Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting

Virtual

**January 3, 2025**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Walmer called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

1. **Opening Business**
2. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Walmer, Vice Chair Gonzales, Commissioners Barkin, Harber, Kostenbauer, Temu-Otting, Tucker, Walker Harvey, Wilson, Executive Director Paccione

Advisors attending: Mr. Mark Cavanaugh, Dr. Michael Lightner, Ms. Danielle Ongart

1. Approval of the Minutes for the December 5th Commission Meeting

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the October minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kostenbauer. The motion was approved by consent with no opposition.

1. Reports
   1. Chair - Chair Walmer started by welcoming new Advisors to the Commission: Senator Jeff Bridges and Representative Mary Bradfield. We are awaiting 2 new appointments from the house, that we hope to receive soon. Senator Marchman will be continuing her service to the Commission.

Chair Walmer also thanked everyone for the conversation during the work session with CDE, where they presented their Strategic Plan. She appreciates the clear alignment of CDE and CCHE missions.

She also reported that she has reached out to the Colorado Workforce Development Council with an invitation to join the February CCHE Work Session. They will present on some of the work that is being done with the development of the work-based learning components and may have some input on the funding formula review. She encouraged the Commissioners and Advisors to continue to submit their suggestions for work session topics and guests. Also, during the February work session, Chair Walmer will provide an outline of the suggestions she has received for work sessions going forward.

She went on to remind everyone that the CCHE Funding Formula Survey is live and she shared the link to the website wear the survey can be found. She added that there has been 147 responses thus far, so getting lots of good feedback to help guide this work. The survey will close on January 17th.

Chair Walmer reminded the Commission about the Funding Formula Review Working Group Meetings and shared that they can find the recordings of the meetings on the CCHE website. She also highlighted that Dr. Rob Kelchin (Professor of Education Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Tennessee) will join the next FFR Working Group meeting on Friday, January 17th to discuss “outcomes-based funding performance models and the processes that have happened around the country in this review process”. He is an expert in the field, and we are looking forward to his presentation. She encouraged all Commissioners and Advisors to listen in on that meeting.

* 1. Vice Chair – Vice Chair Gonzales started by thanking Chair Walmer for her leadership. She appreciated the work session with CDE today and the collaboration and alignment. She looks forward to continuing the work and collaborating with other agencies and outside partners to do our best work for the students in Colorado. She also thanked Chair Walmer for the work that was put into the CCHE Funding Formula Survey. It is a very thorough survey and should yield some great responses. Vice Chair Gonzales encouraged everyone to share the survey and take it themselves.

Vice Chair Gonzales gave her sincerest and best wishes to Dr. Chris Rasmussen, as he moves on to new endeavors.

* 1. Commission Standing Committee
     1. Student Success & Workforce Alignment – Commissioner Abramson was not able to attend today but Chair Walmer shared a brief update on his behalf. She reported that this committee did not meet in December. They are working on assembling a panel to discuss the full spectrum of post-secondary pathways. They may have an update at the February CCHE meeting on when this panel may happen. The full Commission will receive an invite to this.
     2. Finance, Performance & Accountability - Commissioner Tucker shared a brief update for this committee. They did not meet in December. They did have the first FFR Working Group meeting on December 18th. The next meeting for the working group will be January 17th 1230-230pm. FPA meetings will resume in January.
  2. Commissioners
  3. Advisors

Advisor Lightner shared that there was some concern with some new rules coming forth from the Us Department of Education that could have an adverse effect on a lot of IHEs across the country. He was happy to share that those rules were not passed. Most of the rules that would have had an adverse effect were removed. There was one issue that has been postponed. This was overall good news for us!

1. **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Paccione – Executive Director Paccione began with wishing everyone a Happy New Year. She shared that this is going to be busy year for Higher Education, the department and the Commission. We will be working on the funding formula review and broadening awareness of the Colorado Promise tax credit in effort to help more Coloradans earn their post-secondary credentials.

Executive Director Paccione reminded the Commission that the Department is scheduled for JBC hearing next Thursday 1/9 and she encouraged them to attend. She also reminded them of the Governors State of the State Address on January 9th as well. She encouraged them to listen into that prior to attending or listening in on the JBC hearing.

Dr. Paccione also mentioned that she is looking forward to the start of the legislative session. It starts next week!

Executive Director Paccione went on the share that there is a new report from WICHE that talks about high school graduation projections. While there is a steep decline in enrollment to IHEs across the country, Colorado has more of a gradual decline in enrollment. This has a greater impact on students of color, and we should ensure that even the minority students have a line of sight to post-secondary credentials in Colorado.

Dr. Paccione shared sentiments for Dr. Chris Rasmussen as he moves on to new adventures in Higher Education. She also shared sentiments for Crystal Collins, CFO for the department, as she also leaving for new adventures.

Finally, Dr. Paccione gave a teaser for a media campaign that is going to launch soon. It will highlight the value proposition for post-secondary education and how that education benefits the students in their careers. This will be a year-long campaign, and it will start next week.

1. **Public Comment –** 
   * + 1. None

1. **Consent Items**
2. Degree Authorization – Approval for the Renewal of Authorization for Galen College of Nursing – *Heather DeLange*
3. Degree Authorization – Approval for the Renewal of Authorization for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*

*Heather pointed out to Chair Walmer that these items did not go through Committee as they did not meet in December. She gave a brief description of both consent items to the Commission. There was a motion for each item since they had not gone through the committee for approval.*

Commissioner Harber motioned to approve the consent agenda item II A, and Commissioner Tucker second the motion. The consent item was approved with no opposition.

Commissioner Harber motioned to approve the consent agenda item II B, and Vice Chair Gonzales second the motion. The consent item was approved with no opposition

1. **Action Items** 
   1. Recommended Approval of Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Section L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways – *Christina Carrillo, Academic Policy Officer and Advocate; and Chris Rasmussen, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation*

*Christina Carrillo explained to the Commission that she is seeking approval for minor technical changes to the policy that can have big implications. She shared a presentation and briefly described the changes that were being requested and why. She also shared that additional policy changes will be requested in a future CCHE meeting. These changes are being made to bring this policy in alignment with legislation.*

Commissioner Wilson motioned to approve action item A and Commissioner Harber second the motion. The action item was approved with no opposition.

1. **Discussion Items**
   1. Legislative Update – Rachel Fischer, CDHE Legislative Liaison- Rachel shared a presentation with updates on CDHEs legislative priorities and where they are in the process. She briefed the Commission on the 4 Bills we are looking at most closely.

1. Higher Education Statute Modernization

2. Technical changes to HB24-1340 Colorado Promise

3. Work-based Learning Consortium

4. Creation of Statewide Transfer Website

There will be more information to share when the session starts next week. Chair Walmer asked if the supplemental budget that was released by the Governor yesterday has any implications for our work. Crystal responded yes, we have 4 supplementals items that were submitted and 1 budget amendment. She then gave a brief description of these items.

Rachel also informed the Commission that committees have been assigned and she shared which legislators will serve on the Senate Committee and House Committee.

B. Continued conversations on Colorado minimum value threshold and postsecondary value/ROI - Michael Vente, CDHE Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance

Michael shared that he really appreciated the conversation on MVT that was had at the last meeting and the feedback that was offered. He also mentioned that he continues to welcome feedback on the summary documents and materials that were sent out regarding the work being done on MVT. Michael went on to share that he heard from the Commission that they would like to see more of the broad eco system of MVT. So they are working on gathering that information and looking forward to continued conversations around this. Also looking forward to diving deeper into the population that have some post-secondary but no degree or credentials (non-completers). He also welcomed opportunities to have one on one conversations if the Commissioners think that might be helpful.

Dr. Paccione added that after the department’s Performance Day on Wednesday 1/29 we will host a conversation at the CDHE Office to look over some of the MVT findings. All Commissioners, Advisors, and staff are welcome.

C. Updates on Colorado Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) - Michael

Vente, CDHE Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance

Michael reported that they continue to work with OIT on the implementation of HB24-1364 which sets up the statewide longitudinal data system. There has been a lot of great progress with this work. Over the last few months, they have really focused on the mission, vision and value of the SLDS and the use cases. OIT will release a report in January summarizing this work and when it becomes available, Michael will share. Michael also offered a very brief update for the implementation of HB24-1349. There will also be a report available in January on this work. He mentioned that he appreciates the collaboration with CDE, CDLE and OIT on all of this work.

D. Updates on Implementation of SB24-164 (Institution of Higher Education

Transparency Requirements) – Chris Rasmussen, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation; Carl Einhaus, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer; and Christina Carrillo, Academic Policy Officer and Advocate

Carl started this update with informing the Commission that he will be taking the lead on this implementation, with Dr. Rasmussen leaving. Liliana, who is in Carl’s former role will be joining the team to implement this bill.

Dr. Rasmussen went on to explain the mandates, identify the steps that have been completed thus far to implement this bill and the timeline (see presentation) for the work that still needs to be done.

Christina Carillo joined the conversation to inform the Commission of the student appeals process.