

Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty
Full Commission Meeting
June 12, 2017 Meeting
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

The City View Banquet & Meeting Center
(45 East University Ave., Champaign, IL)

Minutes

1) Welcome & Introductions – 3:40 – 3:45

- Attendees:
 - Janice Glenn- Illinois Dept. of Human Rights & Commission co-chair
 - Amy Rynell for Evelyn Diaz (Commission co-chair) – Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
 - Katharine Gricevich – Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - Jim Hires – Eastern Illinois Food Bank
 - Andy Kulczycki – Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
 - Wendy Pollack – Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty
 - April Janney for Maria Whelan – Illinois Action for Children
 - Samantha Tuttle - Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
 - Katie Buitrago - Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
 - Natalie Kase - Office of the Governor – Illinois
 - Kimberly Drew – Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

2) Review and Approve Minutes from Last Full Commission Meeting – 3:45 – 3:50

- Call for a list of attendees from last meeting
- Approval of minutes from last meeting postponed until next full commission meeting
- Addition of item to the agenda: update about commissioners added to Other Business

3) Legislative Session Update & Review of Legislative Watch List – 3:50 – 4:10

- Budget Crisis
 - # of lawsuits from social service providers have been filed; the existing consent decrees are what is covering certain providers/services currently
 - No FY17 budget for human service providers, which means no one's being paid for FY17 and there is no plan for FY18 budget.
 - Approximately \$14B in back bills as of right now, which has the possibility to grow to \$20B
 - Rumored possible pressure point: shutdown of K-12 schools
 - No MAP grants for the school year that just concluded
 - Comprise \$320-400M of the budget, serves approx. 109,000 students
 - Grants between \$300-\$4720, average of \$1900
 - FAFSA data shows more students are going out of state if they have the means & more low-income students are not applying at all
 - Students are being asked to pay these grants back
 - Update to adult student benefits online. In the process of connecting benefits and ISAC
- See attached Legislative Watch List for more details but specific bills discussed:

- *Increase the Minimum Wage* Increase the state minimum wage to ensure that low-wage workers can earn enough to meet their basic needs and provide for their families.
 - (Monitor SB81)
 - Last Action: 5/31/17 Passed Both Houses
- *HB2462 – Equal Pay Act – Wage History* Prohibits an employer from: (i) screening job applicants based on their wage or salary history, (ii) requiring that an applicant's prior wages satisfy minimum or maximum criteria, and (iii) requesting or requiring as a condition of being interviewed that an applicant disclose prior wages or salary.
 - Last Action: 5/30/17 Passed Both Houses
- *HB3215 – Feminine Hygiene Products in Schools* Requires a school district to make feminine hygiene products available, at no cost to students, in the bathrooms of school buildings. When students do not have access to affordable feminine hygiene products, they may miss multiple days of school every month.
 - Last Action: 5/25/17 Passed Both Houses
- *HB2771 – Healthy Work Place Act* Allows all employees to earn up to seven paid sick days a year. 43% of all workers in Illinois – over 2.5 million people – currently have no right to a single paid sick day.
 - Last Action: 5/30/17 Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment (s) 1, 2
- *HB3211 – College Student Hunger* Uses flexibility offered by the federal program to extend eligibility for SNAP to low-income adults pursuing a “Perkins Pathway” career and technical education (CTE) certificate or degree program at a community college. Also develops a protocol for screening students at Illinois institutions of higher education for potential SNAP eligibility and providing those students with information about SNAP and steps they could take to verify program eligibility and/or apply.
 - Last Action: 5/25/17 Passed Both Houses
- *HB2373 – Expand Record Sealing Eligibility* Expands eligibility for sealing of criminal records to a broader number of convictions, helping people with criminal records avoid barriers to opportunity.
 - Last Action: 5/30/17 Passed Both Houses
- Will compose a letter to the Governor in support of bills that have passed both houses from the Poverty Commission, possibly co-signed by the Hunger Commission and some community partners

4) **ABAWD Time Limit Waiver Update – 4:10 – 4:20**

- IL currently receives a federal waiver to not be subject to the time limit for SNAP when there is high unemployment; waiver exp. Dec. 31, 2017
 - IL is still eligible in all counties except DuPage county
 - Absence of this waiver would affect 200,000- 400,000 people
 - Half of the people eligible for this waiver work 20 hours (on average, depending on what employers can give them, so they may not meet SNAP requirements regularly), and some show a pattern of work instability.
 - People impacted also show significant barriers to employment
 - Felony convictions
 - Low educational attainment (60% had a HS degree or less)
 - Functional illiteracy
 - Concern about DHS' ability to track hours and the quality and availability of its workforce development programming
 - DuPage should serve as a pilot before “going live” in the rest of the state

5) Other Emerging Threats/Challenges? 4:20 – 4:50

- Placed Post-Its on boards with Challenges/Threats to be addressed by the Commission
- Themes:
 - State Funding
 - State Policy
 - Federal Decision-making
 - Other misc. concerns
- Placed Post-Its on boards with Ways to Address the Challenges/Threats by the Commission/ Commissioners

6) Annual Report & Public Hearings/Listening Session Planning – 4:50 – 4:55

- a. Annual Report – What should we do differently, if anything?
 - No significant changes.
- b. Possible locations or themes for Listen Sessions and/or Public Hearings
 - Emphasis on community conversation
 - bringing together all stakeholders on a particular issue
 - Listening session for ABAWD's in DuPage
 - Counties with high unemployment rates
 - Cairo
- c. Possible dates – August 1st or 2nd, August 8th-10th or August 22-24th
 - No date chosen for August, all remain open
 - Next full commission meeting: Monday, September 18th in Chicago and Springfield (teleconferencing)

7) Other Business - Updates & Announcements 4:55 – 5:00

- Submission of names and organizations that can fill positions on the Commission where people have either become less engaged or have switched positions
 - Chicago Coalition for the Homeless- need replacement
 - Immigrants' Rights Group- find representative
 - State Officials- Natalie & Janice will reach out/ follow up with Directors
 - State Representatives- seeking a more engaged representative, preferably a Republican

8) Adjournment – 5:00