



Legislative & Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2020 -- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom Only (no in-person meeting)

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Convene, establish quorum, introductions of LPPC members and members of the public Ali
2. Review/modify today's proposed agenda LPPC members
3. Old Business:
 - a. Review/approve April 20th meeting minutes LPPC members
 - b. Update on the Sub-Minimum Wage Elimination bill Bob
4. New Business:
 - a. Colorado's May 12th Revenue Forecast Bob
 - b. #RecoverCO (previously #MoreRevenueCO) Bob & Ali
 - c. HCPF operational memos on day service & transportation Bob
 - d. 4th federal COVID-19 bill (HEROES Act, House version) Bob
5. Decision Items Ali & Bob
6. Public Comment Public
7. Adjourn

Next Meeting: June 1, 2020 10:00AM – Noon (Zoom only)

Discussion:

1. Ali called the meeting to order at 10:05.
2. April 20th meeting minutes held off until next meeting because minutes were not sent prior to meeting.
3. Today's agenda: No changes or updates.
4. Update on subminimum wage elimination bill (HB20-1263):
 - One of our allies spoke to the bill sponsor and the future of the bill is directly related to the May 12th revenue forecast. Colorado is looking at 3.3 million dollar reduction in amount of general fund that is available in the upcoming year. It appears that anything with any fiscal note (cost the Colorado's General Fund) will be dead. When the legislature reconvenes after Memorial Day, we believe decisions will be made rapidly to direct bills with fiscal notes to the kill list.
 - Bob has been advocating over the last two months to not give up and try push this bill forward. However, his current belief is that this bill will need to be withdrawn from consideration because going forward means deleting the bill aspects that cost money (Medicaid Buy-in, new services that support employment outcomes for people with IDD, lifting annual unit caps, etc.). It can be argued that a bill without these aspects simply eliminates subminimum wage jobs without providing the services necessary to support affected individuals to have new jobs in the community. It is Bob's recommendation that we wait a couple of years and bring this legislation back for consideration. If the federal version of this effort (The Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, H.R. 873 / S. 260) passes the subminimum wage elimination would be phased in over a six year period and would hopefully allow for the new services and supports to be implemented concurrently.

5. New business:
 - May 12th revenue forecast: General fund revenue is predicted to be down by 3.3 billion dollars for the 2020-21 state fiscal year. We are also looking at substantial revenue shortfall for FY 2021-22. The forecast reported that our tourism income was reduced by 95% during the month of April.
 - The Joint Budget Committee is making recommendations on how to balance the 2020-21 budget which goes into effect July 1st. They report having a commitment to make sure the most vulnerable populations are protected.
6. The Heroes Act passed the House last Friday for 3 billion dollars in federal aid, which includes aid to the states to offset the problems related to revenue shortfalls. Also provides additional payments to individuals and provided additional support for unemployment and higher wages for first responders. A 3 trillion dollar price tag would represent the largest federal COVID-19-related legislation thus far. States need this money so the most vulnerable populations will not be pushed out.
7. The Council has signed on to an effort to bring in additional state revenue through a temporary income tax that would end in November and only affect Colorado citizens with annual income of \$250,000 and higher. The effort is now referred to as #RecoverCO and a letter has been sent to Colorado legislators with over 135 Colorado organizations signing on. This effort would require the continuation of the public health crisis, spending down Colorado's cash reserves, and having the temporary tax approved by both the state senate and house.
8. Public Comment: None at this time.
9. Meeting adjourned at 10:59.

Motions:

1. N/A

Actions:

1. April and May meeting minutes will be sent to review prior to the June meeting.
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Attendance:

Council Committee Members Present: Ali Thompson, Christine Owen, Cami Renfrow

Council Committee Members Absent: Joseph Morrone, Lisa Franklin

Community Committee Members Present: Michael Hoover (disability rights representative and past Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council member), Gerrie Frohne (family advocate)

Guests: Donna Downing (past-president of the National Autism Committee)

Staff Present: Vanessa Hernandez, Robert Lawhead