



Consensus Commission Meeting – October 24, 2014
Location: SYRACUSE 20/20, AXA Tower II, 15th Floor
Meeting Minutes

Present: Cornelius B. Murphy, Co-Chair; M. Catherine Richardson, Esq. co-chair; Aminy I. Audi; Laurence G. Bousquet; William M. Byrne; Darlene D. Kerr; Hon. Patrick M. Kilmartin; Andrew M. Maxwell; Stephen F. Meyer; Dr. Dennis J. Nave; Hon. Mark A. Nicotra; Sharon F. Owens; Ann Rooney.

Absent: James T. Walsh, Co-Chair; Co-Chair; Dr. Donna J. DeSiato; Bethaida González; Melanie W. Littlejohn; Hon. Mark A. Olson; and Hon. Chad M. Ryan

Staff: Kathy Murphy, SYRACUSE 20/20; Rob Simpson, CenterState CEO; Kevin Schwab, CenterState CEO; Travis Glazier, Onondaga County; Laurie Black, SYRACUSE 20/20

Presenters: Joe Stefko, Center for Governmental Research (CGR) and Brian Roulin, CGR

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome

Neil Murphy welcomed the Commission members to the October meeting of Consensus. He noted that this is a significant day with the presentation of the draft baseline analysis from Joe Stefko. The baseline analysis will provide the Commission with which to launch larger discussions about options for the community.

Committee Process Update

Catherine Richardson updated the Commission on the efforts to launch the Committee process. As had been announced at the August meeting, there are five new committees that are being added to the existing Public Engagement Committee chaired by Melanie Littlejohn. The Committees are: Municipal Operations, chaired by Aminy Audi; Public Safety, chaired by Darlene Kerr; Infrastructure, chaired by Bill Byrne; Economic Development, chaired by Larry Bousquet and Governance, chaired by Donna DeSiato and Steve Meyer. All the members of Consensus are serving on one or more committees.

The Committee chairs held a meeting to agree to the format that will be used for committee work. The Committees will convene in the next few weeks. They will consider their scope in context of the baseline and where they want to focus. Committees will also decide if they need additional committee members, who they want to invite to speak and what additional data and materials they may need to do their work. Each committee will have a staff person assigned to assist with coordinating meetings.

Public Engagement Committee Update

Mark Nicotra provided the Public Engagement Committee update. At the most recent committee meeting the focus was on steps that need to take place to roll the baseline out in the community, including on December 4th at Thursday Morning Roundtable and with other organizations moving forward. There will be a press conference announcing the baseline as well as an announcement of the public engagement forums.

Mark noted that efforts to secure funding for a public engagement budget are underway. Kathy Murphy and Rob Simpson have been taking the lead with the draft budget that was reviewed by Consensus. Neil Murphy

added that there had been a meeting with the local foundations and the foundations expressed positive support for the proposed efforts. Rob Simpson added that the funding cycles may differ but there is a willingness to seed the public engagement process. There is an interest in the two-way communication process that Consensus is proposing to utilize.

There are several speaking engagements being scheduled. Joe and his team at CGR are populating social media on a daily basis and we need to continue to push to drive people to the twitter and facebook page. The committee's next meeting is November 12th at 7:30 a.m.

Baseline Analysis Presentation

Neil Murphy introduced the presentation of the baseline analysis by reminding the Commission that Consensus had promised the elected officials that before the baseline is finalized that they would be given an opportunity to make sure that the data contained within the report is accurate. Making sure that the baseline has appropriate integrity and accuracy is a building block upon which everything Consensus does is built. It was reiterated that this is a draft report and is still subject to many changes. It will be shared with each respective municipality for their ability to correct any of the numbers. The Commission members should not be distributing the draft report to non-Commission members until the full Commission votes on the report in December.

Joe Stefko provided the baseline presentation describing the process that was taken to talk to as many people as possible and collected data from multiple data sources. The draft is clearly marked draft and will be edited based upon the feedback from local governments that includes corrections and clarifications. The baseline is for developing a shared point of departure that identifies what exists today. It provides a common information foundation before moving forward into the options phase. It is designed to inform the Commission as well as the larger community. The data must be accessible and digestible to the public.

The baseline data provides context to these types of questions:

- What does the local government universe look like?
- How many? What types?
- Who provides what service(s) and where?
- What is spent on local government countywide?
- What functional similarities (≠ duplication) exist?
- How diverse are services and spending levels?

It is not an evaluation of effectiveness or efficiency. Joe was clear to stress that the baseline analysis is not starting a dialogue in a community but rather continuing the conversation. The presentation lasted approximately an hour and is available on the Consensus website with the video of the October meeting at <http://www.cgr.org/consensuscnycalendar/>. Furthermore, the baseline findings contained within the power point are contained in each Commissioner's binder.

At the conclusion of the presentation Commission members commended Joe for presenting a substantial amount of information in a concise and understandable manner. Catherine facilitated a discussion regarding the public comment period and the Commission set November 17th as the deadline for providing feedback for corrections or concerns respective to their municipal profiles in the baseline.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. To view the full Consensus meeting, go to www.consensuscnyc.com/about/video/.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 7:30 am