



Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce
Real Solutions to Real Challenges

Friday, January 29, 2020
7:30AM – 9:00AM

Meeting Summary

In Attendance: Dorothy Battenfeld, Byron Clift Breland, Tom Burke, Rebekah Cearly, Keith Curry, Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Colleen Ganley, Tammie Gilkerson, Adrienne Grey, Andra Hoffman, Nicholas Jiles, Pam Luster, Julia Morrison, JoAnna Schilling, Stephen Schoonmaker, Erik Skinner, Paula Umana, Kevin Walthers, Matthew Wetstein. League Staff: Sadie Brown, Larry Galizio, Andrew Martinez, Ryan McElhinney.

Google Document:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Lk5Zkcs1FnG9EdLVMczme4F99F48CzV/view?usp=sharing>

Update on Sub-Committee Briefs

The meeting commenced with brief introductions by each taskforce member to acquaint taskforce newcomers. The co-chairs then asked each sub-committee lead to provide an update on their brief progress.

1. Housing Affordability

- a. Rebekah Cearly provided an updated on the work that her and Nancy Espinoza are doing with the Community College Facility Coalition. They will be working with legislative staff, budget staff, as well as other organizations like the Foundation and California School Finance authority to consolidate and focus the 2021-2022 fiscal year on funding for feasibility studies and technical assistance. They are hoping to request \$5 million for feasibility studies as well as other pre-construction work for student housing projects. These studies will help to provide necessary data at the state level about the broader need for construction. The Community College Facility Coalition will decide on their budget position at the February 4 board meeting and Rebekah will follow up with the Affordability Taskforce on the next steps.
- b. Matt Wetstein and Rebekah Cearly provided a written brief on housing affordability found on the shared Google document. Matt will be working with Andra Hoffman to include information on Los Angeles CCD's housing affordability approach and their community partnerships. Andra will also work with Nick Jiles on technical assistance for community colleges as well as financing feasibility around general project costs.
- c. Kevin Walthers shared that Allan Hancock College is considering master leasing a set of apartments but are concerned about their lack of funding and the downstream implications of the new legislation that prohibits colleges from withholding transcripts from students who owe the college money. Ryan McElhinney confirmed that there is no safe harbor provisions in the legislation that would hold students fiscally accountable. Ryan did confirm that the legislators were told about the issue and were persuaded that the costs of continuing to go forward with the

legislation is worth it. Ryan will follow up on those fiscal costs and share with the committee. Ryan will also reach out to partners at CSU, UC and other non-profit institutions to inquire about their experience on collecting payments for student housing.

- d. Keith Curry suggested that the sub-committee keep an ongoing list of challenges relating to housing affordability in order to see if there is a need for potential legislation, and then go over one comprehensive bill packet to address all the issues. Nick Jiles suggested that colleges explore partnerships where they are able to limit their liability. He specifically noted local governments, particularly counties and cities who are largely taking the lead with housing authority and operations, as potential partners.
- e. Tammeil Gilkerson asked whether the taskforce should focus on getting more community colleges to complete the feasibility studies as only 6% of community colleges have completed these studies. Tammeil suggested that setting a goal of getting 40-60% of colleges to complete the study would give the taskforce a cadre prepared to execute these goals if funding becomes available. Andra Hoffman suggested that SB 51, the “Durazo Bill,” be added to the brief. Nick Jiles will be meeting with the Chancellor’s Office to discuss many bills – including SB 51 – and will report back to the taskforce on that conversation.
- f. Tammeil proposed the question of whether the committee should focus on producing a publication on housing affordability now or continue to gather information on all affordability issues (housing, food, technology, transportation, financial aid reform) and release a comprehensive publication later. Several committee members agreed that it might be best to simplify the brief and not bundle too many asks and topic areas to eliminate unnecessary hurdles for the bill.

2. Food Insecurity

- a. Tom Burke updated the Google document with his initial brief on alleviating campus student hunger and food insecurities with a brief summary, potential solutions and resources. Tom will add a section on pending legislative activities and requested that Ryan McElhinney and Andrew Martinez provide anything that has been put forward. Lastly, Tom mentioned he is considering incorporating a matrix into his brief that would have all 115 colleges and identify generic strategies for meeting food insecurities. The matrix would include a link to the section on each colleges’ website that addresses this topic.
- b. Tom asked Colleen Ganley about the status of the Chancellor’s Office survey and whether the push at the CEO meeting had any impact on the responses. Colleen confirmed that the push did help and that 75 colleges have submitted the report. The Chancellor’s Office will do another push to get the remaining schools to submit. Colleen asked whether the taskforce members would be taking a position of support on the proposed budget around basic needs funding. A few CEOs as well as League GR staff said they would be supporting the proposed budget. Tom mentioned that his district will be supportive but that they would like to combine those funds into a student-centered block grant as one size does not fit all.

3. Transportation

- a. JoAnna Schilling updated the Google document with her research on transportation and echoed the committee’s earlier suggestion to limit the ask. According to her research, partnering with transit authorities is going to make the biggest impact and seems to be the area that legislators are most interested in. JoAnna included two topics that will be expanded in the brief: rideshare examples and parking costs. JoAnna asked the committee to provide any examples of cost effective rideshare options as she has not found many. Additionally, JoAnna will add more information on funding campus safety by carving out money in the college’s budget without relying solely on funding from parking fees.

- b. Nick Jiles mentioned that there is a push to remove parking requirements from certain housing projects, particularly affordable projects. In regards to partnerships with transit agencies, Nick added that there are already some programs at the state (HCG, the Strategic Growth Council) that are trying to target projects that have transit agencies incorporated as part of the development process.
 - c. Tom Burke mentioned that one of Kern CCD's colleges is taking a hybrid approach where they have free parking areas as well as other areas that they charge for. The reason that they charge for premium parking spaces is to prohibit competitive businesses from using free parking on the college campus.
4. Update from Colleen Ganley (received via email after 1.29 meeting)
- a. Vice Chancellor Ruan-O'Shaughnessy has been nominated by Chancellor Oakley to serve on the [Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council](#) (HCFC) to represent the needs of colleges students. The [Business, Consumer Services and Housing agency](#) who oversees the HCFC is responsible for distribution of approximately \$1.5 billion dollars for services to homeless individuals in the state,
 - b. The Chancellor's Office (CO) has sought and received approval from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide a CalFresh exemption to CTE students. We are currently working on operationalizing this exemption,
 - c. CO is also working with CDSS on COVID related temporary CalFresh exemptions including students with zero expected family contribution and students eligible for work study,
 - d. In March, the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) will be hosting a series of webinars focused on basic needs topics including food security, housing, financial aid, equitable provision of mental health services, legislative updates and the series will conclude with a roundtable discussion featuring Chancellor Oakley, Chancellor Castro and President Drake,
 - e. CHEBNA is also developing a basic needs related brief that will be shared with the legislature,
 - f. There is dialog regarding securing Mental Health Service Act funding (Prop 63) funds for colleges to expand MH services for students. The Chancellor Office originally wrote a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to secure \$10 million of Prop 63 funds.

Strategy and Timeline for the Dissemination of Briefs

The taskforce co-chairs asked that the committee continue to add information to the Google document for food insecurity, transportation, technology, and financial aid reform and to follow up with sub-committee leads who have asked for additional information or examples on specific topic areas. Tammeil recommended that the taskforce move forward with publishing the housing affordability brief as it is close to being completed as well as facilitate a session on questions that have come up in the meeting regarding housing (e.g. feasibility funding). The League will work with the taskforce to edit and produce these briefs and will solidify a timeline to present briefing information to the CEO and Trustee boards. Adrienne Grey suggested that these reports can be presented at the CEO and or Trustee webinars as well as upcoming League events. Finally, the committee decided that the deadline for the housing affordability publication will be the end of February to coincide with the CEO Symposium.

<https://www.ccleague.org/resources/focus-areas/affordability-taskforce>