

## Youth Budget Commission Meeting

07/10/2020

Minutes

**Commissioners in attendance:** Commissioner Cates, Commissioner Flores, Co-Chair Ford, Commissioner Kazmi, Commissioner Lightford, Commissioner Montorio-Archer, Co-Chair Shaver, Commissioner Vega

**Children's Home & Aid staff and others in attendance:** Caitlin Briody, Kiara Jackson, Eric Mayo, Curt Clemons Mosby, Kate Peterson, Ali Schoon, Susan Stanton

### 1. Welcome (Co-Chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver welcomed the Commission and explained that this ad hoc meeting was a result of the Commission's decision during the last meeting to meet more frequently. Similarly, Co-Chair Shaver discussed that the Commission has a desire to match the moment of what is happening in society and that soon there will be a lot of activity from the legislative and policy standpoint and hopes that the additional meetings will lend itself to the Commission to think about the ways in which we can develop a robust policy agenda beyond the fiscal scan.

### 2. Approval of Minutes (Representative Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)

The minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting were provided to the Commissioners for their approval. Hearing no discussion or questions, Commissioner Vega motioned to approve the minutes as written. Co-Chair Ford seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

### 3. Appoint Commissioners for Working Group (Co-Chair Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)

Commissioner Shaver began the conversation with two guiding questions: What policy areas can be additive or helpful, and where are there gaps that we want to raise awareness of.

Co-Chair Shaver reviewed the discussion from the last Commission meeting regarding the Commission's statement of purpose with an equity lens to guide the work of the Commission moving forward. He stated that a working group consisting of no more than 4 or 5 Commissioners would develop a statement of purpose and frame policy priorities. Co-Chair Shaver asked volunteers to participate in the working group and to tell us about their interest of wanting to be a part of the group.

Commissioner Vega asked for clarification of the purpose of the working group. Co-Chair Shaver replied that the last several months have shown the unique needs of the population this commission serves. The statement and policy work are designed to guide the future direction of the Commission's work. Co-Chair Shaver reiterated that the working group may be able to work faster than the larger Commission to craft a statement of purpose that includes diversity and equity that also considers policy issues that are pertinent to the work. The working group could provide the framework for how the Commission's work fits into the broader context. Co-Chair Shaver called on Commissioners to participate in the working group.

Commissioner Cates offered to be on the working group but stated that she would be willing to step back if someone else wanted her spot. Commissioners Vega, Montorio-Archer, and Kazmi also offered to participate in the working group. Co-Chair Shaver appointed Commissioner Cates as the leader of the ad hoc working group. As Co-Chair Shaver called for a motion to vote on the ad hoc working group, Commissioner Lightford asked for clarification about the purpose of the working group. Co-Chair Shaver reviewed the purpose of the working group as previously discussed. Commissioner Lightford stated that she appreciates diversity and inclusion will be a focus of the ad hoc working group. Commissioner Lightford also communicated that she is working on policies this group would

be looking at such as contact tracing and the digital divide and would like to participate in the working group.

Co-Chair Shaver modified his previous motion to create the ad hoc working group to include Commissioner Cates (Co-Chair), Commissioner Vega, Commissioner Montorio-Archer, Commissioner Kazmi, and Commissioner Lightford (Co-Chair). The motion was moved by Commissioner Flores and seconded by Commissioner Montorio-Archer. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Discussion – Potential Policy Topics for the Governor’s Office (Co-Chair Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)**

Co-Chair Shaver stated that the next meeting will include a briefing on policy topics from the Governor’s Office. He suggested that the Commission and the working group discuss what topics are important to consider providing to the Governor’s Office, so they are prepared to brief the Commission on those topics. Co-Chair Shaver mentioned topics such as mental health issues, structural issues/changes, addressing COVID-19 in rural and city communities, and how to connect with youth.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer asked for clarification on how many topics the Commission needed to bring forward for the Governor’s Office. Co-Chair Shaver stated that he believes 3-5 policy topics is the most reasonable to provide a more thoughtful discussion. Commissioner Vega agreed that 3-5 policy topics appears to be the correct number moving forward for the group. Co-Chair Shaver stated he envisions this list as the beginning of a discovery process to identify policy topics the Commission can advocate for that are directly related to youth and the Commission’s work with the fiscal scan. It’s also important that these discussions factor in our equity lens. Before turning it over to the Commission for suggestions, Co-Chair Shaver mentioned juvenile justice and criminal justice work as a launching point.

Commissioner Cates talked about the need to review the justice system and its impact on emerging adults. Specifically, much work needs to be done around tracing the “first points” of contact youth have with the criminal justice system, and how do we prevent youth from ever getting into the system. We not only need to focus on the juvenile side, but on a holistic look at the system, as a whole.

Commissioner Cates continued that it would be helpful within the work done on the fiscal scan for the Commission to look at how to spend money on preventing contact with the justice system rather than spending money after youth are already in the system. Commissioner Cates stated that many policy issues intersect and cannot be looked at individually. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that we need to think about the rewiring of investments, take a moment to look back, look at where we are now, and how to focus the conversation in a matter that moves policy forward. Commissioner Cates provided the example of the debate around police in schools. She stated that the Commission has an opportunity to provide constructive options/solutions instead of choosing a side in the debate—providing alternative and meaningful replacements to cops in schools such as social workers and school counselors.

Commissioner Lightford spoke to the challenges with police in schools and mentioned that another alternative to having police in schools is to provide SRO’s with proper community level training and training on how to respond and approach youth issues. Officers can give students the vibe that they are a “bad person”. More importantly, police officers were not trained to be in a school setting. We need to keep schools safe, but we don’t want schools to feel like prison. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that these alternative options are things the Commission should consider when recommending meaningful changes directly related to the budget.

Co-Chair Ford pointed out that state agencies can provide some of the numbers, and we need to make sure we have access to the people who can provide those numbers. While reiterating that the Commission can use relationships with the Governor's Office or legislators to move policy ideas as related to the budget because budgeting drive policy after all.

Commissioner Vega noted that we need to find a way to bring a racial equity lens to the distribution of state funds and wondered how we might accomplish that, so the Commission can use the data to make budget recommendations more equitably. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that this seems like a policy topic—how are investments and budgeting impacting communities of color and noted that there's some inherent clunkiness in getting racial based distribution data, but we may be able to find a stand in that approximates that data (such as community area or zip code). Co-Chair Ford agreed that looking at the Census should inform us of how funds are being spent in communities. Commissioner Montorio-Archer stated that we can use the data to back up the Commission's policy recommendations.

## **5. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Shaver invited public comment. There were no public comments.

## **6. New Business**

Co-Chair Shaver reviewed the themes of this meeting and stated that the Commission will initiate another meeting prior to the currently scheduled August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at 1:30-3:30pm and will get an agenda out as we get closer. He stated that the Governor's Office will be present to discuss policy topics with the Commission at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Co-Chair Shaver suggested that the ad hoc working group meet prior to their next meeting to have a preliminary conversation on the statement of purpose around equity and a list of policy topics to discuss with the Governor's Office. He also stated that the Commission will receive an update on youth success measures.

## **7. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Shaver asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flores motioned to adjourn, Co-Chair Ford seconded the motion, and the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.