

# Final Minutes

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## Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency Teleconference Meeting

9:00 a.m. • Friday, August 22, 2008  
Legislative Council Conference Room  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • Boji Tower Building  
124 W. Allegan • Lansing, Michigan

### Members Present:

James Curran, Chair (via conference call)  
Kevin Prokop, Co-Chair (via conference call)  
Georgi-Ann Bargamian (via conference call)  
Mitch Bean  
Fern Griesbach (via conference call)

David Leonard (via conference call)  
Charles Moore (via conference call)  
Gary Olson (via conference call)  
Michel Sussman (via conference call)

### Members Absent:

None

### I. Call to Order

The Chair called the teleconference call meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the Co-Chair to lead the discussion of the agenda items in case there is a potential disruption in his phone service. The clerk took the roll as each member joined the teleconference call and noted that a quorum was present. Representative Richard Ball of the 85<sup>th</sup> House District also joined in on the teleconference call.

### II. Approval of the July 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 25, 2008 meeting were presented to the members. The Co-Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Mr. Bean moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2008 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting as proposed. There was no further discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

### III. Report of Work Group Progress

#### Corrections Work Group

Commissioner Prokop provided a brief update on his group's progress. He noted they had an organizing call with all work group members present and they have scheduled their next meeting in Lansing to define their work over the next few months. The group has already received several reports to review and he and Commissioner Curran were extremely impressed with the depth of knowledge that exists among many of the members of his work group.

#### Medicaid/Community Health Work Group

The Chair then introduced and welcomed David Leonard as the newest member of the Commission and as the leader of the Medicaid/Community Health work group. Commissioner Leonard highlighted some of the activities of his work group which had their first kick-off meeting on August 12. He shared that his group discussed a variety of issues and expects to hear testimony on certain Medicaid reform measures from other states at their next meeting tentatively set for September 10.

#### Personnel Practices/Employee Benefits

Commissioner Griesbach reported that her group will have their first meeting on August 25 to work through some of their initial information needs. She noted there may be opportunities to explore some areas of mutual interest with the Efficiencies within the Departments work group and proposed a phone conversation with Commissioner Sussman and Commissioner Bean to coordinate their efforts.

#### Education K-12

Commissioner Bean indicated that he has already met with House and Senate Fiscal Agency analysts, a local business that supplies business services to public school academies, and a former public school administrator. His group has decided to concentrate on the business functions of schools first and hope to have a general outline of what their proposals will start to look like by the first part of October.

#### Local Government Efficiency/Revenue Sharing

Commissioner Curran shared that his work group has had their first meeting and will have a brainstorming session with folks who have extensive experience with state and local government, particularly at the county level, on August 25. He noted their goal is to come up with a work plan for the next 90 days.

Commissioner Curran then made a request to have some thought given to assign a person to each of the work groups who could coordinate and manage the retention and distribution of the information the group receives including the electronic and hard copy versions of all documents exchanged between work group members. In response to his request, Susan Cavanagh will try to identify a staff person to assist in the paper management duties for each of the work groups.

### **Higher Education**

Commissioner Olson reported his group met on August 14 and has reviewed an extensive amount of background materials. Future areas of work group discussions include hearing testimony from the Presidents' Council that represents public university presidents, the Michigan Community College Association, and the independent colleges in the state. They are in the process of setting a date for their next meeting.

### **Efficiencies within State Departments**

Commissioner Sussman summarized the progress his work group has made including having a discussion with the individual members of his group and the scheduling of their first conference call meeting the first week of September and a face-to-face meeting just prior to the September full Commission meeting.

### **Purchasing/Strategic Sourcing**

Commissioner Moore reported that his group held their first organizational call and they are attempting to arrange a presentation by Elise Lancaster, Director of Purchasing for DMB, on the total annual spend by category and current activities in process to improve savings sometime. From this meeting which he expects will be held during the first week of September, they hope to identify the line items or categories they will focus on first. The group's next call is scheduled for September 16.

### **Information Technology**

Commissioner Bargamian provided an overview of her work group's progress including holding a kick-off conference call on August 14 where members were educated with what has been going on with IT. Another conference call is scheduled for September 15 where they hope to begin to make a listing and have a discussion of specific proposals that the group can bring forward.

## **IV. Comments from Chair**

Commissioner Prokop reminded the members of the two main objectives the work groups should report back at the next Commission meeting. The first is to provide input as to whether the target and stretch goals allocated to each of the work groups are appropriate, aggressive, or conservative. The second is for the groups to report back some of the larger areas of opportunities they will focus on over the coming months. In response to Commissioner Moore's inquiry about the reaction of the staff assigned to the work groups, Commissioner Olson indicated fiscal agency staff are very enthusiastic to provide information and assistance to the Commission and are confident there are opportunities for efficiencies. A discussion of the recommendations coming from the Commission and not individuals and the timing of the report followed. Commissioner Bargamian then inquired if the co-chairs have interfaced with the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates to avoid working at cross purposes. Commissioner Prokop or Commissioner Curran will contact the leadership of the Statutory Mandates Commission and report back at the September meeting.

## **V. Public Comment**

The Co-Chair asked for public comment. There were none.

## **VI. Next Meeting Date**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 26, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.** Commissioner Leonard noted he will be out of town and will not be able to participate in the September meeting.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Having no further business, **Mr. Olson moved, supported by Ms. Bargamian, to adjourn the meeting. There was no objection. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:55 a.m.**

*(Minutes approved at the September 26, 2008 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting.)*