

Youth Budget Commission Meeting

08/14/2020

Minutes

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

Children's Home & Aid staff and others in attendance: Audriana Aranda, Deputy Governor Sol Flores, Shontay Ford, Remy Haire, Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Kiara Jackson, Mitch Lifson, Adrean Marshall, Eric Mayo, Curt Clemons Mosby, Carrie Patch, Quinn Rallins, Ali Schoon, LaVerne Smith, Susan Stanton

1. Introduction (Co-Chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver welcomed the Commission and provided a brief introduction to the three new Commissioners that have joined. Co-Chair Shaver referenced the detailed agenda and congratulated the Commission on the work that has been done since the previous meeting. Curt Clemons-Mosby did a roll call recognizing the following Commissioners as present: Sherrie Crabb, Melissa Flores, Gary Huelsmann, Reyahd Kazmi, Evan Krauss, Charles Montorio-Archer, Michael Shaver, Lisa Thompson, Alicia Vega, Karina Villa, and Laura Zumdahl. A quorum was present.

Co-Chair Shaver introduced Deputy Governor Sol Flores and asked her to speak on where Illinois stands in its budget and how the state will be impacted if there is no assistance from the federal government moving forward.

2. Briefing from the Deputy Governor (Deputy Governor Sol Flores)

The Deputy Governor welcomed everyone in the meeting and acknowledged some of the Commissioners who she has been working closely with. She discussed how important it is to ensure youth and young adults survive and thrive even in a COVID-centric world. She reviewed some of the programs that the Governor has launched and/or provided additional funding for the program expansion for Teen REACH and the COVID-19 Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Deputy Governor also told the Commission to look out for future press releases about more grant opportunities for community programs including HEAL Illinois—grants for increasing conversations about anti-racism and racial justice in communities. She also mentioned the work being done by DCFS and community partners for Illinois' Family First plan. The Deputy Governor reviewed that Illinois will need assistance from the federal government to handle the budget crisis. Furthermore, she mentioned that the Census has been shortened by a month and it is important for local and state entities to work to encourage participation in the census for an appropriate count. She offered time for questions or comments.

Some of the DCFS Budget highlights are as follows:

- \$44M to handle additional caseload
- \$20M for increase rates for private agency partners (COLA)
- \$8M daycare and residential transition
- \$3M for residential treatment grants

Co-Chair Shaver offered his thanks for her time and work. Commissioner Villa asked about one of the counties in her district that got the same amount of money for contact tracing as another county with less populous. The Deputy Governor offered to get together offline to further discuss how money was

allocated to counties for contact tracing. Susan Stanton had a question in the chat function regarding Teen REACH funding and the Deputy Governor stated she would send more information along to Clemons-Mosby before leaving the meeting.

3. Welcome to Our New Members (Co-Chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver made time to formally introduce the three new Commissioners to the Commission. Commissioners Lisa Thompson of Project Oz, Gary Huelsmann of Caritas Family Services, and Evan Krauss of East Side Aligned all provided reviews of their work and its alignment with the Commission's work.

4. Approval of the Minutes (Co-Chair Shaver)

Commissioner Kazmi moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Montorio-Archer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Presentation on Illinois Juvenile Justice System Transformation (Quinn Rallins, Director of Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Commission, Lt. Gov's Office)

Co-Chair Shaver introduced the Governor's recent plan to transform the juvenile justice system in Illinois over the next four years. He introduced Quinn Rallins, Director of the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative through the Lieutenant Governor's Office. Rallins reviewed that the conversations about transforming the juvenile justice system in Illinois have been occurring for many years and that discussions have been conducted with youth and communities to develop a thoughtful and thorough policy agenda. Rallins stated that they have begun to shift how to think about prevention, economic development, reentry funding, youth development, etc. in terms of policy. The shifting of investments starts with the R3 (Restore, Renew, and Reinvestment) program, which takes 25% of cannabis revenue to be invested in communities that have been harmed by excessive incarceration, violence, and economic disinvestment. He discussed his team's intentionality when bringing youth involved in the juvenile justice system to the table through spots on the board and ensuring agency directors are working together for equity in the system.

Rallins reviewed some of the issues that they will be looking at changing in the system such as retail theft laws and drug possession laws. When Rallins and team travelled throughout the state to talk with communities and they heard 3 things—moving youth to community-based centers so that they are closer to their families and communities of origin, removal of large detention centers not suitable for youth and the addition of residential-style facilities, and an emphasize on ensuring mental health within the juvenile justice system. Rallins mentioned that the JEO Commission is looking for 2 youth ages 17-24, who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, to sit on the Commission and is looking to the YBC to recommend some youth for the JEO Commission.

Co-Chair Shaver offered time for questions. Co-Chair Shaver asked if Rallins was aware of an analysis on how much funding has been spent on incarceration compared to how much could be spent on successful prevention strategies. Rallins stated that has been a discussion and that more could be done to communicate how and where money should be spent for this population.

Commissioner Krauss thanked Rallins for what his team has been doing to lead the work. He asked if Rallins could share more on how youth impacted by the juvenile justice system could participate.

Rallins reiterated that if youth are interested in participating in the board they should contact ariana.correa@illinois.gov for instructions on how to apply. He informed Commissioner Krauss that youth must have direct involvement in the juvenile justice system to be considered. Commissioner Huelsmann asked how they intend to help community-based facilities build capacity and resources for youth in the system. Rallins stated that this will take time to enact and that they have an advisory group of stakeholders assisting along the way in addition to connections with other states who have already shifted to this model. Co-Chair Shaver thanked Rallins for his time and work.

6. Presentation from Youth Across Illinois (Adrean Marshall and Audriana Aranda)

Co-Chair Shaver spoke about the importance of having youth participate in the Commission and thanked the presenters from East Side Aligned and Be Strong Families. He introduced Adrean Marshall first for her presentation. Marshall presented on youth issues that she has experienced or seen such as stereotyping/discrimination based on race, a lack of life skill classes in school, and issues with large classrooms. She also spoke about the lack of information on homeless shelters and resources for homeless youth in addition to ideas on how to transform abandoned buildings into community centers. Marshall spoke about mental health being a big issue for youth. She stated that youth are often not taken seriously in their communities and they can't get access to mental health services. Marshall stated that more counselors should be available to students in schools.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Marshall for her presentation and opened the floor for questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Vega asked where Marshall gathered some of this information from. Marshall stated that some of the information came from her own personal experience in addition to a Representative's Office and the Jordan Center. Co-Chair Shaver asked if Marshall had experience with reframing the narrative about mental health to be acceptable to talk about. Marshall stated that through her time with LOVE (Leaving Our Voices Everywhere), a subgroup of East Side Aligned which focuses on youth voice and youth empowerment, she has been trained on how to regularly talk about mental health.

Co-Chair Shaver introduced Audriana Aranda for her presentation. Audriana reviewed her history in care and how she became involved with the Youth Advisory Board. She reviewed the many accomplishments of the Youth Advisory Board such as sending a COVID-19 position paper to the Director of DCFS, a Day-Day Tool, and their work in reducing the use of restraints on youth in care.

Co-Chair Shaver asked Aranda if thought the department was moving in the right direction in terms of restraints. Aranda stated she believed that attention is on this issue especially with a working group specifically to look at restraint use so she thought it was moving in the right direction. Commissioner Crabb thanked Aranda for her participation on the Youth Advisory Board and for her presentation to the Commission. Co-Chair Shaver thanked Aranda.

7. Working Group Presentation on Statement of Purpose and Discussion (Commissioner Montorio-Archer and Eric Mayo)

Co-Chair Shaver stated that this agenda item would be tabled until the next meeting since Commissioner Montorio-Archer had to leave for another meeting. He tasked the Commission with reviewing the draft language that the working group wrote and provide comments to Eric Mayo or Kiara Jackson in the coming days.

8. Measuring Youth Success in Illinois (Eric Mayo)

Co-Chair Shaver introduced the presentation about measuring youth success in Illinois and tasked the Commission to think through how these metrics may be spread to the wider public and in what form.

Mayo presented various metrics aligned with each developmental goal and reviewed how some may be harder to measure or more accurate than others. After the presentation, Mayo offered options on how to present these metrics to the general public either through a data dashboard or a report like the Fiscal Scan that the Commission already does. Mayo clarified for Co-Chair Shaver that a data dashboard could be embedded into their website. Paula Corrigan-Halpern mentioned that these metrics could also be used to track equity in Illinois and give weight to the recommendations of the Commission.

Co-Chair Shaver asked if any Commissioners saw any metrics that may be difficult to do but that they were interested in and that the Commission should prioritize. Mayo pointed out that the Commission could prioritize certain metrics where Illinois is below average in rather than metrics where Illinois is above average. Commissioner Thompson mentioned that the Illinois Youth Survey may be helpful as a source of data for mental health metrics. Commissioner Krauss thanked Mayo for recognizing some of the issues with data and stated that it may be difficult to narrow down focus without having time to review the metrics. Mayo agreed that the Commission should be given time to review the information and metrics.

Mitch Lifson with Voices for Illinois Children offered to help go through the data sets to ensure that we are highlighting the different experiences of youth geographically and leading with race equity, further stating that to measure progress and need it is important to whenever possible to look at data by race and ethnicity. Commissioner Huelsmann mentioned that it is important to understand the geographical aspect of data points because the Commission needs to ensure that funding for youth is going to the areas that need it most.

9. Public Comment (Co-Chair Representative Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver took time for public comment during the meeting. There was no public comment.

10. New Business (Co-Chair Representative Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver announced that the next meeting would be Friday, October 9th at 1:30-3:30pm and that it would most likely be done virtually as previous meetings during the pandemic. He reiterated that the Commissioners should review the statement of purpose from the working group and provide comments to Mayo or Jackson so they could start with that agenda item at the next meeting.

11. Adjournment (Co-Chair Representative Ford and Co-Chair Shaver)

Commissioner Huelsmann motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Crabb seconded the motion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:51pm.