

Youth Budget Commission Meeting

08/20/2021

Minutes

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

Commissioner in attendance by proxy: Commissioner Flores, Commissioner Vega

Others in attendance: Anita Weinberg, Carly Ogletree, Jennifer Butler, Kristina Dion, Mitch Lifson, Shontay Ford, Eric Mayo, John Gordon, Ali Schoon

Co-Chair Shaver welcomed the Commission to the August meeting. He stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has seen increased infection numbers for young people. He said that for the week that ended on August 7th, the case rates of young people doubled from the week prior. Co-Chair Shaver reviewed that this issue is top of mind, especially for youth who can't get vaccinated, as Commissioners look at the fiscal scan and develop policy recommendations. He thanked Commissioners who had volunteered to help present the fiscal scan to youth. He stated that while attempting to gather youth to participate in the meeting, Commission staff was getting feedback that this meeting was during the first week of school and that the time would be difficult for students to attend because its during school hours. Co-Chair Shaver proposed that the Commission change their typical meeting structure to accommodate getting youth participation and feedback. He stated that they will have a formal vote on the meeting changes later. He also reviewed that all Commissioners should have gotten an email invitation with their working group assignments with a doodle poll to determine when to set up the working group meetings.

Co-Chair Shaver turned in over to Eric Mayo to do the roll call of Commissioners present and that they could see, hear, and consented to doing a voice vote. Commissioners Shaver, Kazmi, Montorio-Archer, Zumdahl, Cates, Crabb, Villa, Thompson, Krauss, and Huelsmann were present. Commissioners Vega and Flores had proxies present. All Commissioners present stated they could see and hear during the meeting and consented to doing a voice vote the rest of the meeting.

1. Approval of the Minutes: Co-Chair Shaver

Co-Chair Shaver asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Commissioner Cates motioned to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded that motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Fiscal Scan Presentation to Youth - Update

Co-Chair Shaver proposed changing the date and time of the next meeting to make it easier for youth to participate. He proposed changing it to Tuesday, September 14th from 4-5pm. He stated that this meeting is very important for the Commission to have youth voice and move forward with meaningful recommendations. Commissioner Cates motioned to change the date/time of the meeting and Commissioner Zumdahl seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Cates asked if she could invite gang-involved youth that her organization works with to the meeting. Co-Chair Shaver stated that he encourages all Commissioners to invite youth that their

organizations serve to the meeting. He asked that Commissioners connect any youth they invite to the meeting with Commission staff so they can ensure they've got all the information to attend.

The Commission voted to change the date and time of the next meeting unanimously. Co-Chair Shaver said that Commission staff will send a calendar invite for the updated date/time and will touch base with any youth who are invited to answer questions and give them background on the fiscal scan.

3. Presentation from Children's Funding Project, Elizabeth Gaines

Co-Chair Shaver stated that he was looking forward to hearing more about what other states and bodies like the Youth Budget Commission have been doing with their budget scans. He stated that the Children's Funding Project has helped many states and localities think through how a funding map can be used to drive policy changes for youth. He introduced Elizabeth Gaines with the Children's Funding Project to give a presentation.

Gaines introduced herself and gave some background on the Children's Funding Project. She stated that she was a part of the original team that had helped build the fiscal scan for the Youth Budget Commission. Gaines reviewed some examples of fiscal maps currently being used across the country. She reviewed several states and a few counties that utilize fiscal maps and/or children's cabinets to drive policy-making decisions for youth and their programs as examples of how fiscal maps can be utilized including Kentucky, Minnesota, Oregon, etc. Gaines continued to provide examples of funding changes for youth programs that have happened in states that were a result of fiscal mapping. She reviewed that understanding our current investments and resources is especially important now because of COVID-19 deficits. Gaines stated that the American Rescue Plan Act funds are a great opportunity to focus on areas that need the most resources when focusing on youth. She also provided some suggestions for how Illinois could use the fiscal scan including; coordinating existing funds through a Youth Cabinet, making the fiscal scan into an interactive dashboard for policymakers and the public to use, and pursuing new, dedicated revenue sources. Gaines recommended that any new push for a progressive income tax in Illinois be tied to specific programs and objectives. She discussed how polling done by Children's Funding Project shows voter support for this tactic as opposed to others. Gaines also recommended that groups such as the Youth Budget Commission articulate a vision for how remaining American Rescue Plan funds will be spent on programs affecting youth.

Gaines then left time for any questions from the Commission or the public in attendance.

Co-Chair Shaver stated that he thinks the Commission has currently been thinking of the fiscal scan as mile markers on the road but we don't know what it is relative too. He stated that they've struggled with how to utilize it in the current landscape and believes that is a gap for the Commission. Gaines agreed that utilizing fiscal maps right now is an art not a science. She stated this is why the Children's Funding Project would like to see some coordination or strategy across the country to make it easier for comparison. She recommended that recommendations should look at opportunities to create new revenue for youth rather than taking from other programs that support them in other ways. This could be utilizing tax opportunities like the fair tax Illinois was trying to pass last year but make the resulting funds designated to needed programs for young children/youth.

Commissioner Villa agreed that fair tax should have been done with a connection to programs for youth but it didn't work out that way. Gaines stated that maybe it could be reevaluated in a few years.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Gaines for the presentation and for the offer to assist in those policy connections.

4. Public Comment

Co-Chair Shaver asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

5. New Business

Co-Chair Shaver reiterated that the next full Commission meeting will be Tuesday, September 14th from 4-5pm. He said that the Commission will focus on the fiscal scan presentation to youth at that meeting but he hopes that Commissioners will have met in their small groups by that time.

Commissioner Krauss lifted up a comment by Commissioner Thompson about paying for youth to participate in the next meeting. Co-Chair Shaver stated that the Commission itself doesn't have a budget for doing that but recognizes that it is an important practice because youth should be paid for their time and expertise. He stated that if organizations the Commissioners are a part of were able to compensate for the youth's time and participation that would be encouraged. Commissioner Krauss asked that the group determine what is a common number for compensation so that different organizations aren't compensating differently for the same type of participation. Co-Chair Shaver stated that Children's Home & Aid has done \$25 in the past for things like this and it seems to be a common number most organizations do. Commissioner Cates offered her organization, Restore Justice, as a resource to others if they are unable to compensate for having youth participate in the meeting. Co-Chair Shaver thanked her and other Commissioners for making sure youth voice is prioritized appropriately.

6. Adjournment

Co-Chair Shaver asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cates motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Villa seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59pm.