



On Solid Ground Full Coalition Meeting

June 13, 2017

Agenda with Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- This meeting had our largest attendance to date: 39 people joined!
- **On Solid Ground Coalition is growing!**
 - We are thrilled to welcome two new Coalition members: Economic Development Council of Western Mass and the Worcester Community Connections of Central Mass
 - This is a part of our priority to grow the Coalition in a way that meaningfully includes other regions of the state

2. Homes for Families Survey Project Presentation

- Project is still in draft form; full release forthcoming; we will send out an email blast when it is published

3. Raise Up MA (RUM) presentation

- Carl Nilsson discussed RUM's history and legislative priorities
- For full info on RUM, please see their website: <http://raiseupma.org/>

4. Presentation Discussion with OSG and Raise Up MA

- Minimum wage does not cause cliff effects; ineffective public assistance programs do in their inability to produce an income packaging that will help families be stable
- Minimum wage increases are compatible with OSG work and OSG work on elimination of cliff effects is compatible with Fight for 15 Campaign
- Two Coalitions will keep working together; this is just start of conversations

5. Flip-Chart Brainstorm Activity on Two Questions

- ***How might OSG/RUM support each other's work?***
 - Help with signature drives
 - Consider adding RUM bills to OSG advocacy agenda
 - Attend RUM meetings
 - Showing up at advocacy events
 - Figure out who is in both Coalition
 - Have formal discussion channels
 - Report at each other meetings
 - Joint OSG/RUM quarterly or semi-annual meetings
 - How RUM proposals will affect families facing cliff effects
 - What are best practices, from other states and countries that government can scale?
 - Involve with RUM legislation/advocacy
 - Involve business community

- Center for Social Policy is working on pilot cliff effect tool. Hope to launch at start of 2018. Expand the tool so that everyone has right to information
 - ID opportunities to humanize issues that RUM & OSG are tackling
 - Big value added of OSG: our family engagement council; two members on OSG Steering Committee. Family voices included in/inform OSG work
 - Make sure OSG is coordinated with RUM sooner than later. Share our vision of what we want now.
 - Worried about SNAP proposal to change eligibility to 130% FPL dangerous: family of 4 earnings \$12.70 would lose SNAP.
 - Also loose: phone and utility discounts; free/reduced price lunches (causing whole school districts to lose their Community Eligibility)
 - Baker Administration is the only one asking what can be done about cliff effects
 - Asking what are top things we can do
 - Over 10 years since an Administration asked this
 - Importance of messaging; universal or partially universal childcare
- ***What policy changes need to be made to supportive service programs to ensure that households are increasing their stability as minimum wage increases rather than ending up in a financially worse situation because of the various cliffs that exist in support programs?***
 - Childcare gets counted in housing support; some bills in past to let family keep some of it
 - Families bring to table practical experiences that give insight
 - New formulas, automatic (eligibility) adjusters
 - Extended access to TAFDC currently
 - Pushing small pieces is good a starting point
 - Reduce copayments for childcare as income goes up
 - Continue to push for increased EITC but that is not counted as asset
 - Rent escrow opportunities need to be adopted by more housing authorities
 - LIHEAP is ok; Head Start is 100% of FPL but already hard to fill
 - Do campaign for consumers
 - Part of root cause is misconception that consumers won't pay more to offset min wage increase

6. Conference Committee Budget Advocacy Outcomes

- Please visit the "Action Alerts" tab of the "Advocacy Corner" section of our On Solid Ground website (www.onsolidgroundma.org)
- Or click here: https://onsolidgroundma.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/budget-advocacy-outcomes_7-11-17.pdf

7. Adjourn, but remember to mark your calendars:

- **July 31: Join CHAPA and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh for a rally in support of affordable homes in our communities:** <http://mailchi.mp/chapa/our-homes-our-voices-ma-rally-july-31-2017>
- August 3: OSG Steering Committee Meeting
- August 10: Homes for Families Visioning Day: <http://mailchi.mp/chapa/our-homes-our-voices-ma-rally-july-31-2017>
- September 14: Next Full Coalition Meeting