

## Youth Budget Commission Meeting

Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 1:30 – 2:30pm Minutes

### 1. Welcome, Co-Chair Shaver

Co-Chair Shaver welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting. Co-Chair Shaver waited a few minutes for Commissioners to join the meeting, so a quorum was present. Co-Chair Shaver stated he was looking forward to hearing from DHS regarding violence prevention. He stated that this discussion will directly link with a few of the draft recommendations from the Commission. Co-Chair Shaver reminded Commissioners that the final designed Fiscal Scan is available. Eric Mayo shared that they would send out the link to the fiscal scan in addition to sending out physical reports to addresses that Commissioners prefer.

Co-Chair Shaver asked Mayo to do the roll call and to ask that each Commissioner state they are present, can see and hear, and approve the use of a voice vote for the remainder of the meeting. Mayo started the roll call and gained consent to a voice vote. Commissioners Shaver, Kazmi, Montorio-Archer, Crabb, Villa, Krauss, Huelsmann, and Thompson were present. All Commissioners stated they could see, hear, and consented to doing a voice vote for the remainder of the meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes, Co-Chair Shaver

Co-Chair Shaver asked the Commission to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Commissioner Villa motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Montorio-Archer seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Co-Chair Shaver discussed the agenda for the meeting. He stated the Commission is looking forward to learning more about the newly created youth violence prevention unit through DHS. Co-Chair Shaver stated he is especially interested in how youth are connected to resources and services. He stated it has been great to hear from the new Assistant Secretary for Violence Prevention because Patterson acknowledges there aren't enough mental health resources for our young people. Co-Chair Shaver turned it over to Mayo to review the draft recommendations.

Mayo stated staff has been focused on the external factors that have popped up throughout the Commissions' conversations. He reviewed the draft recommendations and highlighted that youth unemployment and youth connectivity have been brought up a lot. Mayo stated that when Commissioners looked at the fiscal scan, it was clear that spending is low in the area of youth connectivity and he said it would be great to hear from Patterson how his team is thinking about connecting youth.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Mayo and stated that the theme to the draft recommendations is moving funding towards prevention. He stated since Patterson isn't in the meeting yet that the Commission will come back to this agenda item once he joins.

### 3. Year in Review, Eric Mayo & John Gordon

Co-Chair Shaver stated that the Commission did a lot this year and it is helpful to review and evaluate their work to determine what more the Commission can do in the next year to further their charge. He

stated that he would ask the Commissioners to think on how to intentionally get youth voice involved in the Commission.

Commissioner Krauss asked if the recommendations they've discussed so far are final. Co-Chair Shaver responded that these recommendations are a draft and haven't been finalized. He stated the Commissioners should listen to the subject matter experts that have been present over the last two meetings to help inform any changes to the drafted recommendations. Commissioner Krauss asked if there was opportunity for small group Commissioners to look at the recommendations again and synthesize it into final recommendations. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that would be a great opportunity to ensure the recommendations hit home. He also stated that he would like the Commission to continue to engage agencies in this work in addition to the Governor's office. Commissioner Krauss agreed and said he knows these recommendations are a mammoth task for staff to undertake. He stated that Commissioners should have a good understanding of the recommendations so they can be engaging in advocacy outside of the Commission as well. Commissioner Krauss stated that aligning the recommendations with the Governor's office and legislators is crucial and he reiterated that the connections with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus were invaluable. Co-Chair Shaver agreed and asked if other Commissioners had questions. There were no further questions.

#### **4. Presentation & Discussion from DHS, Christopher Patterson Assistant Secretary for Violence Prevention**

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Christopher Patterson, Assistant Secretary for Violence Prevention, for joining the call and for his time. He asked Patterson to introduce himself and tell the Commission a little about his newly created department. Patterson talked about his extensive background in violence prevention and some of his personal experiences in the Chicago area. community organizing dealing with violence prevention. He reviewed how his team is seizing opportunities to address the root causes of violence and how trauma contributes to violence. Patterson discussed the importance of allowing youth to redefine how they see themselves and provide opportunities for people with lived experience to shape the work in the ways it needs to be done. Patterson reviewed some of the new projects that his team is working on with new funding.

Co-Chair Shaver asked the Commission if there were any questions. Commissioner Huelsmann asked what types of organizations Patterson's team would like to engage in youth violence prevention. Patterson responded saying that they would love to have large established organizations and community-based organizations, even new ones. He discussed some of the technical assistance opportunities being offered to newer organizations that are getting into this work. Patterson stated that they want to make this process as equitable as possible to ensure funds are going where they are most needed and most effective.

Co-Chair Shaver overviewed some of the recommendations for Patterson. Patterson stated that they were a solid list of potential recommendations especially when it comes to moving upstream. He stated that his office is doing an internal audit of sorts of their funding for youth violence prevention services. Patterson stated that his team is trying to figure out where existing programs in DHS can be built up and funded more. He discussed a few programs that combine mental health treatment with employment opportunities for young people in addition to needing programs that better engage youth who are girls/young women.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Patterson for his insight and reiterated how important it is for interventions to understand how trauma impacts the brain and treat appropriately. Commissioner Kazmi thanked Patterson for being in the meeting today. He stated that a lot of this work is being funded in silos and agencies aren't connecting or building on each other's work. Commissioner Kazmi reminded Patterson and the Commission about contracts and being sure that the agencies are reviewing contracts to be sure they are breaking down those silos. Commissioner Krauss thanked Patterson for his office's work in this arena. He stated that it's clear that one of the challenges is how and when funding is accessible and for whom it is available. Commissioner Krauss stated it is important for programs to be given time when applying for funds to think through how to make their program better in ways that don't further burden them. Commissioner Crabb stated that there are serious workforce issues preventing organizations from carrying out this work. She stated that agencies need to consider investments in the workforce to be able to achieve any sort of positive outcomes. Commissioner Crabb reiterated how hard it is to do this work and recruit/retain qualified staff. Commissioner Huelsmann agreed that the workforce needs to be better supported. Patterson thanked them for their input and provided his contact information to the Commissioners.

Patterson reviewed some new ideas his office is working on that can help support the work that local entities are doing in youth violence prevention and connecting them with state support.

Commissioner Villa stated that in her district mental health experts have been seeing an increase in suicidal ideations and homicidal ideations. She stated that this is very concerning and that there needs to be tiered support for youth and each tier needs to be working effectively. Co-Chair Shaver stated that it's important for the Commission to understand what youth are struggling with right now and thanked Commissioner Villa.

Patterson stated that organizations in this work are taking on the monumental task of saving lives. And to do that, each level of coordination across the state needs to be funded and effective.

Co-Chair Shaver thanked Patterson for joining the Commission meeting today.

Mayo reviewed what the steps are for next year. He discussed the need to move meeting times in order to get more youth to attend the meetings and provide their input. He also stated that Commission staff is thinking of ways to formalize youth participation through a youth advisory committee or something similar. Mayo asked Commissioners to send feedback to staff on what they would like the Commission to start doing, stop doing, and continue doing for the next year.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer stated he doesn't think there is anything the Commission should stop doing and agreed that the Commission should be doing everything possible to ensure youth voice is involved in the work. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that they need to build an avenue for youth to be able to meaningfully participate. He stated that Commission staff has asked for some time to do all of this so the Commission will not meet in January but will come back in February to set out proposed changes to tackle over the next year. Mayo stated that staff will probably reach out individually to Commissioners to discuss some proposed changes ahead of the meeting in February.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer suggested that Commissioners should think about who else from agencies they would like to hear from next year because he has found these presentations to be helpful. Commissioner Krauss stated that he benefits from these presentations and he enjoys them but

sometimes the presentations take away from discussions on the fiscal scan and what is happening currently. He suggested that meetings be diverse in presentations from agencies and focused discussion on recommendations and the fiscal scan. He also reiterated that it would be helpful if the fiscal scan had some geographically laid out components to the funding. Mayo agreed that Commission staff could lay out meetings to be more mixed in the type of discussions.

Co-Chair Shaver stated that they try their best to set people up to discuss what the Commission needs but sometimes that doesn't happen because there's so much to cover. He stated that Commission staff will continue to work through these challenges to be sure Commission meetings are what they need to dig deeper. Commissioner Krauss recognized the effort and work staff has put forth in this and thanked them.

#### **5. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Shaver opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

#### **6. New Business**

Co-Chair Shaver stated the next Commission meeting will be in February. And thanked everyone for their work on the Commission over the last year.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Commissioner Thompson moved to adjourn and Commissioners Huelsmann seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49pm.