

**Business Enterprise Program Council for Minorities,
Females and Persons with Disabilities Meeting Notes**

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

100 W. Randolph
Room 2-025
Chicago, IL 60601

401 S. Spring St.
Room 500 ½
Springfield, IL 62706

Monday, February 26, 2018- 1:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Hedy Ratner, Alex Bautista, Sharla Roberts, Michael Hoffman, Khari Hunt, Beth Doria, Larry Ivory, Debbie Cortez, Emilia DiMenco, Denise Barreto, Edward McKinnie, Jesse Martinez

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Charisse Witherspoon, Sheila Hill Morgan, Karen Eng

COUNCIL CHAIR

Michael Hoffman, Chairman

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Amiel Harper

CMS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Elias Ricks Ngwayah II, Harry Reinhard, Carlos Gutierrez, Ben Jones, Tim McDevitt, Irma Lopez, Marina Ponce

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Morrison, Artheitha Monroe, Nussir Faulkner, Michelle Flagg, Warren Ribley, Derrick Champion, Charles Harrell II, Gustavo Giraldo, Margaret Van Djik, Mark Hardy, Jim Underwood

**PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities

100 W. Randolph
Room 2-025
Chicago, IL 60601

401 S. Spring St.
Room 500 1/2
Springfield, IL 662706

AGENDA

February 26, 2018
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome
- II. Call to Order
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting held on December 11, 2017 & Subcommittees Minutes (January 22, 2018 & January 24, 2018)
- V. Chair's Report
- VI. Subcommittees Reports
 - Certification Subcommittee Report – Chair Sharla Roberts
 - Outreach Subcommittee Report – Chair Emilia DiMenco
 - Compliance Subcommittee Report – Chair Sharla Roberts
- VII. Posted Business
 - Update on new BEP Deputy Director Search
 - Update on BEP Legislative Agenda
 - Agencies' Exemption
- VIII. Public/Vendor's Testimony
- IX. Adjournment
 - Next Subcommittee Meetings
 - Certification Subcommittee Meeting – March 26, 2018
 - Outreach Subcommittee Meeting – March 27, 2018
 - Compliance Subcommittee Meeting – March 28, 2018
 - Next Council Mtg. – April 23, 2018

Please note: In case you need to connect to the meeting via teleconference, please use the following number and access code:

Teleconference Number 888-494-4032
Access Number 2587213722

BEP Outreach Events: <http://www.illinois.gov/cms/events/SitePages/List.aspx>

I. Welcome

Assistant Director Harper welcomes all.

II. Call to Order

Director Hoffman called the meeting to order at 1:40pm and asked Assistant Director Harper to proceed with roll call.

III. Roll Call

Roll call conducted. Quorum was established.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes was established.

V. Chair's Report

Chair Hoffman updated the council on what's been happening since the last meeting. He talked about the search for a new Deputy Director of BEP. He said the holidays caused a delay in the recruiting process. He said the leadership have reviewed many resumes submitted included those recommended by members of the council. He said they were in their final week of interview. He said he was concerned about finding quality individuals in the third year of this administration but that have not been a problem. In fact, they have interviewed a lot of quality candidates. He said they are looking for the right individuals who will continue to move the program forward in the future. He said certainly by the next meeting we will have the candidate so you can vote for their approval as Secretary of the Council.

Chairman Hoffman acknowledged that a few things have slipped due to the lack of the Deputy Director and Secretary of the Council. He cited the desire to have a lobby day in Springfield with the legislators in session to discuss matters of importance to the Council. He said they still intend to do that. He said they hope to plan something in the near future. He said if any council member is interested in being part of this day, they should send an email to Assistant Director Amiel Harper. He said by the next meeting they should be able to have this plan executed and debrief the council.

Chairman Hoffman recognized Ms. Ponce and Certification Manager Carlos Gutierrez for a job well done in assisting a BEP vendor during the application process. The vendor wrote Assistant Director Harper to praise the professional work of both Ms. Ponce and Mr. Gutierrez. They were given a round of applause.

Member Ivory wants to make a note that the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce has its lobby day on April 11, 2018. He said they are anticipating around 300 to 400 black businesses to attend. He said if there is anything important on the legislative agenda, it should be given them ahead of time so

they could read it and analyze it so they can decide whether they would support it, be against it, or be neutral on it.

Director Hoffman recognized and introduced the new CMS Chief Operating Officer Mr. Tim McDevitt to the Council. COO McDevitt said he is looking forward to working with the council and said if anyone has any issues with the program or CMS they are welcome to reach out to him.

Member Ivory wants to know whether the budget or additional resources for compliance will be part of the agenda. Director Hoffman said the legislative agenda is still be worked out. Notwithstanding, he said “yes” it will be on the agenda.

Member Ratner wants to know if the council members can be provided with any legislative initiatives ahead of time. Director Hoffman said as soon as they get the approval to have them submitted, they will be shared with the council members.

VI. Subcommittees’ Reports

Certification Subcommittee: Chair Roberts the certification subcommittee met on Monday, January 22, 2018 and had an appeal hearing on Pro Tack LLC. She said they voted to uphold the BEP denial.

Outreach Subcommittee: Chair DiMenco said the last meeting occurred on November 27, 2017 and the update was given on December 11, 2018. She said the next meeting is on March 27, 2018. Assistant Director Harper said there was no quorum for the Outreach subcommittee that is why there is no minutes.

Compliance Subcommittee: Chair Roberts said the subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. She said they went over the agencies’ exemption review. She said some of the agencies’ heads will be invited to the next council meeting to explain their exemption requests.

VII. Posted Business

Update on new BEP Deputy Director

Chair Hoffman reiterated what he had previously said. He said they had received lots of resumes and were reviewing them. He said because of the holidays they were slow in getting responses. He said they have conducted close to half of a dozen interviews. He said they are expecting to have the candidate selected and a vote on them at the next council meeting.

On the BEP legislative agenda, the Director said we do not yet have full clarity on what reports are in and what reports are out. He said in previous years, the department has put out 10 to 15 legislative proposals and they are looking forward to putting forward the same amount this year.

Assistant Director Harper said he will be traveling to Springfield tomorrow and will be meeting with legislators. He said our team is working very hard to find legislative support. He said in addition to what we are doing legislative thru the Governor's office and other constitutional offices to get the goal of the legislative agenda accomplished thru whichever leverage we can pull.

Member Roberts said the council members are available to help with their contacts in Springfield if they knew what was on the legislative agenda.

Assistant Director Harper said he did not want to give the impression that they are struggling to find legislative support. He said they are being very careful in their selection.

Member Ivory questioned whether we are being smart by not utilizing the assets that we have in relations to getting the legislative agenda the support it needs in the legislature.

Assistant Director Harper told the council that they will be asking for their help. He said the reason they have not yet been asked is because it is early in the process.

Agencies' Exemption

Assistant Director Harper told the council that they have one more round of review before things are finalized. He said at the next subcommittee meeting they will have to choose based on those who to have submitted compliance plans. He said the council will have the compliance plan by the beginning of April once the subcommittee have finalized their review. He said the recommendation of who should be ask about their compliance plan will be determined at the April council meeting.

VIII. Public/Vendor's Testimony

Michelle Flagg wants to know whether there are rules set up for the exemption process. Assistant Director Harper responded that are the allowable exemptions which is the statutory set and there are requested exemptions. He said if the ones that have been reviewed fall into the category where there are not opportunities for contractors such as those that we have state workers doing the work themselves, those will have to be exempted. He said what have been done thus far has been identifying areas where the state does the function or there is something where there is no opportunity for participation. He said that decision has not been finalized yet.

Member Roberts wants to know whether the council has a process of getting back to the vendor if a vendor comes and complain about something. She wants to know whether we can have a time during the council meeting to update the vendors on their concerns or issues brought up at the previous meeting. Director Hoffman said he is not sure we have a process but in the past the Chair's report has been the forum for such a statement on vendor's issues brought up previous relating to resolution or complaints.

Member Ivory urged the council to work on additional sheltered markets in 2018. He also said he could like to see ISU procurement people come before the council. He said there have been several times he had to called them about issues relating to procurement without minority participation. He said they need to know how critical this is to us.

Member Roberts said that as ISU representative on the council, she will make sure they have that message and that they will work with Assistant Harper to see if they can be at the next council meeting.

Responding to member Ivory, Director Hoffman said we have been making progress behind the scene with the JCAR process. Regarding the ISU issue, he recommended that the compliance subcommittee take up that issue.

Charles Harrell II, CEO of IT Architect, want to know what the update on the Internet Egress RFP which did not have a BEP goal on it is. Director Hoffman said after review of it by one of the subcommittee, CMS withdrew our approval for waiver and have asked the agency to work with BEP staff and re-evaluate the goal. He believes it is still in process. He said this contract is not an urgent need because they have a master contract already that can provide services.

Mr. Harrell said it was his understanding that this was a priority.

Assistant Director Harper also added that after the withdrawal of the RFP, DOIT is rewriting the RFP. He said in the interim, they have been using their master contract.

IX. Adjournment

Member Doria motioned for adjournment. Member Ivory seconded. Vote taken, motion passes.