



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)**  
**Leadership Committee Meeting**  
**6:00 PM, February 4, 2025**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Cavalier, Bill Doolittle, Tika Hartsock, Jessica Mensack, Molly Merrill, Beth Mineo, Trenee Parker, Erika Powell, and Jennifer Pulcinella

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Weir/Executive Director, Theresa Moore/Operations Support Specialist.

**MEETING NOTES:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

The meeting focused on the potential impacts of the current federal administration's actions on various departments and agencies, particularly those related to education and disability services. The participants discussed the need to differentiate between rhetoric and actual functional action, and the Council discussed the possibility of creating a list of recommendations for the Governor's office regarding education and disability issues during the current crisis. Pam suggested reaching out to policy advisors, but Bill noted that even legislators are unsure who these advisors are. The group agreed that the GACEC is in a unique position to offer support and advice to the Governor. They decided to create a bullet-point list of areas of risk, potential impacts, and things to track, which they will attempt to send to the Governor's office. They also discussed the importance of tracking the impact of these actions, particularly on federal funding, and the need to inform and support those affected. Tika emphasized the importance of making phone calls to representatives to track the issues and concerns. Pam proposed creating a draft for social media and a script for calls or letters, and suggested building collaboration with the Department of Education. The group agreed on the importance of providing information to the public and aligning with the Governor's office and Congressional delegates. The conversation ended with a discussion on the need for legal bases to be covered.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:00pm.

**OLD ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Pam is working to draft a plan to work with the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education. That plan will develop as new State leadership is put in place.
2. Bill suggested that we set up an opportunity for the Registrar of Regulations to come and present to the Leadership Committee. We want to be clear on the statutory process.

3. Council members will send two to three focus areas or indicators for the Council to prioritize by November 22nd to the staff.
4. Pam will contact Legislators to gather information on their priorities and ongoing initiatives.
5. Pam will request a meeting with Governor-elect Matt Meyer and his team to discuss the Council's role and membership process. This meeting will also include the Leadership Committee members.
6. All committees to provide their top priority to Pam for better alignment and focus of staff resources.
7. Pam to draft agenda for initial ad hoc committee meetings focusing on structuring the work and desired outcomes.
8. Pam to meet with Treenie to discuss how the Child Protection Accountability Commission structure could potentially be applied to the GACEC.

### **NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Pam to compile bullet points from Council members on the federal funding freeze and Department of Education dismantling issues.
2. Pam to create a one-pager with call-to-action items for contacting government officials about the federal funding issues.
3. Pam to draft a letter addressing concerns about dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.
4. Pam to contact the Attorney General's office about the federal funding and Department of Education issues.
5. Pam to reach out to John Sheehan in the Governor's office to start a conversation about the Council's concerns.
6. Pam to create work plans for each committee with 1-3 priority goals. Erika to share examples of work plan templates and agenda formats with Pam.
7. Tika to ask the transition coordinator about the best way to send information to the Governor's office.