

**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, April 25, 2016- 1:30 PM**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Larry Ivory, Edward McKinnie, Bobbie Wanzo, Beth Doria, Jesse Martinez, Denise Barreto, Hedy Ratner, Sharla Roberts, Cate Costa

**COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Karen Eng, Samantha Hufnagel, Kim McCullough, Sheila Hill Morgan, Emilia DiMenco, Susan Shaw, Charisse Witherspoon

**COUNCIL CHAIR**

Kim McCullough, Chairman

**COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Paul H. Cerpa

**CMS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Elias Ricks Ngwayah II, Irma Lopez, Harry Reinhard, Carlos Gutierrez, Jeanetta Cardine, Ignacio Cuevas

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ben Bagby, Gustavo Giraldo, Angela Dans, Geno Marchizza, Shirley Webb, Mio Williams, Dale Morrison,

**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 62706

**AGENDA**

April 25, 2016  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome
- II. Call to Order
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Minutes of Council Meetings held on February 22, 2016
- V. Chair's Report
- VI. Posted Business
- VII. Committee Updates
  - Marketing and Community Engagement Committee
  - Business Strategic and Growth Committee
  - Advocacy and Public Policy Committee
  - Certification Committee
  - Policy and Compliance Committee
  - Executive Committee
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Public/Vendor's Testimony
- XI. Adjournment
  - Next Council Mtg. – May 23, 2016

**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

**I. Welcome**

Secretary Cerpa welcomes all.

**II. Call to Order**

Secretary Cerpa called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. He informed the Council that the Chair will not be present for the meeting and he would be serving as the Chair for the meeting.

**III. Roll Call**

Roll call conducted. Quorum was not established.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Minutes was postponed due to the lack of quorum.

**V. Chair's Report**

Secretary Cerpa said that due to the absence of the Chair we will forego the Chair's report.

**VI. Posted Business**

None

**VII. Committee Updates**

Secretary Cerpa reiterated that the reason the meeting was canceled last month was to provide committees the opportunity to reinstitute their regular meeting dates and forge ahead with their agenda.

**a. Advocacy and Public Policy Committee**

Member Ratner said the group met 3 times and discussed several things. One of the topics discussed was Sheltered Workshop. She said the discussion centered on why the sheltered workshop should participate in the BEP goal when it isn't people with disabilities that owned these workshop. She said they want to know the amount of money spent on the sheltered workshop. She indicated we should be concerned in the increase in the amount of money spent on sheltered workshops over the years. The committee also wants to know when BEP spend money reporting included sheltered workshops and why. Also, when did it become part of the Statute? She said Strategic Planning was also part of the discussion. According to member Ratner, focus should be on people who will be involved and engaged on the council and not just in name only.

Another topic discussed was enhancing the BEP goal while excluding of the sheltered workshop or having a separate goal for sheltered workshop. In other words, having a standing goal with businesses owned by people with disability.

Additionally, the group discussed expanding the BEP goal and responsibilities. They envisioned expanding collaboration with stakeholders and forming new partnerships such as reaching out the bisexual and transgender organizations. Lastly, the group would like someone to be assigned to give legislative updates to the council.

Member Roberts asked whether it was possible to have someone giving the council updates on proposed legislations during the BEP council. Secretary Cerpa said we could address appropriate legislation and went on to say some current legislation include procurement and the BEP Sunset legislation. He further said the Executive Committee believes the Sheltered Workshop issue should serve with the Advocacy and Public Policy committee, at least to discuss and address the outstanding issues relating to the recommendation brought by Equip For Equality Organization. It involves removing the Sheltered Workshop as an eligible BEP category under the PBE heading. He said the Sheltered workshop was recognized as PBE many years ago before anyone present was on the council. He said Sheltered Workshops also can participate in the State Use Program. Regarding money spent on Sheltered Workshops, he said it was 65 million dollars of which 2.5 million went to PBEs.

Member Roberts said as former chair of the State Use Program, she does not understand where the discrepancy is with State Use usage versus Persons with disabilities. She believes the council should focus on how to increase the utilization of Persons with Disabilities owned firms. They are not competing with each other because Sheltered Workshops are very limited in size and scope of what they can provide. She said most times it has nothing to do with what PBEs might be certified to provide. She also reminded Secretary Cerpa that she had sent a request to be a member of the Advocacy and Public Policy committee but have not heard back from him. She noted that based on her experience she understands its workings and wants to be added to the Committee as of today.

Member Ratner stressed that they are not against Sheltered Workshops but are in fact against them being classified as PBEs.

Member Ivory wants to know whether it is possible to send the names of those people who will add value to the council to the council members.

Secretary Cerpa reminded the council that anyone can be recommended but they will have to apply online.

Member Ivory wants to know whether the Advocacy and Public Policy committee is working on any policy as it relates to the Sheltered Market.

Member Roberts said it would probably be the Policy and compliance committee that will handle that responsibility.

**b. Marketing and Community Engagement Committee**

Member Wanzo stated that they had no report. They are scheduled to meet the second week of May. She said it is their intent to go over the measurable goals and outcomes that were established in October of last year.

**c. Business Strategic and Growth Committee**

No Report.

**d. Certification Committee**

Member Doria said they would be meeting immediately after this meeting. She said they had a meeting last month but did not have a quorum.

**e. Policy and Compliance Committee**

Member Barreto told the council the group had met in March. They are looking for an update on the RFP for the purchase of the Compliance Software. It was one of the recommendations from the Disparity Study.

Secretary Cerpa said we have been in discussion with the Do-It Group formerly the BCSS organization within CMS which is looking to adopt statewide compliance piece as well as existing systems that are in place. He said it is very close to being completed. He informed the council that there is a potential RFP being considered by the Tollway that the State is in discussion with to potentially utilize statewide. Within the next 30 days more details should be known.

Member Roberts asked whether there are plans to put the system out to bid. Secretary Cerpa said of course.

Member Barreto said agencies are preparing their 2017 compliance plans and they would like to know their schedule. She said we are trying to figure out the less than one hundred thousand procurement processes agency by agency. They would like to get the information from agencies on the front end of FY17. Secretary Cerpa said the process has not yet started. He said it should commence no later than June.

**f. Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met and addressed two points. The first point was to allow time to the committees to meet and the second was to address the issue of the Sheltered Workshop

## **VIII. Old Business**

Member Roberts wants all old business items that have not been resolved to be added to the next meeting agenda.

Member Barreto wants the old business item about bringing the Department of Corrections management before the Council to be on the next agenda.

Secretary Cerpa commended member Ivory for the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce lobby day and for bringing representatives from across the state. Member Roberts also commended member Ivory.

Secretary Cerpa later commended member Roberts and Dale Morrison for hosting the University's Veteran Outreach event which was very well attended.

## **IX. New Business**

Member Ivory said the Council should celebrate when issues are resolved. Secretary Cerpa concurred and talked about the meeting between CVS and several vendors. He said the initial meeting was successful with follow-up meetings scheduled as well.

Member Roberts wants to know when the new certification system will be up and running. Secretary Cerpa said we have a tentative date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Member Roberts also ask about the impact to the state. Secretary Cerpa said it would effectively track certification and provide real time certification dates as well as applicability with respect to statuses of firms. It will be an online process working with the vendor B2GNow.

Member Roberts requested to have explanations on the CMS monthly reports for those contracts that have goals. Lastly member Roberts wants those agencies that are represented on the Council by statute to make sure their representatives know to attend the council meetings.

## **X. Public/Vendor's Testimony**

None

## **XI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.