



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Common Sense
Initiative

Carrie Kuruc, Director

Small Business Advisory Council Meeting – Minutes Thursday, February 13, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Emily Groseclose, Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Senior Policy and Business Advocate.

Members present:

- Carvel Simmons
- Doug Barry
- William Bishop
- Mike Kahoe
- Greg Simpson
- Tyeis Baker-Baumann
- Crystal Faulkner

Mrs. Groseclose reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced Peter Voderberg, Assistant Policy Director, State Assets in the Office of Governor Mike DeWine.

Mr. Voderberg introduced himself and his role in the administration, then began a presentation on the importance of access to broadband internet in Ohio for education, agriculture, road safety, and transportation. Mr. Voderberg stated that 300,000 households and 1 million people in Ohio lack access to highspeed internet. The administration has worked on creating better and more accurate maps for internet service access and issued a Request for Information (RFI) for possible steps the state can take to improve highspeed internet access. This RFI resulted in the creation of the Ohio Broadband Strategy to provide potential paths forward for the state. The strategy includes improving telehealth access for schools, issuing statewide grants, implementing regulatory reforms regarding rights of way and permitting, supporting economic development to incentivize companies to create telecommunication services in underserved areas, and creating greater digital literacy. Mr. Voderberg stated that solutions will vary by area and include efforts such as new fiberoptic cables, cellular towers, satellite internet technologies, and antenna technologies. Mr. Voderberg stressed that internet access is the most important current infrastructure project and is necessary to ensure that communities are not stranded without access to adequate internet.

Mr. Voderberg took questions on how to encourage private-public partnerships, solutions via cellular service (which he noted is problematic because many areas lacking internet service also lack cellular service), and general infrastructure improvements.

Mrs. Groseclose then introduced Alisha Nelson, Director of RecoveryOhio. Ms. Nelson discussed the mission and goals of RecoveryOhio. She explained that the office was started by Governor DeWine to broaden the scope of conversations that happen around drug issues, beyond just the opiate crisis. Ms. Nelson stated that RecoveryOhio focuses on both addiction issues and the underlying mental health issues that may contribute to them. Ms. Nelson stressed the importance of a broad coalition of state organizations, local governments, and private partnerships to pursue the goals of RecoveryOhio. RecoveryOhio's advisory council has produced 75 recommendations in nine categories to work towards alleviating mental health and substance use disorder difficulties in Ohio. Additionally, Ms. Nelson stressed the importance of education regarding addiction treatment for both those suffering with drug addiction and employers. Ms. Nelson spoke about the work RecoveryOhio is doing with Ohio's boards, commissions, and state agencies to incentivize employers to take a chance on workers in recovery, as well as programs with licensing boards to address credentialing issues for individuals in recovery.

Ms. Nelson answered questions regarding creative solutions to help businesses retain employees with addiction issues, liability issues regarding the employment of individuals struggling with addiction and mental health issues, programs from RecoveryOhio to ensure that BWC ratings for employers aren't hurt by employees in recovery that experience a workplace injury, incentivizing employers through the reduction of unemployment insurance burdens, and restrictions imposed on truck drivers around drug testing and automatic removal from the industry for minor violations.

Mrs. Groseclose then asked if any members had changes to the minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting and shared CSI's 2019 Annual Report and active rules list. The council recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:34 a.m. Lieutenant Governor Husted then addressed the council.

Lt. Governor Husted discussed the issue of broadband access in Ohio and the economic barriers to the installation of necessary equipment to expand highspeed internet access. He then addressed the progress RecoveryOhio is making and how important that work is to the state of Ohio and the goals of the DeWine-Husted Administration. Lt. Governor Husted then spoke about the regulatory reform software tool that will be utilized by CSI to help to improve Ohio's regulatory climate. He highlighted the importance of regulatory reform and the issues for small businesses created by an overburdensome Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Mr. Husted stated that the implementation of the tool helps CSI go on offense, after playing defense in clearing the backlog of rules that was encountered at the beginning of the administration. Lt. Governor Husted stated that the tool will help to thoughtfully and precisely scour the OAC to work towards implementing meaningful regulatory reform. The tool greatly decreases the necessary time to research a specific topic. Mr. Husted detailed the desire to work with both state agencies and the federal government to identify regulatory inconsistencies.

Carrie Kuruc, CSI Director stated that the public comment aspect of the CSI process is vital and if stakeholders bring forward points of friction then we can work towards better addressing them with rulemaking bodies. With the help of the tool to identify outdated regulations, we can better

understand which regulations are still relevant and necessary. Mr. Husted added that he expects the tool to find many provisions that are no longer relevant and can be rescinded. Lt. Governor Husted expressed a desire to be thoughtful and contemplative on what steps are taken after specific regulations are identified. Mr. Husted thanked the council for their efforts, and Ms. Kuruc added that CSI will begin focusing the scope of the tool's searches in the next few weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.