified Speaker: No.

Unidentified Speaker: No.

Rep. Wazlawik: So we need someone to make motions saying I approve the family child care tab for standards for the improvement—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: We move to approve this language, yes.

Rep. Wazlawik: Okay. I probably want to do that. Probably move this language.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Are there any questions on the language at all? And you could always ask more questions afterwards, it's just right out of the statute. Okay. We have that motion, we'll proceed to a vote.

Rep. Wazlawik: You don't need a second?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: We can do a second.

Rep. Wazlawik: Okay. I don't know how—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: We technically don't have to, but it's—

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 44:45] second.

Unidentified Speaker: I have a question. So there is no dollar about the per diem in the mental health?

Rep. Wazlawik: No, it is in statute, and I believe \$55 per diem.

Unidentified Speaker: So are we agreeing, is that—

Rep. Wazlawik: So when you do this, you're agreeing to that \$55 per diem.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Great question. All right. You can still ask questions afterwards. I mean, we're not going to—we just have to do this. So the first, Ann McCully.

Ann: Yes. Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Ariane Bromberg.

Ariane: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Cyndi Cunningham.

Cyndi: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Dan Dorman.

Dan: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Elizabeth Harris.

Liz: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Erin Echternach.

Unidentified Speaker: She's not present I think.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Erin Johnson-Balstad. Heidi Hagel Braid.

Heidi: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Hollee Saville.

Hollee: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: JoAnn Smith.

JoAnn: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Thank you, JoAnn. Julie Seydel.

Julie: Aye. Seydel, sorry.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: But the problem is, when I ask Siri to call people, Siri said, "I'll call Seydel." All right, Seydel it is. Kelly Martini.

Kelly: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Kim Leipold.

Kim: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Lanay Miller.

Lanay: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Laura Bordlan. Marit Woods.

Marit: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Representative Ami Wazlawik.

Rep. Wazlawik: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Representative Lisa Demuth.

Representative Demuth: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Reggie Wagner.

Reggie: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Samantha Chukuske.

Samantha: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Thank you, Samantha. Scott Marquardt.

Scott: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Myself, it is aye. Senator Melissa Wiklund is not present right now. Stephanie Hogenson.

Stephanie: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: And Tiffany Grant.

Tiffany: Aye.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So the we are established. I think sometimes it's just good to do [inaudible 47:17] right?

Unidentified Speaker: I mean, it's the first time I've done something relatively simple.

Stella: So now, we're going to talk about those priorities. So if we could look back in your task one, you do have the list that Senator Kiffmeyer has just read to you all, thank you Senator Kiffmeyer. Under the Family Child Care Task Force page, there are eight tasks in here—I'm sorry, duties in here. So what I would like to do is have you each pair. We're going to do a think-pair-share. So I would like to look to your elbow partner and talk more about with your elbow partner what you think about those state duties and what you each believe should be the priority by the next deadline, which is the interim report, which is March 2020.

So in your pair, you will talk about that each and then identify who in your pair will then share to the entire group what you guys discussed as the priority or priorities for March 2020, okay? So we're going to get into groups and I would—not groups, I'm sorry, the pair, and then spend about—I'll check in with you

guys, but 15 minutes to talk about it. But if you need more time, we're doing good on time, so we can certainly have more discussions after that. But I'm going to check back with you in 15 minutes and see how it goes and I'll go around the room to check.

So we are going to—starting on the right, so we'll pair you with your elbow on your—okay. So this is the time where I ask something similar which is, can we get a volunteer to start? If you can share with us what you identified, what are some of the suggestion that you have regarding the reason you identified that as the priority.

Julie: Okay. Thank you. Number two, I put as a priority. We have a lot of suggestions from the previous task force that we had as far as regulatory reforms and I think we need to continue on with that. We have it here in black and white. Some of it we even have legislation that's already been drafted before that had bipartisan support. I would like to see those things move forward, and I think that's a priority.

And then also number four, we would like to see—involvement. Because if we cannot retain the providers that we have, you can recruit 50 million of them, they're not going to stay. You need us providers to be able to tell people coming into the business, yes, this is wonderful, the regulations are easy to understand, rules are easy to follow, there is this relationship. We can't do that. And I personally have had a person ask me about coming into family child care and I said—and that's sad that I would say that to somebody because I absolutely love what I do. I don't like what's happening to child care licensing, to family child care. We had number—also priority. [inaudible 50:41] need to change with—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Let me just take a moment, Julie. Samantha or JoAnn, you need to mute while you're listening. We're hearing your little voices and they're very sweet. Thank you.

Julie: We talked about number six and really how important it is right now because there's a lot of inequity between the three—the school based programs, the center based programs, and family child care programs, and it's not a level playing field and it's actually very detrimental to family child care right now, so that's something important that we need to work on. And then, number five, especially in the greater rural areas that something needs to be done because you've got areas that had two or three family child care providers, they've lost 90 percent because they only have one left. Something needs to change in those areas to help the businesses, the communities, something—we need to do something, and it needs to be quick. Changing rules and regulations is going to help in the long run, but it's not a quick fix.

Stella: The order that you went to, four, six, and five was it the order of priority or how did you guys went in terms of—

Julie: They're all number one. I mean, it's really hard to say this is more important than this one. Those were the things that we saw as the number one priority that we need to jump into all of those.

Unidentified Speaker: I was wondering sometimes if things—where should we start, what shall we start with first because I hear some of that rather than—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I would start with priority because—

Unidentified Speaker: I would agree with you, but I think what we discussed as well.

Julie: I would start with number two, if it was put that way because we already have items in black and white that we can get moving on.

Stella: Thanks for providing that. Who wants to go next?

Unidentified Speaker: Come on, guys, I broke the ice.

Dan: Do you want to go next? Ann wants to go next.

Ann: I do not.

Dan: Or you lead and I'll follow. I'm more of a follower.

Unidentified Speaker: You're going to get volunteered for [crosstalk 53:04].

Ann: Anyway, okay. So we talked about actually, numbers one and two go together and I think you're right, Julie, there's a lot of things that I think for some people getting up fees. One of the things we talked about is would it be sensible and maybe [inaudible 53:21] full meeting, but it almost feels like each of these need at least a review so that those of us who are at different places understand the concept and the issue. And I don't know how many meetings we're going to have, so we were trying to think through what could actually be ready by March to our criteria, we can actually have a resolution or a proposal by March.

And then also, we didn't know if some of these are going to take funding because there's been recent developments and I—some of your questions we had, but we were talking about one and two together because yes, there have been a lot of discussions about health. Some of the reports you sent us already get at some of these issues, so that might be a little easier. We thought number three just because it seems more specific and focused. That's the one with

variance authority, understanding it and looking at financial changes. I know [inaudible 54:03] just that one sentence, but at least a sustainable focus issue. What else?

We talked a little bit about number four. Again, this is the first part about recommended business development, TA, understanding and retention is understanding it, but then something like more in shared services is going to be a much bigger discussion with more resources and ideas needed. You're supposed to be [inaudible 54:28].

Dan: We thought that five was accomplishable. Maybe not all of it, but there's probably some ideas out there that could be with regular force. May not be comprehensive, we may have more [inaudible 54:43], the idea's 90 percent of the way there, we may also try to get that down because that alternative licensing might pull the fatigue to using somebody, [inaudible 54:55] Greater Minnesota.

Ann: Coming from in between, I think somewhere between Family Child Care Center and maybe some holding model that we thought ourselves and create—I think the last one we thought was maybe accountable or at least focused was number eight just because again, there's some work that's already been done. I think having a walk through some of the things that already happened until the session ended in the packet that you sent us. Some of those get at that understanding or getting out information about the rules of the statute, so we thought maybe that [inaudible 55:24]. But again, all of them could use an overview, they're all important, and we should try to represent it.

Stella: Thank you.

Unidentified Speaker: I can share. Is it our turn now?

Stella: It's okay. Go ahead.

Unidentified Speaker: So we—it's hard to prioritize because I think they're all important. We talked about one, identifying, because a lot of times easy to jump in and want to make changes but I think it's a very important question to ask whenever you're doing anything is to say, "Well, why are we doing this?" Before you start telling people the how and the what we're going to do. You don't have to tell them why we're doing this my first place, and so I think number one is the most important, to say, okay, what things have brought us here, what things are causing this shortage instead of just making change because that's also causing them a problem, so let's identify them.

And then we thought that number two, because it encompasses so many things that it can make many positive changes for providers and families and communities. And then number four, just it's very important again to retain providers and then recruit them, but let's not recruit them into a system that that needs fixing. Recruit them after we fix these things, that's why we prioritized two. And then number five, because especially in Greater Minnesota, and I think that the family child care providers and we have so few and they're spread so far apart and especially in Greater Minnesota, if you have a large employer and they don't have any more family child care providers and there's a lot of places that don't even have a center in their entire county, and so they need something.

And so we need to figure out something for them. I think that you made a really cool suggestion about the one to one, some possible licensing with individuals to go into homes and maybe that would help meet a need. And yeah, one, two, four, and five. Sorry, that doesn't—I mean, I think one, we talked about that, the why it's—what's happening.

Stella: Thank you.

Unidentified Speaker: And I'll go. We thought number four. And with that, involving mentoring, having providers mentor people to become a provider. And so that kind of [inaudible 58:09]. Number five because since it's Greater Minnesota, so it's important. And then we also talked about number eight. And I know that it's being done, but yet there's a lot of providers out there that just don't understand the rules and regulations. I, as the president of the association, or just even knowing providers, I knew of a provider that was in business for 23 years and she just didn't know that her husband needed [inaudible 58:42]. So I mean, they just don't—they're not—if you're not up to date with the moving regulations or you're not involved as much as, say, I am, they don't know how.

Stella: So four, five, and eight. And did you in your group—I mean, with your pair, talk about priorities for the three or not?

Unidentified Speaker: I mean, we just both basically focused on those three. I mean, they all are. I agree with everybody. I mean, these are all something that needs to be worked on. But we tried to tickle with two or three of them.

Stella: For the March timeframe?

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Stella: Okay. All right. Thank you.

Cyndi: We discussed that actually somewhat in order, one, two, and eight. One, because if you don't identify the problem and no—and I would argue and/or suggest—excuse me, not argue.

Unidentified Speaker: We're not arguing, Cyndi. We just tackle issues.

Cyndi: Doing previous survey results, I really don't know who has done those, I get a really inconsistent—there's 87 counties and I don't know who has done them, wrote them, or whatever. So to even suggest that there has been any kind of survey previously done is a very shaky little spot. So let's just go, let's find those and that there needs to be, I would say, a system put together for the follow up surveys because we have less of anecdotal discussions about why people have left to really help people hone in on what that is. So if we don't have that, we need to not go for it.

Number two, establish that that it's some place that we can go. It was brought up, the tier system and everything was brought up the last session. There seems to be commonality approach with that, so that could be done. And then number eight, access to an understanding of rules and statutes governing family child care providers. And there was a lot of things coming this last session that—they did do that, and just for facts, I actually have a class that I taught last weekend in Marshall that is about what the rule is and what the thing is, and it's always at peace with providers. Their brains just go, "Oh." Did get that understanding about what is it, how do you find it, how do you look for it?

Stella: And Cyndi, with your pair, did you talk about the priorities or were they equally for you two?

Cyndi: I think one and two were our [inaudible 01:01:40].

Stella: One and two were your thoughts? Thank you.

Kim: I can speak for JoAnn and Samantha and I. JoAnn is a parent in International Falls, Samantha is a provider in Welcome. I didn't even know if there was such a place. I would say that number two was probably the one that we talked about the most or got brought up first, and it was about streamlining paperwork and licensing requirements because as licensing workers, we don't like it either. And then I think the other one that got brought up was training, accessibility, and [inaudible 01:02:24] variables from not the metro area, and I'm from the metro area, and I know as a licensing worker that it's troublesome even for people in the metro area to get training. I can't imagine what it's like for the providers that are not in the metro area.

And then number five, I think we didn't—you ladies can chime in here. We didn't really discuss specifically this, but we talked a lot about the need for infant toddler care and that there are preschools, churches, schools that take the preschoolers from family child care providers. I don't mean that the way it sounds, that take them from there. And so when I asked how do you fill it, and she said we don't, which means she doesn't have a business. So I don't know if you guys agree that number five would probably be one of the other ones. We didn't really specifically talk about five.

Unidentified Speaker: Right.

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Kim: Okay. And then I chimed in and so did Samantha, regarding the Parent Aware and moving up and down in the rating system and the changes and things like that, but what's the difference between two and three. And then the meaning, I personally think the meaning of quality care for the rating and improvement system should be looked at more deeply.

Stella: And how about priorities in terms of that? Did you guys talk about that?

Kim: What do you guys think, priorities with that?

Unidentified Speaker: Probably the first two you talked about, yes.

Kim: The streamlining of the licensing rules and paperwork and all that requirements and all that?

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Kim: And then the need—and the child care.

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Stella: Thank you. Your group was bigger.

Kim: Yeah, it was really hard.

Unidentified Speaker: All right. Yeah. Number two.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Can you speak up if you can so that those on the phone—

Unidentified Speaker: Sure. Number two was a priority for us with everything that has been happening. There's a lot of streamlining that hopefully I think can be done. There's—I mean, I think that why number two is [inaudible 01:05:18].

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah. You would put—and I think a couple of people like the one was important but one and two are almost, maybe these things may be related, so you went with two but I know you started with one, so I hear that a lot. And then, I think like others, we thought five, whether it's doable for the interim report, I think that's what we thought and appreciated. Like to Dan, your comments about maybe some of it, maybe not all of it, and that's a different way to think about the entire task needs to be completed, maybe there's some work on it. But that's just good hearing how others set among the priority that all should be one, how do you even take something and chunk it out and not have to say that's it, that it's done. So that's good because we think more about priority.

Unidentified Speaker: So I just want to ask. So number one and two were the two that were grouped more together that's a priority, and then number five, am I understanding?

Unidentified Speaker: Yes. And I think—I would've put number two as more of a priority. I think if we start to tackle number two, you're going to accomplish one at the same time.

Unidentified Speaker: I'll go next. Our first two is number one, identifying difficulties for providers. I believe because we're—many of us in the field that have been involved know what the issues are, but I think it's time that we all get on the same page because we have everyone here at this table. So Parent Aware can understand that licensors or the licensors can understand Parent Aware, vice versa. Children [inaudible 01:07:37] can understand the licensing side, things like that.

Then the second one is regulatory reform. It's been said, we've had this task force in 2015, we had the senate workgroup in 2018. We had the ideas out there, let's see what we can do to move some of that forward and actually get it passed coming up for the first report in March. And then the third one is review Parent Aware. I believe that's a big hurdle currently for providers. It can be very cumbersome and difficulty, so I think we need to dive. And what does quality care really look like? Quality care comes in very different forms for every family because each person is unique. So we want to make sure we're promoting uniqueness in early childhood field because that is what's going to drive our children to be creative thinkers.

And our last one is going to be, we need to discuss our training. We need to make sure that we're not always going on the one track for training because that can be difficulty for many people to have accessibility. Yes, we have online training, but let's start thinking outside the box. How can we develop training for Greater Minnesota? How can we improve people to become trainers? And because I believe training and becoming a provider go hand in hand. If you have a trainer that's on fire, and that's going to motivate you, the person who want to engage in this field and promote—to be excited to work with children.

Stella: So I just want to make sure, what I heard is, I heard numbers one, two, six, and seven, is that correct?

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Stella: Yes. Okay. And in terms of you mentioning first and then second and third, is that the order in terms of priority or just order in terms of just listing them?

Unidentified Speaker: Well, I think number one needs to be first because we're all at the table together, we need to all understand where everyone is at.

Stella: Okay. Thank you.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So it looks like we're pretty much working on the same queue as everybody else. Number one, the previous work, some wonderful reasons you already said. I think the one thing where we took it a little bit, we talked about doing the approach, what is doable by next March, what are those things that we can do. Part of it was priority, but also realistic. So one thing we took was the variance. I heard a lot about that issue and it seem like a doable piece that we could maybe get something about that. The other one again on that same thing about— because they're all priority to me, they all need to get done, but what can we do?

Number eight, methods to improve access to and understanding. It highlights for us as a task force, number one, but then for them as providers, we have at least start from where are we currently and have a single repository organized in a thoughtful way that can be held on the website. A couple other things that we talked about also though were, there are some new ideas here. I'm more familiar with them because of legislation and things we talked about, it's not the case for everybody. I think some sort of presentations on the ideas like tiered licensing or correction orders or some of these things, some of those kinds of models almost need like a presentation either from ideas from other states.

And by the way, these are some things that already I know in the senate. I'm not sure, Ami, about in the house, which I obviously don't, but some of these things were around, just things like that. The other thing was even an idea, like, I'm a nurse, so—by the way, I forgot. I did have daycare for six months. That was in Vietnam, I worked as a nurse. I actually chose my apartment because I said where's somebody that can take care of our first daughter, only daughter? And then I said, I found that spot and then I rented an apartment close to it. But after two weeks of care, she found out she was pregnant, had two other kids. I'm worried stick because I can't do this. So I—great.

So I literally went door knocking, my first door knocking. I went door knocking to say—I feel like this maybe [inaudible 01:12:31], but go door knocking and saying, "Could you take care of my daughter?" And I actually did find somebody who was actually across the street in the apartment building, my window, looked down over their house and they had eight children, the youngest were three year old twins and they said, "Yes, we'll take care of her." And it was just really sweet, it was just the best family child care experience ever. So I did have, and I have to clarify [inaudible 01:12:54].

But I'm familiar with this, some of the medical thing, how we have boards. When we have licensing, we have boards. And many times, you have RMs and LPNs, you have the nursing assistants, medical doctors, there'll be a variety of things that help to give some governance structure. Because what I find amongst, and it's somewhat in here but I feel this is more an add on just even something else that we have providers and we have licensors or we have DHS, and nothing ties to them together, very fragmented. And when I see other areas [inaudible 01:13:33], so we all have that. And there may be some ideas from other areas that could help because there's no cohesive place outside DHS regulatories, licensors and that sort of stuff that helps do that, that's just thrown at them. But otherwise, previous work, variance, and access [inaudible 01:13:58].

Rep. Wazlawik: The only thing I will add, I think as people who frequent the legislature, I think we were also thinking of March 1, we'd be a couple of weeks into session. So how—eight is almost a administrative lever prior to number two, which means a lot would likely need legislative approval. So that was—I think it was interesting to hear providers all say two, two was what I was hearing. And so I think thinking about how can you pull an administrative lever before you have to do a legislative lever and provide some clarification would aid to understand the urgency of making sure that people understand the rules.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: And number eight already is in process right now. DHS is supposed to be doing a handbook that's going to come out in January 2020. My concern about doing this before number two is when we make all these changes in number two and number eight is going to be obsolete again.

Stella: And so I just want to make sure I have that right. That you guys are talking about one, three, and eight right? Was there a priority for one, or was it one, three, and eight together?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I think it was one. I think the one and the two are somewhat linked together, so doing one and two. And can you—you came in late, can you introduce—I can't see your nametag from here. Can you just introduce yourself officially?

Stephanie Hogenson: I'm sorry for being late, child care stuff, and I tried to be on the phone, but my name is Stephanie Hogenson and I'm the policy director at the Children's Cabinet and within the governor's office.

Stella: All right. So right now—thank you. Ashley, you're—

Unidentified Speaker: Our top priority was number five, our second priority was number one. A lot of the things have been said already in the interest of time, but for number five, both of us work with very small communities, what do you do for the three-digit population communities, there's many out there and they're struggling just as much as anywhere. They think obviously, it's an issue. I think number five as we talked about, could really spark some innovation in communities and help some of the other people in the community. Part of the network of the economy, employers that the churches, the schools, nonprofit organizations really be able to think innovatively about something besides, do we do a center, do we do a family option, do we choose option A or option B, can we think something differently?

So we were pretty inspired about what new licensure models could mean especially in the smaller communities. We believe there are employers out there who would be willing to bring capital to the table and some street cred to the table but right now feel it's either limited or that it doesn't fit their mission of their organization. So could this type of conversation spark that type of innovative thinking? And as far as number one, to Julie's comment about retention, this is obviously a retention issue.

The conversation we had about reviewing some of the previous survey results or conducting follow-up surveys if necessary, there's a lot of great minds around this table. The voice of directly providers themselves and the associations that represent them, so that if surveys are looked at, the voices in the room get the cred that they need and since everyone's going to be here because there's a lot of great thinking around here, so just treating this as a business retention type of tool. As we think about all of our economies in Greater Minnesota or in the metro area or anywhere else, we think about if one sector really starts to lose the number of businesses, we're going to take a look at that, and this is as much of a business retention issue if anything else.

Stella: Okay. So what I would like to do, we do have—so this is the tally right now in terms of priorities. A whole of you have talked about number one, number two, and number five. Also a handful was eight, four, a few with three and six and then one for seven. So what I like to do is have you all get up for a second. We're going to stretch.

Unidentified Speaker: My direction?

Stella: No, you guys have been sitting here, so let's stretch for a moment. And while you're stretching, let's look at that list and determine what—we're going to get into groups based on interests for your list, but it is not necessarily talking about specific tasks for the list, it's identifying what resources and material you'll need to accomplish that duty so that we can do some preparation for that and planning for the next meeting, okay? So look back at the list. We're going to do some circles.

Unidentified Speaker: All I can picture is the yoga and stretching.

Stella: Ashley and I are going to pass these around. We're going to say duties, we're going to name them in your—you guys are going get into the group that interests you most about thinking about the resources and materials we will need to accomplish that duty, okay? So this will be written as number one, I'm going to write another one for number two. Number five, I'm going to write them all, and then we're going to put it on the wall and then—we're not sitting at this point, let's walk around. So the numbers are going to be posted in different areas and so you can travel and visit other duties, too.

Unidentified Speaker: And what are we supposed to talk about when we travel—

Stella: Resources and materials. You'll actually write them all here. Resources and materials that you think—

Unidentified Speaker: I'm going to need first, the material.

Unidentified Speaker: All of them or just the top—how many do we—

Stella: Well, we're going to do all of them because I want to acknowledge the contributions from everyone, but [crosstalk 01:20:25]. So we're going to do this for about 15 minutes, okay?

Unidentified Speaker: And I'm sorry, is it about the next meeting? I mean, is it very specific or what—tell me again, like the resources or—

Unidentified Speaker: For the topic, right?

Stella: For the topic, yeah.

Unidentified Speaker: We're just picking one?

Stella: No, you could—

Unidentified Speaker: You wander.

Stella: You wander.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: And we'll begin now that we got you all together, so why don't you go ahead and what are we going to do now?

Stella: Yes. So then we're going to be closing the meeting pretty soon. There's going to be a few more things which is scheduling. We're going to talk a little bit more about scheduling.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: What are you going to do with all the things they wrote down?

Stella: Yes. So what we're going to do is we're going to be summarizing the information that you all shared. So when I'm walking around it looks like so much thought and effort that went behind what next steps for materials and information needed. We're going to talk about scheduling and then close out the meeting, and then with the evaluation form. So there's an evaluation form at the end of your packet. Oh, actually, it's not in the end of the packet, it's on the left hand side of your binder. I think it's right up this per diem. Please complete that form before you leave, the feedback form that you give us.

The feedback you gives us is really valuable in terms of being able to shape and get the feedback for meetings. So please complete that before you leave. So per diem, guideline reimbursement. If you already have your information for each and things like that, you could submit it tonight. But if you need a little bit more time to gather your receipt or if you're traveling and will be getting more receipts then, then submit this when you have all your receipts together.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: When they work out on the form, do they have a place, a mailing address if they want to mail it in for this form, is that on the form?

Unidentified Speaker: It should be right—the invoice, right at the top, mail invoice to, and there's the DHS contact info right in the upper left.

Stella: So just to streamline it, it would be good if we can collect this, and we'll get this information to you all. So Ashley will be following up with an e-mail with where to mail information with your receipts. We do need original receipt, and if you can mail it to us. And then what we'll do is we'll compile all the information and then submit it to the persons listed on the reimbursement fund.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Question I have for you Stella and also for DHS, there are other entities that has allowed taking a picture of the original receipt and e-mailing it in, taking a

picture of the form and e-mailing it in. Is that allowable through DHS or is this a mail everything in?

Unidentified Speaker: I don't know the answer to that.

Unidentified Speaker: I got it wrong on where you send it, so I decided that you just [inaudible 01:23:33].

Liz: Our operation staff said that they want original.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I didn't hear you, Beth.

Liz: The operation staff said that they want original.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So a mailing with the actual paper, original, not a photo of it.

Liz: Yeah. I'll double check, but that's what they've said so far.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So for this meeting, it's either submit it now or take it home and mail it in. And at the next meeting, could we check on that and just see if there's anything else to do. But whatever you say, we'll do, all right? But for now, original receipts and mail it in.

Unidentified Speaker: Now with the scheduling. Senator Kiffmeyer, if you could—yeah.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: All right. So you submitted those slips that you put on there, the days of the week and also the time. And so the results of the survey, I'll read it to you in its entirety. So there were five for Thursday, five for Monday, five for Tuesday. There were four for Saturday, three for Wednesday, and three for Friday. For the time of day, by a big margin, after 5:00 PM during the work week was the number one with eight. By the way, I didn't submit it, but I just said whatever, everybody else goes for it, so I just—whatever.

So there were a number of those that were—well, we're going to get to that. Four of them were 2:00 to 5:00 PM during the work week, one 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, one 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, one before 11:00 AM, and one 9:00 to 5:00 that were said. And Saturday was an option. So it appears as though Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening were far and above, the most that folks wanted to do.

Unidentified Speaker: Can I just ask? I don't know if everyone's schedules are like mine, but I can't consistently say that every Tuesday works well for me or every Thursday, my calendar is all over the place. I don't know, maybe I'm the only one. Like next week, I might have Tuesday available but not following week and also by this week.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: What we plan to do, what Stella plans to do with it, just giving you a record of this, it's to send out that survey that we did before, but it'll be narrowed down to Tuesdays and Thursdays after 5:00 PM. And so it doesn't have to be every Tuesday or every Thursday. I understand schedules, but Tuesdays and Thursdays seem to be the most popular one. If we narrow it down to Tuesdays and Thursdays after 5:00 PM and then send that out for all the weeks between now and maybe December 15, we can at least get a window of time where the most, like we did for tonight, were the most common—by the way, the most was just about everybody ended up making it work. Cyndi.

Cyndi: Frequent, say, times, how many times between now and December next year, what's the—I mean, what are we essentially looking at?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: That's a really good question. How many times do we want to meet? The Task Force meet between now and the end of this year and then January, February next year. So one of the conversations that Ami and I talked about was looking to our first report deadline is March 1, when we need to submit it to the legislature. So backing from that, when you need a draft so you can all take a look at it, and then when is the vote for this is the one or consensus by the way. I think sometimes, as I said, we needed to do a vote on this per diem and that stuff, that was a legal thing we needed to do. But we can do a consensus on the report that everybody can pretty much agree, just a little give and take. That's that report.

So if we had a draft by the beginning of February, could vote on it by the middle of February, then DHS would have time to finish the work and get it out by March 1. Now, I'm talking as we speak, is that in general, reasonable or not enough time for the first report for March 1?

Stella: I guess it might ultimately depend on what's going to be in it. I mean, having review, is it close—quick turnaround, two weeks? I don't know. That seems a little tight, but it's also a month so—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: But what's in the report won't be a surprise.

Stella: Yes, that's right. Yeah.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: In general. So to answer your question, Cyndi, we talked about that in between about planning our work and starting at the end, that deadline that we have, how many meetings do we need to have to get there to have that draft report ready. In order for them to have a draft, they're going to have to have some sort of index content or something for us, possibly by the middle of January. So to

tell the truth, the bulk of our work is going to be really as far as content, is going to be this fall. So how many meetings does it take this fall to do it?

Sometimes you might want to have a Saturday per chance. I wanted to have a discussion about what you think about Saturdays. So one advantage of a Saturday sometimes is to have a day of it, to be able to start at 9:00 AM finish no later than 3:00 PM, but to really have the opportunity to stay with the flow, do some stuff. I don't know that we want to do a lot of Saturdays, but that's one advantage of a Saturday, you can have a one day that you can really maybe get more done versus an evening. Though we've done terrific this evening, got a lot done. And it may be a mix of them.

So I would say if we set out Tuesday, Thursday evenings and Saturdays and see how it follows. I think it's very hard to say right now how that's going to fall. And I think we really need that mechanical kind of—in order to see it. The one thing that I would ask though, Stella, one thing that I found is in order to see the results, I have to submit. You really like that everybody could see what all the submittals were because it was by name if you notice, but it's going to be fairly straight forward, Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays for each week.

Stella: So we'll use the platform [inaudible 01:30:32] so that people can see what it looks like. So we'll definitely get that sent out in terms of—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Some guys would tassel with that and say, well, it wasn't my first choice but I can make it work. And what we're really looking for, we've got a lot of members. I gave up tickets and all kinds of stuff to be here tonight because it was that important to me, I made it work. But I was a blank, I didn't want to do it tonight, but that's the way it goes sometimes, so that's with all of us. So sometimes, people might want to have a second stab at it just saying, well, it's not my purpose, but I see that there are 20 people who can do it on that Thursday night, I'll make it work. Some things you can, baby shower for your sister and you're the host, you can be there. So we want to act like that. So Tuesdays and Thursday evening, and then what about Saturdays? I've seen some nodding of heads.

Unidentified Speaker: I think we have [inaudible 01:31:37] to come here.

Unidentified Speaker: When you pick a cold, rainy day.

Unidentified Speaker: If I could choose one of those.

Unidentified Speaker: And hopefully know by then.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: But I wouldn't want to do them all on a Saturday necessarily, but I think we ought to have some maybe. But I think when we do the, I guess for lack of a better word, the doodle poll, and then we see how it flushes out. The other thing is location, now that I found it. Is this location—first of all, is this location accessible to all of you guys to work now that you found this one, or is this—

Stella: Or you like a mixture?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Well, I find—I love the room, but it's in a middle of a very busy—

Unidentified Speaker: Situation?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: [inaudible 01:32:44] for, like this corridor is just—after 5:00 PM.

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah. The time of day. On Saturday, no problem.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: That would make a difference. Okay. What alternate kinds of locations have a suitable situation like this that would maybe be a little bit out so people don't have to come all the way inside? I'm thinking of—

Stella: Community center?

Sen. Kiffmeyer: —community centers?

Unidentified Speaker: Library.

Unidentified Speaker: [inaudible 01:33:16] spot in general. And [inaudible 01:33:22] spot for people. The city is where I'm coming from. Trying to have this sense of—where everyone—

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I think most of our people are suburbs or rural. So coming into the inner city, I think if we can stay—by the way, like Ridgedale, let me throw out an idea like Ridgedale.

Unidentified Speaker: In Minnetonka.

Unidentified Speaker: They even have this library that has big rooms for free. I mean, you—

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah, they do.

Unidentified Speaker: So then, we also [inaudible 01:33:53].

Unidentified Speaker: That's what I was going to say. Yeah, they're on the outer wing.

[crosstalk 01:34:01]

Unidentified Speaker: So the Twin City, Minneapolis, I divide the state into thirds, bottom to the middle, the Twin Cities is the top of the bottom third of the states, there's a lot more on Twin Cities. Two-thirds of the state is north of Minneapolis, St. Paul.

Stella: And so once the date is determined, the part that's going to be difficult is to be able to find that location for that particular time. So we'll be looking at a number of options to be able to accommodate that.

Unidentified Speaker: In the other Greater Minnesota groups that I'm on, that Ridgedale, Westin area is very popular, well-liked by Greater Minnesota folks, I think. And I've heard that also [inaudible 01:34:43] the shops out there, it seems to be—we got a lot of positive feedback for other committees I'm on that wants to attract Greater Minnesota folks and free parking, things like that.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: Free parking is a must.

Unidentified Speaker: Free parking somewhere along the beltway seems to be appreciated.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: On the western.

Unidentified Speaker: Northwestern.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: I think now that we so appreciate Stella, the ACET group in general, they take all of this and then they go out and try—so it's going to be days. And as we all know, the more you know your date ahead of time, you can plan your life, right? Yeah. So that would be my thing is that even into January and February so that we know January, February, whether in Minnesota, if we're going to have to have backup plan just in case just because Minnesota—say Tuesdays and Thursday evening and Saturdays we're going to do them all, see what we come up with, where just like we did with the days of the week, see where the most can fall and/or the majority can make it work, and so that you can all see it and—

Unidentified Speaker: Is there anything else for me?

Unidentified Speaker: Just the [inaudible 01:35:59].

Unidentified Speaker: Why don't you go ahead.

Sen. Kiffmeyer: So we're just going to close the meeting. Thank you all for being here today and thank you for being really good participants in our discussions. I think we have a lot of good information both on what our priorities are going forward to the interim report of March of next year, but also what our next steps are for the next meeting, so looking forward to figuring out when our next meeting is going

to be and seeing you all there and [inaudible 01:36:24]. I would say this is a great start. Just really impressed with how all of you did your stuff. And thank you very much for the ideas that you had, Stella, in regards to some of the activities that we did. I got a little nervous about that, but it turned out to be five productive and really well, and I feel like everybody has a chance to see, just really appreciate that. So with that, 8:49, we are adjourned.