

## Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2021

**Call to order:** A meeting of the Legislative Oversight Committee convened on February 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma State Capitol Senate Room 535, Oklahoma City, OK. Written notice was provided five days in advance, in compliance with Open Meeting Laws. The meeting was called to order once quorum was established in accordance with Joint Rule 10.5.

**Members Present:** Chairman Kevin Wallace, Rep Meloyde Blancett, Rep. Jeff Boatman, Rep. John Echols Rep. Kyle Hilbert, Rep. Cyndi Munson, Rep. Mike Osburn

Chairman Roger Thompson, Sen. Michael Brooks, Sen. Chuck Hall, Sen. Julia Kirt, Sen. Dewayne Pemberton, Sen. Frank Simpson

Others: (in person) Director Mike Jackson, LOFT Staff members Regina Birchum, Brad Ward, Tom Bogdanowicz, Zach Sumner, Ryan Maren, Frank Magness. (via video conference): Chancellor Glen Johnson, Tony Hutchison, Sheri Mauck, Kylie Smith. In person: Bryce Fair, LeeAnne McNally, House Fiscal Staff Mark Tygret, Senate Fiscal Staff Anthony Sammons

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Wallace asked Director Jackson to discuss the minutes from the last committee meeting. Director Jackson presented an overview of minutes for the Committee. Chairman Wallace asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. With no questions, Rep. Hilbert made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sen. Simpson The motion carried with the following votes: Chairman Thompson, Aye; Sen. Brooks, Aye; Sen. Kirt, Aye; Sen. Pemberton, Aye; Sen. Simpson, Aye; Chairman Wallace, Aye; Rep. Blancett, Aye; Rep. Boatman, Aye; Rep. Hilbert, Aye, Rep. Munson, Aye; Rep. Osburn, Aye.

The motion was adopted unanimously in accordance with Joint Rule 10.6.

### **LOFT Presentation of Draft Report: Priority Project Oklahoma Promise:**

Chairman Wallace recognized Director Jackson for presentation of the Oklahoma Promise report. Director Jackson explained that the report on Oklahoma's Promise was the first product of this type to be provided to the Legislative Oversight Committee. He explained that Priority Evaluation Reports differ from the prior Rapid Response reports in that they are more in-depth and have a longer engagement period. Director Jackson also noted that due to the level of cooperation from the State Regents and timely fulfilment of requests for information, the report was completed ahead of schedule.

Director Jackson discussed Finding One of the report and recognized Chancellor Johnson and team for providing information helpful to the evaluation. Director Jackson discussed the recommendations resulting from the report's first finding and then paused to take questions.

Members of the Committee directed several questions to both LOFT and to Chancellor Johnson and his staff.

Chairman Thompson recognized Director Jackson to discuss Finding Two of the report. Director Jackson asked the Chairman for permission to have Bradley Ward from the LOFT team discuss the report's

second finding. Mr. Ward presented key information from Finding Two and turned the floor back to Director Jackson with permission from the Chairmen. After the presentation of the second finding and resulting recommendations, committee members were provided the opportunity to ask questions.

Chairman Thompson recognized Director Jackson to discuss Finding Three of the report. Director Jackson asked the Chairman for permission to have Bradley Ward from the LOFT team discuss the report's third finding. Mr. Ward presented key information from Finding Three and turned the floor back to Director Jackson with permission from the Chairmen. Committee members were provided the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the report's third finding.

Chairman Wallace asked to move on to Finding Four. Director Jackson presented key information from Finding Four. Director Jackson discussed the recommendations resulting from the Evaluation. Committee members were provided the opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the report's fourth finding.

Chairman Wallace asked to move on to Finding Five. Director Jackson presented key information from Finding Five. Director Jackson discussed the recommendations resulting from the Evaluation. Director Jackson asked if there were any questions for Finding Five.

LOFT addressed questions that were submitted in advance of the Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting that the office was able to provide additional analysis for, including: the potential for expanding program eligibility to non-violent justice-involved youth; establishing incentives for students to remain in Oklahoma after graduation, outside of enacting a residency requirement; extending enrollment to 11<sup>th</sup> graders; expanding eligibility to undocumented students; a review of enrollment trends by student demographics; and an analysis for readjusting the scholarship formula to extend eligibility to more Oklahoma students and families.

Upon conclusion of questions, Chairman Thompson notified the Committee they would take a 15 min recess.

#### **LOFT Presentation of Draft Report: Rapid Response Evaluation on Coronavirus Relief Funds:**

Chairman Thompson directed the Committee that since the report had been released more than a month prior, the Committee would focus on the report's executive summary and then move into questions from the Committee. Chairman Thompson thanked both the LOFT team and CARES FORWARD team.

Chairman Wallace recognized Mr. Budd to introduce the CARES FORWARD team members in attendance: Brandy Manek, Shelly Paulk, Jennie Pratt, Jill Gieger, Cary Runkle, Shavonne McRee, and Former Secretary Mike Mazzei.

Mr. Budd provided an overview of current efforts to expend CARES funds, stating that all funds were expended by the first deadline and the team did a great job, and noting the recent federal extension to expend funds. He noted that there were also some changes on the strings tied to funds.

Chairman Wallace recognized Director Jackson to say a few words and discuss Finding One. Director Jackson then turned it back to the Chairmen for questions. The LOFT team and CARES FORWARD team answered any questions the Committee had.

Director Jackson was directed to move to Finding Two. With the Chairmen's permission Director Jackson turned it over to Deputy Director Regina Birchum. Deputy Director Birchum presented key information from Finding Two. Director Jackson then asked the Chairmen if there were any questions for Finding Two. The LOFT team and Care's Forward team answered any questions asked.

Chairman Thompson asked Director Jackson to go over Finding Three. Director Jackson presented key information in Finding Three. Director Jackson turned it back over to the Chairmen for questions. The LOFT team and Care's Forward team answered questions for Finding Three.

LOFT addressed additional questions submitted in advance of the Legislative Oversight Committee, primarily concerning LOFT's assessment of potential risks to the state for repayment of federal funds. In response to Chairman Wallace's question about whether all documentation was in the state's accounting system, Mr. Budd said they always knew there would be a lot of paperwork to get in order after meeting the spending deadline and felt confident the State would be ready for a Federal audit.

Chairman Thompson thanked LOFT for digging into the information and thanked CARES FORWARD for what they had to do. Chairman Thompson made the recommendation that the Legislature be more involved in the process with any additional relief funds the State is given. Chairman Thompson asked that LOFT continue to give an update to the Committee once a month on the status of relief funds.

Chairman Wallace agreed with Chairman Thompson, stating the members want to make sure there are no claw backs or ongoing budgetary expenses in the future resulting from the expenditures.

Director Jackson gave closing remarks and assured the Committee his office would continue to work with the CARES FORWARD team to make sure all questions are answered, and the state is ready for federal examiners.

Mr. Budd thanked the Committee for having them and said that he looked forward to continuing to work with them.

Chairman Wallace adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.