



The **Government Relations Committee** met on **May 13, 2019 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.**

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Dean Zajic (KS); Bernell Cook (LA); Pat Kaiser (MO); Jack O'Connor, Chair (MT); Kathryn Nichol (NH); Shelly Babler (WI); Jonas Zuckerman (WI)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO; Jeri Erickson – Membership Director; Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

1. RMC Research's and AIR's OESE Comprehensive Center Applications (Bob Harmon)

RMC Research: Robin Jarvis is working on a proposal to ED to provide comprehensive center services to selected states (see cover letter). RMC is seeking a collaborating partnership with NAESPA (see MOU). This item was discussed by the Board in April and was referred to the Communications Outreach Committee for further consideration and a recommendation to the Board for action in May. Official deadline for the OESE competition is May 24; RMC is targeting May 22 as its internal deadline. [RMC Cover Letter](#); [MOU](#); and [DRAFT Letter of Support](#)

AIR: Veronica Tate from the American Institutes of Research (AIR) has approached the NAESPA Board, requesting a letter of support for their application to OESE to serve in various capacities as a Comprehensive Center. Because there was not sufficient time to bring this second request to the Communications Outreach Committee, a conference call was held with Veronica, Sonya, Marcus, and Bob. [AIR DRAFT Letter of Support](#)

Board Poll: In the interest of fairness, draft letters of support were provided by both organizations. The Board and Committee leaders were polled as to the desire to sign and issue the letters of support for RMC and AIR to accompany their OESE applications. The poll results were mixed. Hence, this issue is brought to the May Board meeting for further discussion and decision

- Concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest were expressed by the group. Some members could be selected to be peer reviewers for the Comprehensive Center competition and some states could be beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Center services.
- The consensus of the committee is to wait until Comprehensive Center contract providers are selected before collaborating with or making connections with any of the successful awardees.

2. Government Relations Update (Julia Martin - Brustein & Manasevit)

- I. Congressional updates
 - a. Appropriations
 - i. Moving through House!
 - 1. Labor-HHS-ED bill passed out of House Committee
 - a. Still no progress in Senate
 - 2. Maintains or increases most funding levels for education programs
 - 3. Rejects administration proposals on school choice, zeroing out programs
 - 4. Report language
 - a. IDEA subgranting State activities dollars ok
 - b. DeVos should issue guidance prohibiting use of IVA funds for weapons
 - b. Legislation in motion
 - i. Disaster relief
 - 1. \$165m for education, to be allocated by Secretary
 - a. To cover a (growing) number of disasters
 - 2. Alternate disaster supplemental?
 - ii. Child nutrition?
 - 1. Senate committee markup/GAO report
 - 2. Bill by August?
 - a. Sen. Roberts (R-KS) says “seems like a good idea”
 - iii. Higher Education Act?
 - 1. Sen. Alexander says he will publish a draft bill in May (possibly as early as this week)
 - 2. Nibble around the edges vs. holistic reauthorization
- II. Administration Updates
 - a. Guidance on SEA responsibilities when it comes to audits
 - i. From ED OIG
 - b. ED appeals significant disproportionality decision
- III. Questions

Next meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY, June 11 at 1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.