

Troy, Daniel

From: Chris Romer [romerc@mcoho.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 3:10 PM
To: Larry Wolpert; Mark Mallory; Dean Dipiero; Anita Lopez; Charleta Tavares; Martin Jenkins; Robert Roland; Troy, Daniel; Dan Foley; Chester Jourdan; Tom Weidman; Michael Cochran; Lynda Murray; Jennifer Economus; Tim Downing
Cc: Arlen Herrell; Sharon Gerrick; Angela Carlozzi; Amy Elszasz; Chris Romer; Allen Lloyd; Heidi Fought
Subject: Message on behalf of Commissioner Dan Foley

To my fellow Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration members:

Hello everyone, from balmy southwest Ohio; here's one update and one thought that I wanted to pass on.

First, Bob Steinbach will be with us at the April meeting for the purpose of helping plan out the path over May, June, July. Specifically, Bob is going to help us sketch out the elements of the written report--not the content, mind you, but the elements of it, and the timeline. We have taken lots of data in, lots of feedback, now it's got to go through the funnel and emerge in some cogent fashion so that the final product gets done in a way that respects the work we have all put forth.

Second, I would like to propose a 10,000 foot concept that could serve not only as a working title of the final report, but also as the framework for what we present to the legislature, and maybe a framework for any type of collaboration and reform by anybody, not only our commission, but anyone who is pointing toward similar work/goals. Everybody can feel free to poke holes in it and tell me if you agree, disagree, but I think we have been lacking a larger theme that allows us to wrap our strategies around it--we're lacking the language that serves as a mission, but also the direction in which we're trying to head toward. We know that we have three specific subcommittee reports/recommendations that will serve as the three legs of the stool, so to speak. One--what ways can the state incentive collaboration; two--how we can we develop more innovative local tax systems that supports economic development and limits negative competition; and three, what best practices are happening now that everyone should know about. All this stuff is good, but by the time you tell people about the three legs of the stool, whether they agree/disagree, you kind of lose them, depending on their interest. So what's the larger idea that all this stuff fits into?

I propose that our work is leading toward The Ohio System of Local Government. I'm suggesting that we use this as the theme of not only the written report, but the theme moving forward to eventually advocate for our recommendations. Words matter, and they can help sell ideas. If we started with this system in mind--I'm just suggesting it may help us not only capture people's attention quicker, but it can be a concept that gathers some steam over time. Mind you, I have no pride of ownership, and it's really similar to the working title of the University System of Ohio--but that's kind of the point. You start with the larger idea, and in my mind, starting all of our discussions with the concept of the Ohio System of Local Government lets people know not only why the work matters, but in a general way, what it's about, and strengthens any potential recommendations.

We can certainly discuss this at the April meeting, but I wanted to give you the chance to think about it ahead of time. See you in a couple weeks.

Dan

4/28/2010