

NOTES

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

555 N. Wabasha Street

4th Floor Boardroom

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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Members present: John Adams, David Alden, Jim Boyle, JR Burke, Janna Caywood, Sheila Graham, Scott Halstead, Sue Herridge, Dave Hutcheson, Ruthanne Kurth-Schai, Acooa Lee, Nick Leitheiser, Rajean Moone, Aaron Pearson, Greg Strong, Paul Taylor

Staff present: Bob DeBoer, Anna Schumacher

Purpose:

- Evaluate the work of the Aging Services Policy Review Group for process and content in light of the guidelines.
- Recommend that the Executive Committee review it at their next meeting (July 27)
- Begin discussion on evaluation of our outcomes for the year.
- Get updates from members on policy that connects with CL work.

- Introductions. (4:00 – 4:05 p.m.)

- Review and approve agenda and outcomes. (4:05 – 4:10 p.m.)

- Aging Services Policy Review Group. (4:10 – 5:10 p.m.)

--Rajean Moone and Sheila Graham

A. Final Report Walk Through

- found that the reports 'rehashed' some of the same policies decade after decade
- after looking at what had already been done, moved to recommendations for next steps
- Rajean and Sheila guided the group to look at where the CL could arrive at without actual outlining what the policy recommendations should be.

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- 10 steps: esp. new ways to look at the definition of 'aging' and include issues like workforce development, assets of older adults, communities for a lifetime
- 3 concrete action steps
- Noted that the CL should try to prioritize those action steps

B. Review Group Process and Practices

- assigned participants to read, make qualitative assessment on their place in contemporary aging policy, and convene in a group
- co-conveners tried to reframe feedback from PRG members
 - ex. Trees are bad → We need to reevaluate public perceptions about trees.
- Many on the PRG were knowledgeable about this area, so the co-conveners were very intentional in limiting people from making policy recommendations
- Very strict timeline
- Met twice: once at the Mpls. downtown library and once at Flannery, evening time and 10 a.m. (2 hour meetings)
- Used Meeting Wizard to set up meetings, 'lopped' off those who didn't respond after 3 emails
- Our task was not to make *any* policy recommendations: we were charged with saying what *was* and what *is*.
- This group had no trouble getting 8-10 core members, but there was no Board sponsor.
- **Request for co-conveners to write down their reflections about the process.

C. Comments and Questions

- Given the scope of this whole area and potential areas of further focus, remarkably little has been done recently by the CL in this area of study. So it certainly seems overdue for this kind of intensity of attention. There are so many tie-ins with our current analysis of healthcare and our changing economy and the aging population. This work is very timely, and the challenge will be to choose where to focus our work.
- Historic Citizens League work has assumed a certain level of stability in society. But now, given the recession and the changing economy and population, 'everything is up for grabs'. The larger framework within which we live is in turmoil. So how do we do that—consider standard 'lines of business' which the League has

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worked in? This is the framework to think about *what do we do next when we know that what is in the report is extremely important?*

- It's also a perfect time to go back and refresh work we've done in the past and reframe the issues. This report was very well written, fascinating, and understandable.
- It's good that we weren't more prescriptive in the guidelines, so even though you didn't have so much guidance, you have done a fabulous job.
- One of the things the CL can do is hold a mirror up to practice and ask the tough questions so that the 'people in the trenches' can get their head above.

D. Next Steps for the Policy Review Group Reports

- Study committee intensity can only happen every so often, this is a very different process.
- CL is known for study committees, but if that is our only model we aren't going to get much done. Maybe we could have six of these smaller efforts rather than one or two 'Normandy invasions' each year.
- We need to think about *scope*. If we're looking at what sets up work to go forward, we can really tap volunteers there.
- Should we have Executive Committee look at this? – do we need Board approval? If we start kicking out six of these a year, I don't know if it's feasible for the Board to go through an approval process for each one.
- The Board does need to be aware of what policy review is being done and what position we hold.
- What should go to the Board for approval are final recommendations for how PRGs ought to operate—this committee's recommendations.
- This committee can spend time thinking about what to report to the Exec. Committee.
- What are we asking the Board? Do we want their endorsement?
- If we look through our past work and find all of our work is still relevant, there's no question. However, we have found that the issues today are so different, this could be a proposal for a study committee.
- What do we do with the Action Steps?
- It's always good to know who's doing what here locally, so that we can know where the CL can add to the discussion uniquely.
- This committee has to decide how we want to process the information we receive in these reports and what product we want

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to put out. Do we want to discuss that now or put that on a future agenda? Charter Schools will be in by the end of the month, we're not sure about Energy.

- It's serendipitous, looking at MAP150, that the long term care financing issue really emerged as a relevant and important issue.
- **Agreement** → We'll send this as FYI to the Exec Committee and fold into our report to the Board toward the end of the year.

E. Discussion of timing and topic proposal process

- Get Sean more engaged in this group at key times—he knows what funders are interested in, he pushes back to fit items into what we're interested in doing that they'll still fund.
- ****Should all of this be on an annual cycle? Combined with a longer strategic look at where we're going?***
- The better we become at evaluating, the more skilled we are at choosing what topics we want to cover moving forward.
- Sean's meeting with Civic Caucus—they have an excellent process to support a PRG really well. We're meeting with them soon to see what they're interested in.

- Discussion of evaluation tools for policy work. (5:10 – 5:25 p.m.)

Key Question: *Now that we have discussed the Aging Services work, does development of a self-evaluation tool for those who do Citizens League work make sense?*

Answer to key question: Yes.

- If there are members of this committee interested in meeting in a small group to discuss this that would be a great thing to do to advance our efforts to evaluate.
- Evaluate whether outcomes were achieved. (5:25 – 5:30 p.m.)
Thirteen evaluated and two newcomers abstained. Average score of 4.5. Scores ranged from 4 to 5. In general, people thought that we should have negotiated the schedule for more time on evaluation tools and policy review process.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, August 11 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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