

Collaborative Governance Council

League of Minnesota Cities Building
145 University Avenue West, St. Paul

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Members Present

Gary Westorff, Education Minnesota

Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, League of Minnesota Cities

Kyle Harnett, Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT)

Ken Loeffler-Kemp, AFSCME

Valerie Rolstad, SEIU

Commissioner Jack Swanson, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Rebecca Otto, State Auditor, Chair

Members Absent

Tom Hesse, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Grace Keliher, Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA)

Others Present

Beau Berentson, AMC

Lena Gould, LMC

Peter Hutchinson, Accenture

Ann Lindstrom, LMC

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Commissioner Swanson moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Mayor Hamann-Roland seconded; motion carried.

III. Presentation

- a. Mr. Hutchinson wanted to share two stories with the Council that would help answer three questions pertaining to intergovernmental collaboration: Does collaboration result in financial benefit? Does collaboration result in better resources? What problems can we identify with collaborations?
- b. He told the Council of a County offender re-entry project. Ultimately, the county chose not to go ahead with the project because there were no financial sources for services offered outside the county.
- c. He also told of a 12-county collaborative to coordinate “high-touch” social services. He described this as a good design for enhanced service delivery, but it also didn’t go forward.
- d. He discussed problems of authority and accountability in collaborations: some entities would have to give up authority, but still needed to be accountable. This is difficult.

IV. Discussion on Presentation

- a. Mr. Hutchinson suggested that for entities that aren't used to collaboration, it would be valuable to have some practice before they embark on real collaboration. He suggested that the AMC and LMC would be good places for this to be done. Practice could test the models of collaboration and also train public officials.

V. Discussion of Next Steps for Council

- a. The Council discussed the idea of practice collaborations, and wondered if the Council was the place to spearhead such an effort, or if it was better handled by the associations. Commissioner Swanson wondered if the association representatives at the meeting could come up with ideas for it. Kyle Hartnett suggested that it be presented at the next Big Four meeting.

VI. Other Business

- a. The next meeting will take place in 2013. No date was set.
- b. Lena Gould reminded the Council of the upcoming Innovation Awards.
- c. Gary Westorff invited the Council to an upcoming conference at the Xcel Energy Center.

VII. Adjournment

- a. The Chair adjourned the meeting.