

Session Report
Local Government Reform Commission –
Friday, February 27, 2009
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Section 1: Session design

Topic

- Removing impediments and providing incentives for local government reform and collaboration

Background

- Many Ohio citizens, communities and institutions are struggling to pay the bills
- Individual organizations can only do so much within the current structure
- State and local laws sometimes discourage local collaboration and reform
- H.B. 521 focuses on local government efficiency and effectiveness
- This group is to recommend reforms that save money and promote collaboration.

Overall Project Purpose

- To remove impediments to, and provide incentives for, increased local government efficiency
- To develop realistic and significant recommendations by 7/1/2010

Purpose of this storyboard session

- To design a roadmap for this group to complete its charge on deadline
- To identify and prioritize the top 3-5 issues/ opportunities we should focus on

Non-Purpose of this session

- To think solely in terms of members' primary constituencies, perspectives or issues
- To develop "one-size fits all" solutions for local governments
- To miss this opportunity to encourage innovation and efficiency in Ohio

Note to reader: The remainder of the report is a transcription of the cards as generated by the group. The numbers at the end of lines under questions 1 and 3 represent the prioritization votes (dots) awarded to each idea. Cards without a number did not receive dots. Two cards under question 3 received "caution dots." Those dots mean that members of the group had concerns about moving forward with those ideas.

Question 2 was not prioritized. Instead, tasks were put in chronological order.

1. In order to get to a significant set of recommendations, we need to...

- Collect data about the costs and effects on services (8)
- Look at best practices regarding collaboration (3)
- Modernization of statutes – update of code (3)
- Determine what services are really needed and who should (best) provide them (2)
- Get input from key stakeholders – government associations and the like (2)
- Identify specific barriers to collaboration and which laws need to be changed (2)
- Identify constituencies that support potential recommendations (1)
- Narrow the field of possibilities (1)
- Understand what is already being done with current collaboration efforts
- Ask the public what services are most important to them (within financial realities)
- Identify cost of local government in Ohio versus other states
- Understand collaborative efforts that already exist
- Business community should be able to give input
- Understand the services that people want
- Understood the commission's mandate

2. Milestones we must meet in order to meet our deadline (what by when)

- Detailed proposal from the Glenn School by April meeting
- Need commitment of funding/staffing by state by April 1, 2009
- Workplan for group by may 2009
- Data from the Glenn School
- Public hearings for input by Sept/Oct 2009
- Public hearings and input complete by December 2009
- Create draft set of recommendations by March 2010
- Identify areas for future research (ongoing)

3. The top local issues/opportunities this group needs to focus on include...

- How can we encourage and incentivize local governments to collaborate? (9)
- Understand local tax structure and (potential) changes to encourage collaboration (8)
- Define what collaborations are possible now - make a list (2)
- What kinds of collaborative measures need new statutes? (2)
- How do we educate the public about who provides services and what do they cost (1)
- Understand what the benefits of services are
- Explore alternative service delivery models
- Identify specific collaboration models that drive and improve economic development (state and local)
- What services are currently being provided and at what costs
- Explore service mix and cost of service delivery
- Investigate public safety (police and fire) costs and potential collaboration
- Outsourcing services

Ideas that received "caution dots" -

- Road maintenance (1 caution dot)
- Investigate prevailing wage impact (4 caution dots)

Next Steps	Who is responsible?	Deadline
Type Report	Bob	2/27/2009 by 5PM
Convey funding resolution to Speaker and Senate President	Chairs Troy and Lopez	February 27, 2009
Identify a member to introduce funding resolution	Tom w. in the Senate Dan T. in the House	March 5, 2009
Create work plan	Chester – (Lynda)	March 27, 2009
Complete John Glenn proposal	Dave (Lynda and Chester)	April meeting