



Budgeting for Results Commission

May 20th, 2022

Minutes

Welcome and introductions

Jim Lewis called the meeting to order. Aaron Albrecht called the roll. Commissioners answering the roll as present include Jesse Elam, Jim Lewis, Jose Sanchez (proxy), Kathy Saltmarsh (proxy), Anthony Pascente, Meta Darnell, Pete Duncan, Rep. Will Davis, and Curt Clemons-Mosby. A quorum was established.

Newly appointed BFR Commissioner Pete Duncan introduced himself to the Commission and was welcomed by the other Commissioners.

Review and approval of minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

2022 Public Hearing Topic Discussion

Curt Clemons-Mosby led the Commission in a discussion of the subject matter for this year's public hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for July 20th or July 27th. The public hearing this year, as in previous years, will be held virtually, a practice codified through recent revisions to the Budgeting for Results statute.

In prior years, the Commission has utilized the public hearing to gather expert testimony about substance use disorder, criminal justice, and other topics related to the cost-benefit analysis component of the Commission's program assessments. However, the staff is not currently engaged in program assessment.

Curt presented two potential topics for the public hearing: (1) the implementation of the Equity and Racial Justice Act (ERJA); and (2) transparency and accountability in state government.

Curt added that ERJA is an influential component of the innovative work of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. GOMB is collaborating with the Governor's Office of Equity to modernize and expand data collection efforts to capture information that is more inclusive of the various races, ethnicities, and genders represented in Illinois. Implementation of ERJA includes enhancing IT processes to support the administration of contracts, grants, and forms; staff training; and engaging the community-based provider network to begin collecting additional and expanded categories of data. ERJA will result in substantial statewide data expansion and analysis efforts, which will result in additional funding for data infrastructure and training. This project will span over the course of the next several years.

Regarding the topic of transparency and accountability in state government, Curt elaborated that transparency and accountability in state government is enhanced through Budgeting for Results program assessment reports. SEven prior to the inception of Budgeting for Results in 2011, GOMB has produced reports that have increased government transparency. It may be difficult to coordinate diverse speakers for a panel discussion solely on this topic because there are many facts to public sector [transparency](#) and accountability.

Jennifer elaborated that both topics address diversity, equity, and inclusion with a focus on equitable outreach and access to public funding. Illinois has prioritized transparency and accountability in the use of public funds which runs parallel to the focus of the federal government. This is especially true as it relates to the administration of COVID-related funding.

Representative Davis stressed the importance of goal requirements for state-funded projects regarding the hiring of minority contractors. He recommended dialog to address the shortcomings of state agencies to meet these goals.

Chairman Lewis outlined four potential roles for the panelists in the public hearing: (1) an advocate for the Equity and Racial Justice Act; (2) a beneficiary or “consumer” of ERJA legislation, or someone whom it affects; (3) an expert in the field of equity and racial justice; and (4) an individual who can testify on the issue of state agencies’ minority contracting.

Curt recommended that the Commission solicit a panelist from the Governor’s Office of Equity to discuss the Equity and Racial Justice Act. For the advocate role, a speaker from the legislative Black caucus, which spearheaded the passage of this legislation was suggested. Since GOMB heads the implementation of the Act, and because Curt acts as the project manager, he volunteered to participate as a panelist. Regarding the state agency minority contracting goals, it was suggested that a state agency representative participate on the panel in this capacity and/or a member of the general public with experience obtaining state contracts.

Rep. Davis recommended the Director of the Equity and Inclusion Commission, Kelly Key, as a panelist.

Commissioners were asked to keep the two potential dates for the public hearing, July 20th and July 27th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm, open and available. The present meeting will be the last before the public hearing.

Update on the Equity and Racial Justice Act

Curt gave an update on the implementation of the Racial Justice and Equity Act. The implementation process requires the state to establish more socially inclusive demographic categories to more accurately reflect the citizenry that the state serves. Currently, the demographic categories utilized by the state are based on the narrowly defined US Census categories. In addition to race, the Act expands demographic categories into ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age, and these categories have been further developed by the Governor’s Office of Equity.

The Act also required the state agencies to provide a progress report on the Act’s implementation to the General Assembly on March 31st, 2022. The report details the demographic categories currently collected by state agencies and the progress toward adding the additional categories specified by the statute. Eleven agencies participated in the production of this progress report, and it was delivered to the General Assembly on March 31, 2022. The next reporting requirement will be delivered on July 1, 2022.

State agencies will participate in working groups over the summer to identify the concrete changes required to expand their data collection categories and modernize their processes. These changes are slated to be implemented during Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025.

Program Assessment Status Update

The BFR unit continues to seek out qualified candidates. Few resumes from qualified candidates are coming in, so additional outreach efforts are being pursued, including to promotions to universities like the University of Illinois Chicago. An ideal qualified candidate would have practical economics or data science/ analysis experience. Much of the program assessment work requires interfacing with subject matter experts, agencies, and external stakeholders, which also requires competency in qualitative data collection, interview, and relationship-building capacities as well. Curt requested Commissioners to send out the job posting to their networks and contacts and encourage them to apply at budget.illinois.gov.

The BFR staff plans to complete at least one more program assessment within the substance use disorder domain by the end of calendar year 2022. This will impact our five year rotating schedule, which necessitate a modification.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting.