



Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC)

Draft Minutes | June 8, 2022 at 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was held virtually, with members of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021.

The Chair announced that because the meeting was being held virtually all votes and other actions would be done by roll call. He stated that the members participating remotely would be announced as roll call is taken.

Attendance/Roll Call

| Member | Business Sector | Attendance |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Rob Brennan | Construction/Engineering | Present |
| Chris Flanagan | Residential Construction | Present |
| Kara Galvin | Workforce Development | Present |
| Lisa Guyon | Social Services | Present |
| Tammi Jacobsen | Higher Education | Absent |
| Alisa Magnotta | Social Services | Arrived 5:18 |
| Paul Niedzwiecki | Business Development | Present |
| Robert Talerman | Banking/Finance | Present |
| Julie Wake | Arts and Culture | Present |
| Vacant | | |
| <i>Non-voting members</i> | | |
| Mark Forest | BC County Commissioner | Present |
| Harold Mitchell | Cape Cod Commission Rep | Absent |
| John Ohman | Assembly of Delegates | Present |

Cape Cod Commission Staff:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Kristy Senatori | Executive Director |
| Erin Perry | Deputy Director |
| Abigail Bliss | Community Dev. Planner |
| Sarah Colvin | Communications Manager |
| Siobhan Cavacco | Administrative Assistant |

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm with Roll Call.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Chris Flanagan, seconded by Rob Brennan, the minutes of the May 11, 2022 BCEDC meeting were approved with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Bert Talerma | Yes |
| Rob Brennan | Yes |
| Chris Flanagan | Yes |
| Kara Galvin | Yes |
| Lisa Guyon | Yes |
| Julie Wake | Yes |
| Paul Niedzwiecki | Yes |

Agenda Items

2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Year 3 Annual Report: Chloe Schaefer, Chief Planner at the Cape Cod Commission (Commission), reviewed the 2019 CEDs Year 3 Annual Report for possible approval by the Barnstable County Economic Development Council.

Ms. Schaefer said the current report has been streamlined from previous years after guidance from the EDA and after launching the [Data Cape Cod site](#) that contains a lot of information previously found in the annual reports. She said the annual report's introduction addresses adjustments to CEDs strategies and changes to the BCEDC and Commission staff that might impact CEDs implementation.

Ms. Schaefer reviewed the second part of the report which focuses on economic development activities, including administration and general planning, outreach and information sharing, targeted technical assistance to towns, and regional projects and initiatives.

She said administration and general planning discusses activities related to supporting the CEDS strategy committee (BCEDC) and supporting funding for CEDS implementation, such as the license plate grants.

The outreach and information sharing includes presentations to stakeholders, such as One Cape, and the new Data Cape Cod website. And the targeted technical assistance to towns includes providing support as towns update their local comprehensive plans, developing zoning design guidelines, and assisting with applications for additional funding opportunities through EDA.

Ms. Schaefer reviewed the eight activities for the regional projects and initiatives and provided details of Cape Cod Commission's work for each activity.

1. **Broadband Deployment Strategy and Buildout Fund** – Includes development of a scope of work and a request for proposals for study of internet and cell phone use in the region.
2. **Regional Housing Plan** – Includes getting baseline data to understand the housing landscape through staff research and through a contract with the Donahue Institute to update the 2017 housing analysis.
3. **Workforce and Business Retention Program** – Includes the Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment.
4. **Regional Capital Plan** – Includes staff continuing to develop a framework for a regional capital plan.
5. **Model Bylaws for Zoning/Design** – Includes completed model bylaws for coastal resiliency and large ground mounted solar installations
6. **Water Quality Planning** – Includes the completed update of ponds and lake atlas and developed scope of work for the freshwater initiative.
7. **Surveys of New Homeowners and Second Homeowners** – Includes homeowner surveys issued over the past year.
8. **Land Use Planning and Economic Resilience** – Includes secured funding to initiate a look at different commercial and mix-use developments in the region.

Ms. Schaefer reviewed the Evaluation of Progress on Action Plan & Goals section of the report and said it is divided into People, Economy, and Places. She said these are related to the regional benchmarks in CEDS and mirror the information on Data Cape Cod. Ms. Schaefer said the People category provides demographic data, such as population, race, and age. She said it also includes information on workforce, income, and identifying vulnerable populations. She said the Economy section provides data on employment numbers, seasonality, and key industries. The Place category includes data regarding real estate, housing affordability, transportation, and community character.

The final section Ms. Schaefer reviewed was the Schedule of Goals for the Next Year. She said they will continue with administration and general planning support, outreach efforts, information sharing, and targeted technical assistance. In addition, she said they anticipate focusing on the housing access and affordability initiative. Ms. Schaefer said they are developing a regional housing plan that will include an update of the 2017 regional market analysis and a housing suitability analysis. She said a regional infrastructure planning initiative will focus on advancing work on the freshwater initiative as well as an internet and cell needs assessment. She said they will be working

to implement the recommendations from the Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment and the Land Use Planning for Economic Resilience.

Mr. Flanagan commented on the significance of the data that is derived from the CEDS and how helpful it is, particularly when completing grant applications.

There were no additional comments or questions.

Upon a motion by Bert Talerma, seconded by Chris Flannagan, the BCEDC approved the 2019 CEDS Year 3 Annual Report for submission to the U.S. Economic Development Administration with a roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote

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|------------------|-----|
| Bert Talerma | Yes |
| Rob Brennan | Yes |
| Chris Flanagan | Yes |
| Kara Galvin | Yes |
| Lisa Guyon | Yes |
| Julie Wake | Yes |
| Paul Niedzwiecki | Yes |

Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment Update: Abigail Bliss, Community Development Planner at the Cape Cod Commission, provided an update on the Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment conducted in collaboration with the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy, including survey response rates and the next steps.

Ms. Bliss said the purpose of the project is to assess early education and childcare needs in the region, including identifying gaps in services and exploring strategies for mitigating gaps. She said they issued separate surveys to families and providers and they are waiting for a final report.

Ms. Bliss reviewed the project timeline, starting with the project launch in February to the final report that should be completed by the end of June. She said they promoted the survey through TV and radio ads, local libraries, industry networks, and focus groups. Ms. Bliss said they will be conducting a gap analysis to compare the survey results with existing services, resident needs, and preferences. She said the Rennie Center is identifying methods to address core challenges revealed from the gap analysis, which will be paired with case studies of strategies to translate the research into action.

Ms. Bliss said the family survey included questions regarding the ability to access services, selection process, and demographics. She said they received approximately two-hundred and thirty responses. Ms. Bliss said a few initial themes emerging with the data are primary caregiver parents would prefer a different arrangement and many respondents have made significant changes with work, such as changing their schedule or reducing work hours, with affordability appearing to be the core factor in these decisions. She said the initial findings support their understanding that access to affordable childcare is fundamental to labor force participation.



Ms. Bliss said the provider survey included questions regarding cost, capacity, location, and programming and services provided at childcare centers. She said they heard from seventy centers. Ms. Bliss said they are still reviewing the data but a preliminary review suggests primary barriers for centers expanding are issues with staff hiring and retention and finding adequate facilities. She said the impacts of inflation and lack of affordable housing are contributing to the staffing issues.

Ms. Bliss said they will be conducting focus groups to hear from underrepresented survey respondents and to gain more detailed insight into the trends of the initial findings. She said they identified the following priority populations for the focus groups: parents/guardians of children less than 1 year old, parents/guardians who speak Portuguese, parents/guardians who qualify for childcare vouchers, especially those who qualify but are not using, families who need specialized services or early intervention, non-guardians providing informal care, and childcare providers providing in-home care. Ms. Bliss said they are conducting outreach for these populations and requested assistance from BCEDC members.

Ms. Bliss said the Rennie Center is developing a series of case studies that look at precedents across the country to address some of the challenges faced by families and providers in this region. She said the strategies include expanding eligibility for subsidized childcare, expanding access to childcare vouchers among eligible families, increasing support for working parents, hiring and retaining qualified staff, and affordable housing for childcare workers.

Ms. Bliss said the next steps for implementation include pulling together an advisory group made up of industry advocates, non-profit leaders, business community leaders, municipal staff, educators/administrators, state and federal policy experts, and county partners. She said BCEDC members can monitor the project or register for focus groups at www.capecodcommission.org/eec

Ms. Guyon inquired about the focus group for the Portuguese speaking community and asked if the Commission has an advisor from the community to assist and customize questions. She also asked if the implementation committee is going to develop an implementation plan or actually implement the action items. Ms. Bliss said they are working with an interpreter, and they could benefit from guidance around the focus group protocol for the Portuguese speaking community. She said they would welcome any recommendations.

Mr. Flanagan asked about data on the underserved population, including people who have some childcare but need more and people who are actively seeking childcare but are not able to access any services. Ms. Bliss said the survey for families has questions focused on current childcare arrangements and issues.

Ms. Perry addressed the implementation question Ms. Guyon asked about earlier. She said once they receive the final survey data and recommendations, they will develop an implementation plan. Ms. Perry said some of the advisory group members may be able to implement recommendations and others may be reaching out to provide implementation support within their network.

Mr. Niedzwiecki asked if they anticipate any focus groups that look at employers or involve the towns. He said some of the towns have creative and innovative childcare subsidies. Ms. Bliss said

the focus groups are looking primarily at families and providers, but the case studies involve employers and the towns.

Mr. Niedzwiecki asked if there will be a mapping component to the survey report to help locate childcare opportunities and indicate where the greatest needs are in the region. Ms. Bliss said there will be an analysis of the most underserved populations, but she isn't sure at the moment what the visual will look like. Mr. Niedzwiecki said the Cape Cod Chamber had a meeting today about childcare and assembling businesses around the childcare issue. He said they will advocate any implementation plan that comes from this report.

There were no additional questions or comments.

Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Update

Kristy Senatori provided an update on recent staff activities.

Ms. Senatori said they contracted with the Donahue Institute to conduct an update of the 2017 housing needs assessment, and they will be expanding the data collection component of the housing market analysis. She said it will include a resident survey addressing year-round residency, home ownership, and rental needs and preferences. Ms. Senatori said they hope to have the update available in time for One Cape on 8/1-8/2. She said registration for One Cape will open soon and BCEDC members will receive invitations.

Member Reports

Alisa Magnotta provided an update for Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC). Ms. Magnotta said HAC has several lotteries for home ownership and rentals and encouraged members to send people to the HAC website haconcapcod.org for more information. She said the governor has issued a supplemental budget that includes funding specifically for housing development and wastewater in Barnstable County. Ms. Magnotta suggested members reach out to her directly if they would like to sign the letter HAC is writing for the funding.

Mr. Niedzwiecki said \$200 million supplemental funding for housing and wastewater will be beneficial for this area.

Mr. Niedzwiecki provided an update for the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. He said they are focused on the labor supply problem and housing on Cape, particularly for the summer workforce. Mr. Niedzwiecki said the workforce grows by 25K during peak season, and of that 7-8K are usually foreign workers. Mr. Niedzwiecki said they had 5000 J-1 workers prior to pandemic, went down to 385 in 2020, and are back up to 2100 this year. He said sponsorship agencies are now required to provide housing to J-1 workers and the Cape housing challenge has created a permanent seasonal

workforce problem for the region. Mr. Niedzwiecki said long-term they will have to look at changes in zoning and appropriate density as well as incentivizing development of affordable housing.

There were no additional member reports.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Rob Brennan, seconded by (no second), the meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

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| Bert Talerman | left at 5:30 pm |
| Rob Brennan | yes |
| Chris Flanagan | Yes |
| Kara Galvin | Yes |
| Lisa Guyon | Yes |
| Julie Wake | Yes |
| Alisa Magnotta | Yes |
| Paul Niedzwiecki | Yes |

List of Materials Used/Presented

- **2019 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Year 3 Annual Report**
- **Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment**