

Illinois Youth Budget Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 2024: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm CT

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Paula Corrigan-Halpern called the meeting to order at 2:17 pm

Attendees gathered at the following:

- Room 500-1/2, Stratton Building, 401 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706
- Room 555, 555 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661

Roll Call and Review of Meeting Minutes

Mollie Foust called the roll, and a quorum was not established. Attendees included:

- Commissioners Present (in-person):
 - Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Gary Huelsmann, Alicia Vega, Sen. Karina Villa, Reyahd Kazmi, Latonya Maley, Damon Cates
- Commissioners Present (virtual, not included in quorum):
 - Evan Krauss, Sherrie Crabb
- Commissioners Absent: Rep. LaShawn Ford, Jobi Cates, Laura Zumdhal, Lisa Thompson, Sen. Kimberly Lightford

Housekeeping

Paula Corrigan-Halpern introduced herself as the new Chair of the Commission, discussed her background, and introduced new Commissioner Damon Cates, who shared his background as CEO of One Hope United.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Approval of previous meeting minutes was delayed to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

Review of Project Timeline

Chair Corrigan-Halpern discussed the agenda and objectives for the meeting, including understanding key takeaways from the engagement process, aligning on methodology and approach for the FY23 scan, learning about youth-specific priorities emerging from the FY25 budget process, and setting priorities for future meeting topics.

Commissioners reviewed the FY23 scan timeline. Work on the scan is currently on track with the proposed timeline.

Commissioner Interview Takeaways and Discussion

Mollie Foust from Afton Partners reviewed the interview process and shared that ten of thirteen active Commissioners participated in the process. Major themes included a desire for clarity on role and expectations on the YBC, more strategic meeting agendas with clear alignment in goals, feelings that the fiscal scan was a compliance exercise that limited opportunities to expand, and recommendations for the scan to be more strategic and forward-thinking. Afton Partners took these takeaways and crafted five Guiding Principles for the Commission and fiscal scan.

The group used an interactive Mentimeter to gather reactions to the interview takeaways anonymously. Commissioners agreed that there is more alignment and shared sentiment than they expected, and consensus around the shared desire to move towards the guiding principles. Commissioners also discussed adding equity as an additional guiding principle and Afton noted a follow-up to send a new draft including equity. There was additional discussion about engagement of youth directly.

FY23 Fiscal Scan Approach and Discussion

Mollie Foust explained Afton Partners' process for the upcoming FY23 fiscal scan.

Commissioners proposed to focus FY23 on advancing the transparency principle for the current fiscal scan was put forward, including a series of options for improving transparency in the FY23 scan.

Commissioners then read and provided comments on the existing diversity statement. Commissioner Villa shared that it feels deficit-based, and that she would like to see more focus on assets of community. Curt Clemons-Mosby shared that statutory wording will be utilized to describe the advocacy function of the YBC board members. Commissioners Kazmi and Maley suggested the Commission should reword the diversity statement to make it more representative of people of color and their communities.

Mollie suggested an updated version be put into the post-meeting survey for additional feedback, and Commissioners agreed.

Commissioners then reviewed the proposed tactical and policy principles, three-pronged approach, and decision trees that were to guide the FY23 fiscal scan decisions. Mollie explained that Afton Partners attempted to be consistent with the documented approach from previous scans and aligned with the interview recommendations. Commissioners provided additional feedback, and Mollie confirmed that detailed feedback would be available to Commissioners through the post-meeting survey.

Legislative Roundup: FY25 Budget Address and Priorities

Commissioner Villa shared a detailed overview of her perspective on youth-specific priorities for FY25. She noted major investments in education and human services. Some of the specific bills that were mentioned for Commissioners to follow included SB3329, SB3530, SB3626, SB1444 and SB3329 (both child tax credit bills), SB3560, SB3764, SB2984, SB2532, and SB2531.

What's Next

Chair Corrigan-Halpern reminded the Commissioners about mandatory Ethics Training and Open Meetings Act (OMA) training. Commissioners should have received an email specifying which courses they are required to complete. Commissioners are to follow up with Curt Clemons-Mosby with questions.

Public Comment

The Commission provided an opportunity for comment from members of the public. There was no public comment.

New Business

Chair Corrigan-Halpern asked if anyone had new business to raise. There was no new business noted.

Adjournment

Chair Corrigan-Halpern ended the meeting at 4:00 PM with no opposition from the Commissioners present.