

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect

The Roles and Contributions of State Government Task Forces, Advisory Groups, and Similar Entities

Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) July 2023 Monthly Connect: The Roles and Contributions of State Government Task Forces, Advisory Groups, and Similar Entities ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell (moderator), Secretary, NC Department of Administration; serves on numerous advisory groups and task forces, including the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force and the Commission on Inclusion

Leslie Locklear, Director of Educator Engagement and Student Success, UNC Pembroke; member, Developing a Representative and Inclusive Vision for Education Task Force (DRIVE)

Scott Proescholdbell, Epidemiologist and Unit Manager, Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics Unit, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Department of Health and Human Services; member, Safe Kids NC Steering Committee

Michele Querry, Southeast Regional Director, Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy; member, NC Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies (NCTowers)

Resources

Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of July 26, 2023.

[Andrea Harris Equity Task Force](#)

First established under Executive Order No. 143, the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force addressed the social, environmental, economic, and health disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, before sunseting in June 2022. In August 2022, Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 268 reestablishing The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force to further the economic development of disadvantaged communities, improve health and wellness outcomes in underserved communities, and advance equitable and inclusive practices within state agencies.

[Child Fatality Task Force](#)

The Child Fatality Task Force is a legislative study commission that examines the causes of child death and makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on how to prevent child death, prevent abuse and neglect, and support the safety and well-being of children.

[Developing a Representative and Inclusive Vision for Education Task Force \(DRIVE\)](#)

Established by Executive Order No. 113 in 2019, the DRIVE Task Force focuses on improving equity and inclusion in the education profession. The Task Force is comprised of parents, educators, administrators, education advocates, representatives of state and local government, representatives from the University of North Carolina system and North Carolina Community College System, and employers with a presence in North Carolina.

- [The DRIVE Summit](#): Governor Cooper announced the creation of the DRIVE Task Force during the 2019 DRIVE Summit, an event to develop collective strategies for a statewide plan of action to ensure equitable representation of educators in the classroom.

[North Carolina Boards and Commissions](#)

The Governor of North Carolina makes appointments to more than 350 state boards and commissions. These boards and commissions provide North Carolinians with a way to engage in public service and help make decisions

that shape the quality of life in our state. This website includes board and commission profiles, information about vacancies, and links to apply or recommend someone else to serve on a board or commission.

[North Carolina Commission on Inclusion](#)

The Commission on Inclusion, established in 2017 by Executive Order No. 24, advises on and identifies policies and measures that would promote inclusion and address discrimination, harassment and retaliation based on prohibited grounds. It is comprised of members from state government, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

[North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#)

Develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships. Contact partnerships@osbm.nc.gov if you have questions.

- [Highlights e-news and resources](#): A monthly communication that includes information on events, partnership opportunities, resources, internship opportunities, and more. [Subscribe](#) to Highlights.
- [Monthly Connect](#): Series of virtual and in-person (pre-COVID-19) panel discussions on topics relevant to cross-sector partnerships.
 - [NC Boards and Commissions: What they are and how to get involved](#) (June 2021)
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities.
- [Philanthropy Liaison](#): The philanthropy liaison works to build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in NC.

[North Carolina Secure All Firearms Effectively](#)

NC S.A.F.E. (Secure All Firearms Effectively) is North Carolina's statewide initiative to raise awareness of the importance of safe firearm storage. Established in 2023, the initiative provides resources and best practices for firearm storage and safety.

[North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies \(NCTowers\)](#)

Governor Cooper established NCTowers with Executive Order No. 218. The Taskforce provides expert advice to Governor Cooper and state policymakers on ways to advance offshore wind energy projects in North Carolina, with a special focus on economic development and job creation. The Taskforce works to identify economic and workforce opportunities and challenges presented by the offshore wind industry; recommend policies and programs to capture strategic opportunities; provide advice for developing NC's offshore wind supply chain, workforce, and infrastructure; foster and support environmental justice and equitable access to opportunities for underserved communities; and recommend policies and guidelines that prioritize offshore wind energy projects.

[Safe Kids NC Steering Committee \(SKNC\)](#)

The Safe Kids NC Steering Committee is comprised of 14 advisory members and provides guidance and support to SKNC. SKNC is under the umbrella of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global organization with over 400 coalitions in the US. North Carolina, under the leadership of the NC Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal, houses 44 coalitions covering 59 counties, the most coalitions in one State. SKNC county coalitions follow the lead of the State office. The coalitions work in their communities to reduce injury risks using education, incentives, advocacy, enforcement, and awareness.

[Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice \(TREC\)](#)

Executive Order No. 145 established TREC in 2020. In November 2022, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No. 273, which extended TREC. The Task Force focuses on addressing existing policies and procedures that disproportionately affect communities of color and developing solutions to ensure racial equity in NC's criminal justice system. TREC has twenty-four members; co-chairs are Department of Public Safety Secretary Eddie Buffalo Jr. and NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls.

Comments and Questions

The following is paraphrased from the Teams chat of this Monthly Connect.

- **How can the public find information about task force meetings, minutes, documents, etc.?**
The NC Secretary of State's Office maintains a [public meetings calendar](#). The calendar complies with the NC Open Meetings Act, which includes most state government task forces, advisory groups, and similar entities. Meeting minutes and other documents are typically found on the group's website. The NC Boards and Commissions [website](#) includes profiles with relevant links (where available) for task forces, advisory groups, boards, commissions, and similar entities for which the Governor has appointments.
- **How are task force members selected?**
Panelists shared that it varies by group. New members may come from current member recommendations, online applications and recommendations, or other outreach.
- **Are people paid for their time on a task force, advisory group, or similar entity or is it volunteer?**
Panelists shared that they serve in a voluntary capacity, which is typical of most of these groups. In some cases, member may be eligible for a per diem or travel reimbursement.
- **What is the impact of an administration change on task forces, advisory groups, and similar entities?**
Panelists shared that it depends on the specific task force or group with one consideration being whether it was statutorily created, established by Executive Order, or created through a different process.