

Collaborative Governance Council

Association of Minnesota Counties Building

125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul

Thursday, January 13, 2011

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Members Present

Grace Keliher, Minnesota School Board Association

Mary Hamann-Roland, League of Minnesota Cities (via conference call)

Kyle Harnett, Minnesota Association of Townships

Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Ken Loeffler-Kemp, AFSCME

Valerie Rolstad, SEIU

Ryan O'Connor, Association of Minnesota Counties (representing Jack Swanson)

Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair

Members Absent

Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota

Others Present

Jay Kiedrowski, Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota

Lena Gould, League of Minnesota Cities

Keith Carlson, Minnesota Inter-County Association

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Auditor Rebecca Otto called the meeting to order.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Mary Hamann-Roland moved and Valerie Rolstad seconded to approve the minutes; motion carried.

III. Presentation -- Local Government Innovation & Redesign Guide

- a. Jay Kiedrowski, Senior Fellow at the Humphrey Institute, presented the latest draft of the Minnesota Local Government Innovation and Redesign Guide. The guide will be available on the Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center's website early next week. Dr. Kiedrowski worked with an advisory committee with members from LMC, AMC and MN School Board Association.
 - a. He said that in a time of volatile revenue, government aid shrinking, and changes coming in human services, local governments need to do things differently.
 - b. The Guide presents Innovation & Redesign as a 5-step process:
 - i. Clearly define the problem – key to evaluating solutions
 - ii. State the desired measurable outcome
 - iii. Investigate why traditional approaches are not working
 - iv. Identify alternative theories or assumptions that address the problem
 - v. Innovate and redesign

- c. Tools for change (examples of each in Guide):
 - i. Charges, incentives & targeting
 - ii. Competitive contracting
 - iii. Collaboration: spectrum of informal to formal: cooperation, coordination, collaboration, partnership, consolidation
 - iv. Prevention
 - v. Community responsibility

IV. Group Discussion

- a. The Council discussed the presentation with Dr. Kiedrowski. A comment was made that not all service sharing/consolidation is good, and efforts need to involve unions and employees up front. The idea was raised that to help the process, a third-party facilitator for collaborations could be helpful. This could be a role for foundations, who have shown some interest in this, to support. One suggestion was to set up and offer a volunteer pool of retired executives. Could this effort happen outside of government? One model is the Management Assistance Program, known as MAP for Nonprofits, a Twin Cities-based organization that offers volunteers with management experience to help nonprofit organizations.
- b. Dr. Kiedrowski told the Council about the Local Government Innovation Awards, which honor innovations in cities, counties and schools. Information is available from the website www.incommons.org.
- c. Ken Loeffler-Kemp wondered if the Guide encourages public entities to contract out for services. He pointed out some of the pitfalls, and said there are examples of services that had been contracted out, and then taken back, and it was more cost effective to do it in-house. Chair Auditor Otto pointed out that some communities have regretted privatizing their school bus services, because over time, the privatization has cost them more. It was also pointed out that the Guide doesn't have examples of successful public takeovers of private tasks, like Duluth's takeover of curbside maintenance in the city.
- d. Auditor Otto thanked Dr. Kiedrowski for his presentation, which was very helpful to the Council. Dr. Kiedrowski said the Council can re-engage him at any time.

V. Presentation -- School Boards Meeting Outside Territorial Boundaries

- a. Grace Keliher told the Council that school boards are statutorily unable to meet outside of their district's boundaries to collaborate with each other. They would like Council to consider supporting legislation to change this, so school boards can meet outside of their boundaries. The MSBA would like to add a section to Minn. Stat. § 13B.01 to allow school boards to meet outside of their districts boundaries if the purpose of the meeting is collaboration and if the meeting is inside one of the partnered districts.
- b. Ken Loeffler-Kemp asked how it was currently working, and Grace Keliher said that districts are being very careful to communicate within the statute. She added that Education Minnesota was okay with this statutory change.
- c. Chair Auditor Otto asked Keliher to draft language and bring it back for the Council's consideration.

VI. Other Business

- a. Chair Auditor Otto told the Council she will be discussing the Council's work at an organizational meeting of the AMC, LMC and MSBA in the coming weeks. She also encouraged the group to look at "A Blueprint for Shared Services", from the Governor's Fire and Rescue Shared Services Task Force, which is available on the State Auditor's website.

VII. Topics for Next Meeting

- a. Draft language for report to Legislature
- b. Consider the concept of having a volunteer network to help facilitate collaboration.
- c. Chair Auditor Otto will send out suggested dates for the next meeting. SEIU will provide administrative support.

VIII. Adjournment