

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20552



June 25, 2020

Briefing memorandum for the Director

Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law Monthly Check-in

DATE	Thursday, June 25, 2020
TIME	2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Eastern
LOCATION	Dial-in
PARTICIPANTS	Matt Cameron, Assistant Director, OSM Todd Zywicki, Taskforce Chair Nat Weber, Taskforce Chief of Staff Leonard Chanin, Acting Deputy Director
STAFF CONTACT	Matt Cameron, Assistant Director, x [Redacted]
POLICY ASSOCIATE	Andrew Duke, Policy Associate Director, CEEA, x [Redacted]
DIRECTOR APPROVAL	Delicia Hand, Deputy Associate Director, CEEA, x [Redacted]

Objective

The primary objective of this meeting is to provide you with a status update related to the Taskforce on Federal Consumer Financial Law's (Taskforce) work.

Timing Considerations

The Taskforce governance documents state that the Director or her designee will hold monthly check-in meetings with the Taskforce Chair and the Staff Director, but there are no specific deadlines or other timing considerations to consider for this meeting.

Background

The Taskforce will (1) examine the existing legal and regulatory environment facing consumers and financial services providers; and (2) report its recommendations for ways to improve and strengthen consumer financial laws and regulations, including recommendations for resolving conflicting requirements or inconsistencies, reducing unwarranted regulatory burdens in light of market or technological developments, improving consumer understanding of markets and products, and identifying gaps in knowledge that should be addressed through future Bureau research.

Pursuant to the Taskforce Roles and Responsibilities document, the Staff Director and Taskforce Chair will hold a monthly check-in with the Director to provide status updates on its work. The Staff Director will utilize the attached milestone schedule in Tab 1 to discuss accomplishments to date, work currently in-progress, planned work, and risks that the team is working to mitigate. The Taskforce Chair will use the attached Chapter Outline in Tab 2 to discuss the evolution of the report's contents and its progress. The Chair will also share requests for resource support, any support needed in addressing dissent, or scope clarification questions that may require executive input.

This is the fifth monthly check-in with the Staff Director and Taskforce Chair. Your last interaction with the Taskforce Chair and Staff Director was at the Data Security Privacy briefing you requested on June 2, 2020 that included Taskforce member Howard Beales and other staff including two representatives from the Office of Strategy. Your last required monthly meeting with the Taskforce Chair and Staff Director was the May 28 Monthly Check-in. Below is a brief update that the Staff Director and Chair will expound upon during the monthly check-in.

Internal Bureau & External Engagements

- A blog from the Taskforce Chair was posted June 8, 2020 on consumerfinance.gov. It highlighted the road ahead and explained Taskforce public outreach efforts.
- Jean Noonan, a member of the Taskforce, took the lead on developing a Request for Information (RFI). The Bureau issued the RFI on March 27, 2020. The comment period closed on June 1, 2020. The RFI received approximately 90 comments, including: 38 from individual consumers or practitioners; 11 from consumer advocacy groups (including a joint comment from 27 such groups); 24 from industry trade

groups; 7 from individual institutions or service providers; 9 from academics; and 1 from an association of state government officials. Comments submitted in response to the RFI were initially shared with the Taskforce at its weeklong meeting held June 15-19. To ensure that the Taskforce's work is informed by past public input as well, Jean is reviewing all summaries and comments from the Call for Evidence RFIs. Taskforce staff are preparing a summary of the RFI comments. It will be available to share soon.

- Taskforce support staff researched, summarized, and recorded publicly available stakeholder views to supplement responses to the RFI to ensure Taskforce members are made aware of the diversity of views held by consumer groups and trade organizations in case the COVID-19 pandemic limited the ability of stakeholders to submit comments. The collected comments were shared with the Taskforce during its weeklong meeting held June 15-19. A summary of the findings is in progress. It will be available to share soon.
- The Taskforce plans to host a two-hour Public Hearing on July 16, 2020 during Consumer Financial Protection Week. The Taskforce will hold a discussion with a panel of five academic experts in the field of consumer financial protection. Information developed during the hearing will help guide Taskforce work. All meeting materials will be shared in a briefing memo prior to the event.
- The Staff Director will utilize the attached state and federal outreach plan in **Tab 3** to discuss the approach the Taskforce will take to begin engaging with the Bureau's state and federal regulatory partners.

Report Progress

- The Taskforce members will generate a two-volume report, which will be informed by the public, meeting with Bureau experts, and leveraging members' past insights and expertise.
- For the first volume of the report, members will analyze data regarding the benefits and costs of consumer financial products and services and review the existing consumer financial regulatory framework to develop a common understanding of the history and current state of federal consumer financial laws and their influence on the marketplace.
- During the week of June 15 – 19, the Taskforce met remotely to review initial drafts or outlines of the 13 chapters of Volume I, and to begin discussing recommendations to be captured in Volume II.

- The team revised the content of the financial education chapter to more broadly cover financial empowerment, touching on topics of wealth mobility, student loans, and behavioral economics.
- Consensus was reached on all other content and on how to move forward toward final production.
- The team intends to have near final drafts of Volume I materials when it meets again July 21-24, 2020. On Friday of the meeting week, the team reviewed and prioritized a list of action items. Moving forward we intend to engage with other Bureau stakeholders to request support in researching or drafting small, well-defined scopes of work. A comprehensive list of requests can be shared upon request.
- Prior to the team shifting to discuss potential recommendations, the Taskforce support team shared initial highlights from the RFI responses along with stakeholder views independently collected by Taskforce staff from public sources.
- On the last day of the meeting the team refined recommendations and began discussing the structure of the report's Volume II.

Attachments

Tab 1: Taskforce Milestone Schedule Draft.

Tab 2: Draft Taskforce Chapter Outline.

Tab 3: Taskforce State and Federal Outreach Plan.

Tab 4: Taskforce Key Points Document.