

**NH Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Plan to Close the Cliff Effect for Individuals and Families who**  
**Receive Public Benefits Working Group**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 22, 2021

**I. Call to order**

Chris Santaniello called to order the meeting of the Cliff Effect Working Group meeting at 1:00PM on Monday, March 22, 2021 via Zoom on-line meeting.

**II. Members in Attendance- Quorum Present**

- Wildolfo Arvelo
- Christine Brennan
- Susan Huard
- Joseph Allison
- Representative Jim Kofalt
- Christina Lachance
- Rich Lavers
- Donnalee Lozeau
- Dee Pouliot
- Senator Cindy Rosenwald
- Christine Santaniello

**Also in attendance were 47 members of the of public**

**III. Minute Review/Vote**

- Christine Brennan motioned to accept minutes
- Susan Huard seconded the motion
- Motion passed, minutes accepted

**IV. Economic Analysis Report – Econsult and National Center for Children in Poverty**

- <https://econsultsolutions.com/nh-cliff-analysis/>
- <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ocom/documents/esinhconstraints.pdf>

**V. Next Steps towards development of Policy Recommendations**

- There is an opportunity to connect the work between the WFATJ - NH Chapter Team, and in particular the workgroups and their collective efforts. The workgroups discussing the relevant recommendations and their thoughts regarding them and any prioritization they would place on them. The workgroups include field experts and are co-chaired by a community representative and an internal (DHHS) integration team member this provides the opportunity to cross-pollinate the work in a meaningful way. When the workgroups complete their review, the chapter members will share it with the full chapter, the DHHS integration team members will share with the integration team and then the HB4 work group will have the benefit of that feedback to make final recommendations. The meetings of the working groups for this policy review will be shared with the HB4 work group and the WFATJ Chapter members so interested members can participate. The meetings will also be posted on the DHHS website if others are interested.
- Next steps for working group will be a presentation from Manhattan Strategies on the benefit calculator and meet to develop policy recommendations, expect next meeting in either April or early May 2021.

## **VI. Public Comment**

- Elaine Zimmerman – questioned what could the federal government be doing differently? If there are recommendations that might be immediately effective at little to no costs, let's not wait. Review what changes and cost savings other state have had with relation to the cliff effect. Suggest an economic analysis model and an outcome analysis could assist with prioritizing and more focused results.
- Jackie Cowell – Questioned the 40% of child care license exempt number. Ethan and Suma clarified that the 40% statistic encompassed both license exempt and unlicensed (family/friend/neighbor) care.
- Christine Brennan – Could the community colleges offer pathways to careers in childcare while also have childcare on campus?
- Susan Huard – Community colleges have looked at SNAP a couple times, state match is a challenge. Over the next 2-years there will be a huge amount of funds coming into community colleges. Also 7 colleges shed their childcare, it was a large expense. Those will centers still with childcare the programs are not run by the colleges.
- Kim Runion – NHES expand credentialing ability. We have not yet dipped into the SNAP/employment funds. NHES has a fund opportunity to offer tuition assistance. Working with community college to enable people to jump the cliff. Utilize credentials to allow higher wage jobs. Work Now program. Could we tie this to SNAP E&T program?

## **VII. Closing**

- Chris will draft report by end of the week. Outline where we are now, review report, link to report and outline next steps.

- Donnalee asked if the members agree to the report, including the update discussed, and if so, for a motion to accept.
  - Susan Huard motion to accept the draft report plan as suggested by Donnalee
  - Rich Lavers seconded the motion
  - Motion unanimously passed

Report will be sent to members for a final review before sending the official report to the Governor and Legislature.

- Will set up a next meeting following that and get the next committee meeting dates out.
- Meeting adjourned

*Minutes submitted by: Maureen DiTomaso*