

## **Youth Budget Commission Meeting**

10/09/2020

Minutes

**Commissioners in attendance:** Commissioner Cates, Commissioner Crabb, Commissioner Flores, Co-Chair Ford, Commissioner Huelsmann, Commissioner Kazmi, Commissioner Krauss, Commissioner Lightford, Commissioner Maley, Commissioner Montorio-Archer, Co-Chair Shaver, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Villa, Commissioner Zumdahl

**Children's Home & Aid staff and others in attendance:** Paola Baldo, Leslie Cortez, Amy Crumbaugh, Reshma Desai, Kristen Diaz, Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Kiara Jackson, Valery Jean-Jacques, Ava Love, Carlos Martinez-Concha, Eric Mayo, Curt Clemons Mosby, Carrie Patch, Tony Raden, Kamara Sakho, Omnia Salih, Ali Schoon, Shelby Smeenge, William So

### **1. Introduction (Co-Chair Shaver)**

Co-Chair Shaver welcomed the Commission and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Co-Chair Shaver also welcomed and recognized the newest Commissioner, Commissioner Maley.

Co-Chair Shaver moved ahead in the agenda to introduce the newest Commissioner to allow time for Commissioner Lightford to join the call. In the meantime, Eric Mayo did a roll call and a quorum was present.

### **2. Introduction of the New Commissioner (Co-Chair Shaver, Co-Chair Ford, and Commissioner Maley)**

Commissioner Latonya Maley introduced their work with Howard Brown based in Chicago. They have experience and focus in youth services especially with youth who are experiencing homelessness or identify as LGBTQ+. Commissioner Maley stated their excitement in joining the Commission and the continued work of ensuring the well-being of youth in Illinois.

### **3. Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Shaver and Co-Chair Ford)**

Co-Chair Shaver presented the minutes from the previous meeting and there were no concerns. Commissioner Krauss motioned to approve and Commissioner Zumdahl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Commissioner Maley abstained from voting due to not being present for the previous meeting.

### **4. Youth Presentation (Youth from Two Rivers YMCA)**

Co-Chair Shaver discussed the Commission's intentional engagement of youth in meetings and how their involvement can lead to better recommendations. Co-Chair Shaver thanked the youth from the Quad Cities Youth Advisory Board for being present and sharing their voice. Co-Chair Shaver introduced Omnia Salih, Carlos Martinez-Concha, and Kamara Sakho. Salih, Martinez-Concha, and Sakho reviewed how they created the advisory council to work alongside governmental officials, institutions, and organizations to advise on public policy that impacts youth and their communities. Their goals included creating better and safer communities, increase youth involvement in the community, inspire young leaders, and encourage young adults to vote. Some of their policy priorities are increasing access to Career and Technical Education and ACC (Area Career Center), more mental health services for minority communities, and more programs for teens, specifically business-oriented programs.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked them for their presentation and asked about training centers in their community and if those are being offered virtually. Martinez-Concha responded that a lot of the activities offered are hands-on which makes it difficult for those services to be done virtually. Commissioner Montorio-Archer asked when the advisory council will roll out some of their plans for programs. Salih stated that their goal is to roll out their main programs within the next three months and then proceed with the rest of them as capacity allows. Commissioner Cates stated the work they are doing is of great importance and asked how much of the work the youth advisory council is doing with or without an adult ally assisting. Sakho responded that they have adults in their personal networks they have been using as resources for learning the process and accessing some things that an adult is needed for. She stated that most of the work is being done by youth themselves and emphasized they want to be youth-led.

Co-Chair Ford asked if the council could pick the biggest priorities for the next legislative session and what would they focus on. Salih responded that she would focus on funding for mental health programs for youth and teens, Martinez-Concha on access to technical learning, and Sakho on economic classes or life skills for youth. Co-Chair Ford recognized how much work the council has done already and thanked them for their involvement in state government.

Commissioner Maley asked when offering programs are there are particular considerations the advisory council might need to take into account during the COVID-19 pandemic. Salih responded that they would do some physically distant activities in person in small groups but that most of their trainings and meetings could be offered virtually.

Commissioner Lightford stated that she appreciated their input and their talking points on real life skills such as learning cursive for writing checks and signing important documents. Furthermore, Commissioner Lightford stated that youth need these types of services and she would support all their initiatives. She encouraged the youth to reach out to her office. Commissioner Lightford reiterated that the Commission members are here to provide analysis for what youth need in the budget to maintain a high quality of life. She thanked them for their presentation.

Co-Chair Shaver stated that Commissioners are placing their emails in the chat for the youth to use to make connections for their work and the youth could also reach out to Eric Mayo or Kiara Jackson as well.

Commissioner Kazmi asked if a governmental entity in the Quad Cities helped create this youth advisory council and if they have an adult member. Sahil responded that they created the group themselves and that they don't have a designated adult yet. Commissioner Kazmi suggested that the Commission assist in making connections with adults in the Quad Cities who may be an official mentor for the youth advisory council. He offered to assist in doing so. Commissioner Montorio-Archer stated that he thinks it is important to allow the young people to lead in this work and for them to tell the Commission what is helpful and/or what they need.

Co-Chair Shaver agreed that individuals can help assist in providing connections to adults as mentors but that it is outside the purview of the Commission as a whole.

## **5. Black Caucus Legislative Agenda (Commissioner Lightford)**

Co-Chair Shaver introduced Commissioner Lightford to present on the Illinois Black Legislative Caucus legislative priorities. Commissioner Lightford thanked the Commission for having her present on this important anti-racist agenda. She reviewed details on the caucus' main pillars as follows: criminal justice reform (including violence reduction and police accountability), education and

workforce development, economic access (including equity and opportunity), and health care and human services. Commissioner Lightford reviewed the caucus' intention to look at racist policies in Illinois and increase the quality of life for the state.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Commissioner Lightford for the presentation and stated that he is grateful for the information and how the Commission can focus on those pillars that align with their priorities. Co-Chair Shaver opened the floor for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer thanked Commissioner Lightford for the information and asked how to ensure that whatever is legislated (for a department) is completed. He stated it was disturbing to hear how previous initiatives have been legislated but never finished. Commissioner Lightford stated that the Black Caucus is looking at creating an oversight mechanism to ensure those state laws are followed.

Commissioner Cates asked what the caucus needs from the Commission, especially for initiatives that may encounter some opposition such as juvenile justice reform. Commissioner Lightford stated that the time for movement is here and that the Commission needs people on the ground to provide support for their agenda and be involved in moving them forward. Commissioner Lightford stated that while she can't share the entire presentation, she can share a document with the main highlights that are applicable to the work the Commission does.

**6. Illinois HEALS Presentation (Reshma Desai, Strategic Policy Advisor & Project Director Illinois HEALS)**

Co-Chair Shaver stated that he wants to give appropriate time to the Illinois HEALS presentation so they will move this presentation to the December meeting.

**7. Working Group Presentation on the Statement of Purpose and Discussion (Commissioner Cates)**

Co-Chair Shaver introduced Commissioner Cates to review and discuss the Commission's statement of purpose that the working group developed. He stated that while they won't be voting on the statement during this meeting they should still provide time to discuss it as the whole Commission.

Commissioner Cates thanked Commissioner Lightford for her leadership and her fellow working group members for their work on the statement of purpose. Commissioner Cates read the draft of the statement as follows:

“The YBC recognizes the injustices systemic racism and their contributing conditions have played in negatively impacting communities of color. The YBC unequivocally denounces systemic racism, racial injustice, and racist policies and practices that continue to marginalize communities of color. Therefore, the YBC will recommend and advocate for funding, policies, and practices to ensure that every child experiences access to opportunities regardless of their race, gender, preferences, or socioeconomic background to ensure racial equity, safety, equality, and stability.”

Commissioner Cates stated that the Commission can use this statement to help guide their budget recommendations moving forward. She opened the floor for questions, comments, or concerns.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked the working group for the detailed statement and reiterated that it was intentional and broad enough in scope to guide the work.

Commissioner Krauss stated there are two points that stand out to him. He commented that the Commission's intention to use this statement in the work is implied but not clearly stated. Likewise, Commissioner Krauss commented that the Commission's intention should be written out in the statement of purpose. He also pointed out that words like "negatively" underplays some of the damage done by these systems and that they should include stronger wording to truly reflect the experience of youth.

Commissioner Thompson included that the Commission should include something about disproportionality in the statement and asked for clarification about the phrase "contributing conditions". Commissioner Montorio-Archer stated that phrasing was to reflect conditions that are outside of but parallel to these systems that aren't necessarily racist in their nature but contribute to the issues. He stated that the Commission can edit the statement to fit what they need but that the main focus should be how the Commission reflects this purpose in the work. Commissioner Kazmi reiterated that the contributing conditions phrase was to encompass things broadly that are outside of the usual conversations about systemic racism but are still important.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer asked the Commission if this statement is unique enough and made people stop and think. Co-Chair Shaver stated that he wasn't sure that his reaction was inspiration but that isn't necessarily bad or wrong. He commented that it did resonate with him regardless of its similarity to other statements.

Commissioner Maley commented how much they appreciate that the statement clearly says the Commission will consider policies and practices that negatively impact people of color as racist. They commented that the wording of "regardless" should be changed to "particular" because that is the focus of anti-racist practice.

Co-Chair Shaver commented that the word "preferences" might need to be changed. There was general agreement that the word should be removed.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer commented that youth are living at an intersection of a lot of inequities and it is important to include that consideration in the Commission's work. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that recognizing intersectionality is important to include. He stated that this opportunity to gain feedback has been productive. Co-Chair Shaver asked if the Commission could review the statement and provide additional feedback to Mayo and Jackson over the next few weeks. This gives the working group time to review those edits again and get a redraft done to vote on at the next meeting.

## **8. Public Comment (Co-Chair Representative Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)**

Co-Chair Shaver opened the floor to public comment; there were no public comments.

## **9. Fiscal Scan Announcement (Co-Chair Shaver)**

Co-Chair Shaver announced that the Fiscal Scan is complete and that the Commission will start focusing on the scan and recommendations. The Commission will have a more detailed discussion about the fiscal scan during the next meeting. Mayo stated that he will provide the finalized fiscal scan in the chat function for the Commission to look at. It will also be provided in a follow-up email.

## **10. New Business**

Co-Chair Shaver stated that the next Commission meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm-3:30pm. The next meeting will include the Illinois HEALS presentation, a discussion on the Fiscal Scan, and the statement of purpose vote and approval.

Commissioner Krauss asked if they have slide decks or flyers reviewing the Fiscal Scan that he can provide to his community. Mayo responded that he can provide slide decks/flyers and will speak with individuals in more detail about how to tailor those materials for various needs.

Commissioner Crabb commented that recommendations from Commissioners that were discussed around the FY18 Fiscal Scan several months ago should be provided for the next meeting, so those recommendations are not forgotten. Mayo stated that they will be sure to include those in the materials for the next meeting.

## **11. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Shaver asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Zumdahl moved, multiple Commissioners seconded. The meeting was adjourned.