

Youth Budget Commission Meeting

12/11/2020

Minutes

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

Children's Home & Aid staff and others in attendance: Eric Mayo, Ali Schoon, Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Tasha Green Cruzat, Claire Jones-Anderson, Adriean Marshall, Carly Ogletree, Emily Harwell, Hailey, Kelly Sparks, Tony Raden, Precious, Remy Haire, Issa Me, Representative Barbara Hernandez, Mitch Lifson

1. Approval of the Minutes (Co-chair Shaver)

Co-Chair Shaver opened the meeting by discussing the importance of the work the Commission does and how the Fiscal Scan can inform work moving forward. Curt Clemons-Mosby reviewed some open meeting rules and began the roll call individually of each Commissioner to confirm attendance. He asked each Commissioner to state that they could see and hear the content of the meeting.

Co-Chair Shaver asked for any questions or changes to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Zumdahl moved and Commissioner Montorio-Archer seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There was a motion by Commissioner Huelsmann to do voice votes rather than a roll call vote. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Zumdahl. The motion to conduct voice votes was approved unanimously and votes will be done via voice vote for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Statement of Purpose (Commissioner Shaver and Commissioner Cates)

Co-Chair Shaver reviewed how the Commission wanted to bring a lens of equity to the work and provide guidance on future work. Co-Chair Shaver asked Commissioner Cates to review the statement of purpose that the working group wrote and how they finalized the statement. Commissioner Cates and fellow Commissioners read through the following statement of purpose:

The Youth Budget Commission (YBC) recognizes that injustices, institutionalized racism, and their contributing conditions, have significantly harmed and disproportionately impacted communities of color. The YBC unequivocally denounces systemic racism, racial injustice, and racist policies and practices that continue to denigrate disinvested communities of color and commits to ending these unjust practices. The YBC will advocate for funding, policies, and practices to ensure that every child experiences access to opportunities, particularly children whose race, gender, color, gender identity/expression, religion, national origin, citizenship status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background might limit them. We challenge the system to move towards budgets that ensure racial equity, safety, equality, justice and stability for all Illinois youth.

Commissioner Cates stated that there is an error in the first sentence; “the” should be changed to “that”. Kiara Jackson also stated that the latest agreed upon version from the working group should reflect that the last sentence should say “Illinois youth” instead of “children”. Co-Chair Ford recommended adding that the Commission encourage other entities to consider how they spend their budget when it comes to youth and young people. He stated that this would include local governments as well. Co-Chair Shaver agreed that would be a good addition to the statement to include “all forms of government in the State of Illinois” rather than just the “system”.

Commissioner Cates suggested that the Commission accept the statement as is and they can discuss what else needs to be added in future meetings. Co-Chair Shaver asked if the working group wanted to include anything else about their process in developing the purpose statement. No one voiced any additions.

Commissioner Cates moved to approve the statement of purpose, Commissioner Crabb seconded the motion. The statement of purpose was approved unanimously. Co-Chair Shaver thanked the working group for spending time on this important statement.

3. Recap of the Year (Commissioner Shaver, Eric Mayo, and Kiara Jackson)

Co-Chair Shaver stated that this year has been a developmental year for the Youth Budget Commission and reviewed their work over the past year. The Commission had their first meeting in December 2019 with only 11 commissioners and they have now built to the full complement of 15 Commissioners and have met 7 times. Co-Chair Shaver reviewed the charge of the commission and asked Commissioners to think about the lessons learned over the last year and how we can use that information going forward.

Eric Mayo began the recap of the year presentation for the Commission. Mayo reviewed some of the themes of discussions this year including the following:

- How do we measure successful youth outcomes;
- What are young people telling us, what policy areas should we focus our attention on;
- How should the commission best fill its role as advisors to policymakers;
- And how do we increase the power of the Fiscal Scan as an analytical tool.

Kiara Jackson reviewed what they anticipate 2021 to include for the Commission. She went through some improvements that will be made to the Fiscal Scan moving forward including secondary coding, tertiary coding, and reviewing service model coding for accuracy. Many of these changes would be done in congruence with Clemons-Mosby and his Budgeting For Results (BFR) team. Jackson stated that allowing for secondary and tertiary coding would allow for the Fiscal Scan to have nuance and will lead to a more effective tool moving forward. She also discussed how service model coding for accuracy can allow programs to change their service model purpose to make the Fiscal Scan more accurate during program changes. Jackson reviewed Fiscal Scan 2021's timeline with an anticipated report release in June of 2021.

Jackson discussed the meetings Commission staff have conducted throughout 2020 with five agencies. These meetings were done to reintroduce the Fiscal Scan to state agencies and discuss program coding. Jackson reiterated that it is important that agency partners understand the scan and how their data is used to produce the scan to ensure its effectiveness. Commissioners joined those meetings to engage with the Fiscal Scan and to listen to feedback on how to make the scan a more effective tool. Jackson reviewed some of the agency feedback from these meetings.

- Agencies are interested in understanding the methodology we use;
- Most agencies will keep their programs in the current developmental goal;
- Agencies are on board with secondary coding;
- Some agencies will review and make possible changes to their programs under the service models;
- We need to do these meetings with more regularity (every year or every other year);
- There will need to be follow up meetings to go into further detail on primary/secondary coding.

Co-Chair Shaver asked if during these meetings Commission staff got the feeling that secondary coding could be done regularly and consistently or is that a heavy lift to provide that guidance? Jackson stated that it will require some work to ensure secondary coding is being done but that all the agencies seemed to be invested in how their coding is used to ensure an accurate Fiscal Scan. Mayo added that most of the coding done for

the Fiscal Scan will be done after the busiest time of year for budget staff in the hopes that it will be easier for them to do.

Commissioner Montorio-Archer asked with these changes in mind, if the Commission will be able to see the difference in funding. Kelly Sparks, data consultant, answered that this additional coding will allow for a deeper analysis into what percentages of each program are being used for multiple goals. Co-Chair Shaver stated that this is an important takeaway because in earlier conversations from the Commission, they had talked about needing more information on the detail of how each program was spending on certain developmental goals.

Co-Chair Shaver asked Commission staff if the intentional meetings with state agencies helped provide ideas in how to make this successful. Mayo responded saying that these meetings will make it easier for them to buy into the importance of their coding. Mayo stated that staff will have to do additional meetings with direct budget staff in the next year to continue this work. Jackson stated that these meetings will occur in early 2021 ahead of any coding changes.

Clemons-Mosby stated that the most effective use of the Commission's time is to build up secondary coding and to frame the guidance while budget staff are busy with legislative asks so that when March arrives, the Commission staff is ready to support them with technical needs. Co-Chair Shaver stated that he appreciates how much time is spent on the budget and Clemons-Mosby's feedback on how to be successful with these changes moving forward.

Co-Chair Shaver reviewed some questions for the Commission to consider during discussion. He stated that something he has found to be important in the work moving forward is including youth. He asked how the Commission can indicate youth feedback in congruence with the data and how to include that in any policy recommendations.

Commissioner Krauss thanked Co-Chair Shaver for that suggestion and thanked the youth who have provided input and continue to be involved in meetings. He suggested also looking at how to provide youth access to policy makers through recommendations from the Fiscal Scan. Commissioner Krauss stated that examining the Fiscal Scan is a lot of work and the Commission needs to think about how to move from the Fiscal Scan to making meaningful recommendations. Commissioner Zumdahl agreed and said that in the next year the Commission should look at how to grow in informing policy changes.

Co-Chair Shaver stated that the Commission has heard a broad range of policy ideas from the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus as Commissioner Lightford walked through them is as close to connecting the dots with policy as they have gotten. He stated that it is difficult for the entire Commission to meet in long quarterly meetings to take on the magnitude of the Fiscal Scan. Co-Chair Shaver suggested splitting the meetings up into smaller pieces. Commissioner Huelsmann agreed that bite-sized meetings would be beneficial. Commissioners Cates and Villa also agreed that the smaller groups could be good. Jackson and Mayo agreed that breaking into smaller working groups based on expertise could be helpful and that they will help in whatever way the Commission sees fit from a staffing perspective.

Co-Chair Shaver stated that Commission staff could spend time with Sparks to decide how best to split up into working groups and come back to the Commission with ideas. He stated that they tentatively have a meeting schedule in January. Mayo confirmed that they would like to meet in January and don't have a full schedule made for 2021 yet because they are waiting on the legislative calendar. Co-Chair Shaver asked Commission staff if they have what they need to potentially move Commissioners into working groups for next year. Mayo stated that they do and can look at designing working groups based on their expertise or maybe by agencies. He stated staff could send out a proposal in advance of the next meeting for the Commission to discuss.

Paula Corrigan-Halpern suggested that Commission staff organize the working groups around developmental goals and that it is important to think about the interplay between the smaller groups with the entire Commission. Commissioner Crabb wanted to clarify how to ensure these smaller groups don't violate the open meetings act. Clemons-Mosby responded that as long as they are referred to as "working groups" and the number of Commissioners participating are less than a quorum of the full Commission.

Sparks mentions that she can help feed the conversations on working groups from a data standpoint based on developmental goals. She stated that she does worry if working groups are split by agency because the Commission might lose collaboration. Commissioner Huelsmann agrees that focusing on the developmental outcomes as a part of the working groups. Co-Chair Shaver asked the Commission if they had any concerns with tasking staff to bring a proposal forward on working groups based on developmental goals. No concerns were made. He asked for any further questions related to the Fiscal Scan. Commissioner Krauss stated that he feels a responsibility to relay information about the Fiscal Scan and any recommendations to his community. He mentioned that he thinks the Commission could do more work on getting the Fiscal Scan out, so more people are aware of it. He stated that he recognized all the work done by Commission staff to connect and build relationships with state agencies.

Corrigan-Halpern agreed that there are ideas they have talked about for the Fiscal Scan like a subject matter hearing or presentations with other policy makers. Emily Harwell from the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative with the Office of Illinois Lt. Governor stated that the Fiscal Scan coincides with initiatives from the Lt. Governor's office and how the state could be spending its resources. She would like to arrange meetings with Commission staff to review the Fiscal Scan. Corrigan-Halpern stated that they would arrange a presentation offline and that she appreciated Quinn Rallins' presentation in a previous Commission meeting.

Mayo stated that Commission staff is always happy to help present the Fiscal Scan to others and that they have content done that can be tweaked depending on who the presentation is for. Co-Chair Shaver commented that the Commission had plans to travel to present to different entities and with COVID-19 some of that changed. He mentioned that it would be important for the Commission to consider how they can bring this information back to their constituencies as Commissioner Krauss said. Commissioner Krauss also said that he hopes to do a presentation for his area in January to review the scan and possible action. In addition, he stated that it is helpful for the Commission to look at how they maximize the work based on the legislative timeline and work effectively around it to fit the Commission's necessary timeline.

Co-Chair Shaver asked the Commission if they would like to meet in shorter, more frequent meetings even with the working groups. Commissioners Cates, Montorio-Archer, Zumdahl, Huelsmann, Thompson, and Kazmi all voiced their agreements to hosting shorter more regular meetings. Co-Chair Shaver mentioned that these meetings would be no longer than an hour and that they should be on a consistent day/time so that staff can save time on coordinating schedules.

4. Public Comment

Co-Chair Shaver took time for public comment during the meeting. No public comment was made.

5. New Business

Mayo stated that they are proposing a meeting on January 22nd from 11am to noon. He stated that moving forward staff will continue to be mindful of the calendar for members who are legislators. The goal is to have a schedule for the entire next year at the next meeting. Commissioner Crabb stated that she has a board meeting during that time regularly so that time wouldn't work for her. Mayo stated that they will look at 1:30pm for a meeting time and will send along an invite.

Co-Chair Shaver mentioned an Annie E. Casey Foundation webinar series with youth led conversations across the nation on policy that will be occurring the following week. He mentioned that Commission staff will send out an invite if anyone is interested in attending. Co-Chair Shaver thanked everyone for participating

and for all the work the Commission has done in the past year. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and wishes for a bright and healthy new year.

6. Adjournment

Co-Chair Shaver asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Montorio-Archer moved, Commissioner Zumdahl seconded. The meeting was adjourned.