

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held May 18, 2016 at the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Those present: Jae Potter, Commission Chair
 Casey Hopes, Commissioner
 Jake Mellor, Commissioner

Also present: Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor
 Lori Perez, Deputy Clerk
 Christian Bryner, Attorney
 Spencer Cox, Lt. Governor
 State and local dignitaries

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Mellor welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

1) Intergenerational Poverty in Carbon County

Commissioner Mellor welcomed everyone to the Intergenerational Poverty kick off meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to inform county leaders why intergenerational poverty has become a priority for the State of Utah. This board will explain the history, the background and the data for the State and specifically related to Carbon County, identify the impacts of intergenerational poverty and to develop solutions.

Commissioner Mellor introduced the Reform Board:

Lt Governor Spencer Cox – Chairman of the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Committee
Ann Silverberg Williamson , Executive Director, Dept. of Human Services and member of the
 Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission
Tracy Gruber, Senior Advisor and author of the “Intergenerational Poverty Annual Report”
John Pierpont, Executive Director of the Dept. of Workforce Services and Vice Chair of the Intergeneration
 Reform Committee
Commissioner Jae Potter, Carbon County
Commissioner Jake Mellor, Carbon County
Commissioner Casey Hopes, Carbon County
Mayor Joe Piccolo, Price City Mayor and Member of the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Committee

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox said he is excited to be here and this has become a passion for him. He gave a quick background on his rural upbringing and that he has a rural perspective of Utah. He explained a couple of experiences pertaining to poverty and how the cycle within families continues. He discovered that spending time with the children was more successful for change than spending time with the parents. He realized that government was never designed to make a big difference because it is not nimble, reactionary, innovative or disruptive. It is not designed to be efficient and affective.

Lt. Governor Cox met with John Pierpont and a Senator from Ogden and both had concerns about the concept of intergenerational poverty. It all started to come together and he realized that all poverty is not the same. Republicans say the current poverty programs just don't work, but the Democrats will show statistics where it shows that it does work. Lt. Governor Cox asked how both could be right. It was discovered that programs work for situational poverty where situations cause temporary poverty. There is component of poverty which is referred to as intergenerational poverty. These people grew up in poverty and on government assistance programs and they do not know anything better or different. The government programs do not help them get out of poverty and sometimes have the opposite effect. This is a complicated issue.

The government can be good at gathering data, to do research, and bring people together. We have private entities, business and many nonprofit groups, faith based groups and government programs that we can bring together to lift people out of poverty. This would be a good way to spend limited resources in a more effective manner. This would be the right thing and the fiscally conservative thing to do at the same time.

The last components are the kids. As we look holistically at the family we can focus on the children so they have the opportunity to break this chain. This is where we can make the biggest impact but still support the family. Each of these families is unique and is not a statistic. He thanked everyone for being here. We are not here to

recreate the wheel or tell anyone what they should do. Each county is different and has different needs. He turned the time over to John Pierpont.

John Pierpont said four years ago Stewart Reed of Ogden approached the Department of Workforce Services asking if they believed there was a welfare dependency issue in Utah. They started looking into the data and were surprised at what they discovered. It showed that if you started in welfare you probably still are dependent on welfare.

Stewart Reed wrote Senate Bill 37 Intergenerational Poverty Litigation Act, which requires that the Department of Workforce Services do a data report each year and report this to the State legislature. This was first done in 2012. They learned a lot from that first year and started to understand the challenges these families are facing across the State. This report has been produced for four years and the newest will be released on October 1st.

The second piece of legislature passed was the creation of an Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission. John Pierpont has served as the chair of this for the last four years. The members of this commission include the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health's director, the State School Superintendent, and the CORE Administrator for the State. There is an eleven member advisory committee, (chaired by Bishop David Burton) that advises the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission on policy type issues. The legislature requires a five and ten year plan which is now available on the web site.

John said the next phase for the Commission is to increase interest to tackle problems, to serve each family, to give each county a snap shot of their own situation and for better coordination between State agencies. This is where we are at and going forward we want to address intergenerational poverty vs situational poverty. John turned the time over to Ann Silverberg Williamson, the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Human Services.

Ann introduced herself and said they are fiercely committed to breaking the cycles of intergeneration poverty. Recognizing the wellbeing of children, youth, adults, families and individuals are most likely to be realized when we are focused on their ability to be successful in their homes, schools and communities across the State of Utah. When we act upon this conviction there is value and import in the partnerships involved. It is our belief that the inherit ability of any individual can most fully be realized, appreciated and have the greatest success for our children, youth, families and communities is when we are using a true system of care approach. A localized system that is culturally competent in its practice that delivers a wraparound service which empowers family voice and is youth guided. This leads to sustainable solutions that are not just about addressing the short term crisis but really understands what it means to place others on a trajectory, working with them, empowering them and hearing their voices. This will allow for the greatest result and outcome. It is a privilege to serve and to assure that we are about your community, your potential and your ideals for success for many generations to come.

A short video was shown about Meloday, an individual from inner City Ogden and an explanation of the Next Generation Kids program.

Tracy Gruber said her task is to connect the data with the individuals, to learn something from the data to help fill in gaps and address challenges, leveraging strengths in the communities throughout Utah. She explained and gave a slide presentation concerning the data that has been gathered and discussed the annual report.

Commissioner Mellor asked Tiffany to introduce the local CARE Coalition and how it could be a catalyst for intergeneration poverty.

Tiffany Van Sickle, the substance abuse coordinator for Four Corners, said through the efforts of prevention within the State system they have identified evidence based models for addressing community issues like youth delinquency and outcome behaviors such as substance abuse, school dropout, teen pregnancy which are all indicators that align with intergenerational poverty. Carbon County has established the Carbon Addiction Reduction and Elimination Coalition or CARE Coalition. The CARE Coalition model requires the hiring of a part time coordinator. The State Division offered a matching grant to fund this position. To fund the match for the grant there is financial contributions coming from the Carbon County Government, all four of the city governments, Utah State University Eastern, Castleview Hospital, Four Corners Behavioral Health and the Carbon School District. All of those members sit on the key leader board.

This board has completed a community needs assessment and has identified the priority as being substance use and abuse. They have looked at outcome data for school dropout, teen pregnancy and substance abuse. Carbon County School District has excellent graduation rates and the pregnancy rates are low. Our substance abuse rates are high; the second highest opioid rate in the State and Utah is the sixth in the nation. The SHARP survey is designed to identify what puts youth at risk for these problems. This is the status of the needs assessment. She passed out a newly completed draft report.

Tiffany Van Sickle discussed the data collected. Some of the information came from the kids themselves and shows a good cross section of what is going on with them. From the needs assessment report they will be forming a community resource assessment work group that will identify what resources are currently available to address these key areas and will lead to a strategic plan. It is important to have partners to get help with what the community needs. To be able to identify resources and to create a sustainable approach to address these issues so that the problem doesn't continue to run from grant cycle to grant cycle but be a solution to get kids out of this situation. She expressed her thanks to all involved.

Commissioner Mellor asked her to discuss the twelve agencies involved with the CARE Coalition. Tiffany said the key leader board consists of Chancellor Peterson from USUE, Mr. Holyoak from Castleview Hospital, the Director of the Health Department, Karen Dolan, Executive Director at Four Corners, Carbon School District Superintendent Steve Carlson, and mayors or city councilmen from all four of the city governments in Carbon County. Sheriff Wood is the chairman and he is very committed. Law enforcement is very valuable.

The community board is made up of people from schools, parents, youth, health care, substance use treatment and prevention, business, media, youth serving organizations, fraternal organizations, faith based organizations and others. This representation is a good cross section from the community with input that goes back to the key leader board who support and back the effort. Below the community board they then assign work groups and task forces that work on different projects and resources. They have a youth engagement work group that will help develop youth coalitions that will address these issues. It is a community that cares program and it is not coming from a single entity. It needs to be a collaborative effort brought together from the entire community.

Commissioner Mellor opened the forum to questions and comments.

John Pierpont said this is an excellent start. He commended Tiffany for their level of organization and admires what they are doing.

Lt. Governor Cox said they have resources available and grant money that can help with the planning process. Every county is unique and Carbon County has already identified substance abuse as an issue. Carbon County is well ahead of the curve. These grants will be available to every county who wants to participate. This commission wants to learn from each county and see results.

Commissioner Mellor asked for a contact for the grants and funding mechanisms for planning. John Pierpont said the grants would come out of Workforce Services and Tracy Gruber would be the contact person. The grants will be released in July to the twelve counties currently involved.

Commissioner Mellor asked what the grants could be used for. Tracy Gruber explained that right now they will be released as planning money. It is not a huge amount of money but will give the entities the ability to bring everyone together. It will also include training modules to help counties learn how to convene a group of people and establish a common goal. They are still developing criteria but it will be up to each county on how they use those resources to develop a deliverable plan that addresses intergenerational poverty advocating the goals adopted by the Intergenerational Poverty Commission.

Steve Carlson, superintendent of Carbon School District, said they are in the planning stages of the intergenerational poverty grant for school age students. Judy Mainord was the grant writer and Alisa Morley is the new director of the grant. They will be working with five local elementary schools. This year they have been able to plan and hire a director for all of the sites which will include an after school program, the hiring of mentors and teachers to stay after school. This is a great thing and will start officially at the beginning of the school year. The high graduation rates are due to the support from the juvenile justice system. We also offer an alternative school and Carbon High does a great job with their graduation rate. Mr. Carlson is excited to see what will happen with the after school program which will include music and other activities.

Commissioner Mellor said Kari Allred from Head Start was not able to make the meeting but wanted everyone to know that she is willing to participate and help out where she can.

Commissioner Mellor said we want to know about the available resources and to implement them. He thanked the CARE Coalition. He talked about the efforts of Shelley Ivie who is the Division of Workforce Services director and asked her to come to the microphone. Shelley said she works closely with Tracy Grogan and specifically with Carbon County. They offer temporary assistance, employment insurance for those individuals who have been laid off, Medicaid services and food assistance. Additional services are provided through the AOG who are great partners. They also provide services to help individuals gain skills for employment and additional training programs. She acknowledged the boards that are trying to address those problems. The DWS is here to assist. She introduced her staff.

Commissioner Mellor said part of the difficulty is to know what each other is doing, what resources are available and working with the different agencies. We do not want to duplicate work but rather to get together and have conversations that will benefit everyone.

John Pierpont said Shelly and others are there to help and support as things move forward.

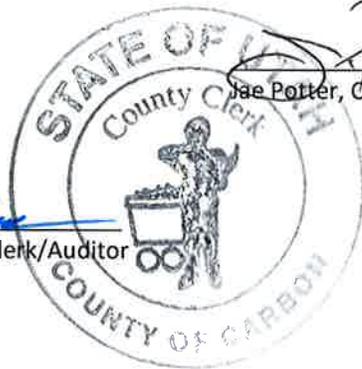
Lt. Governor Cox said think big and challenge everything. When you run into road blocks please work with the Commission to resolve them or ask them to move out of the way. He is glad to see what we are already doing. He presented a story of a young man who had overcome poverty and is now very successful. We can make a difference.

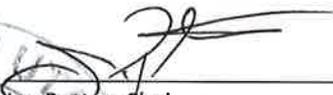
Commissioner Mellor expressed his appreciation to all.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor




Jae Potter, Chairman