



**Business Enterprise Program Council
OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday March 27, 2018

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Room 4-404

Via Teleconference Number - 888-494-4032

Access Number - 2587213722

Minutes

SUBCOMMITTEE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Emilia DiMenco, Khari Hunt, Hedy Ratner (Ph)

SUBCOMMITTEE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Karen Eng, Jesse Martinez

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Derrick Champion

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Amiel Harper

CMS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Irma Lopez



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AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Call to Order
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Posted Business
 - Strategic Plan Review
 - Update on Legislative Agenda
 - Outreach Event Calendar Review
 - Subcommittee Meetings Calendar Review
 - House State Government Committee Meeting – April 4, 2018
- V. Define Action Items
- VI. Suggestions for full BEP Council meeting agenda item(s)
 - Next Council Meeting -April 23, 2018
 - Next Subcommittee Meeting – May 30, 2018
- VII. Public /Vendor Testimony
- VIII. Adjournment



I. Welcome

Chair DiMenco welcome everyone to the meeting.

II. Call to Order

Chair DiMenco called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call.

III. Roll Call

Roll call conducted. Quorum was not established.

IV. Posted Business

- **Strategic Plan Review**

Irma Lopez told the subcommittee that she is working with several partners to achieve our objective of hosting specific industry events. She informed them that her next event is with the CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) and is scheduled for April 30, 2018. According to Ms. Lopez it will be the Equipment and Commodity event. She also talked about the event after this upcoming event will be with the Chicago Urban League. She said it will be a Crain Small Business Event in which she will be concentrating on Health and Industry. She said in the past she has had no success with the food industry. She talked about attending the Good Food Expo at UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago) and making a lot of contacts with people in that industry.

Chair DiMenco said on way to continue the success is to be out there in the community on an ongoing basis.

Assistant Director Harper talked about hiring a support staff to assist Ms. Lopez in her day to day functions. He said they are working on their "Did you know?" to share it with the business community. He also said we are focused on doing outreach in way that adds value to it for our BEP community.

Chair DiMenco want to know how attendance is progressing. She wants to know what the factors are that influence people being in the room. Ms. Lopez named primes as the primary factor. She said the problem in the past was getting primes to attend. She said people want to come, change capability plan, and interact with these primes.

- **Update on Legislative Agenda**

Assistant Director Harper talked about SB2906 sponsored by Senator McConnaughay which funds BEP outreach. He said it also provide support for BEP Compliance and other areas. He said right now the bill is in Rules and that he will be having meetings with individual legislator as well as trying to get on the calendar of the Black Caucus to get additional support for the bill.

Member Ratner wants to know whether this bill is related to the upcoming House State Government Committee Meeting scheduled for April 4, 2018. She said she and Beth Doria have been asked to testify. Assistant Director Harper say no, CMS is not involved in that meeting. He said so far CMS has not been asked to participate.



Ms. Okorafor asked that Assistant Director Harper forward any communication from the planners of this meeting to her. However, Assistant Director Harper said all the people who have been invited to speak was invited by phone therefore, he has no communication. He said the person who have been reaching regarding the meeting is from Mike Madigan's office. He said he will get her the bills that will be affecting BEP.

Member Ratner said she would like to know if Assistant Director Harper has information on the other bills. He said he would have Ms. Lopez send out the information on what the other bills are to the subcommittee. He said he met with Rep. Lashawn Ford and his recommendation to get his support was increasing the amount to \$65.00 while getting the \$50.00 for BEP outreach and leaving the \$15.00 with the Comptroller's office.

Member Hunt wants to know whether the Comptroller's office has given us an accounting of how the 15 dollars deductions are being spent. Assistant Director Harper said he was told by the Comptroller's office that it went toward helping start-ups. Chair DiMenco wants to know if we know exactly how they are using it for start-ups. Assistant Director said no.

Ms. Lopez said the way it was explained to her by their staff is that they are just filtering people to the right resource. She further said there have been many events they we have not been able to attend because we could not pay due to lack of funds.

Chair DiMenco wants to know if Ms. Lopez has been getting support from other organizations. She said yes, especially WBDC, CHA, SBA, EPA, and Chicago Urban League.

Member Ratner wants to know the status of getting a new BEP Deputy Director. Assistant Director said there has been an offer made. He said by the next BEP meeting, we should have a new BEP Deputy Director. Member DiMenco asked about a new CMS Acting Director. Assistant Director confirmed that we in fact have a new Acting Director for CMS and he is Tim McDevitt.

Chair DiMenco requested from Ms. Lopez to have the meeting minutes few days before the council meeting so that she can able to review and approve it before the council meeting. Assistant Director Harper said Elias will be sending the meeting minutes to the Chair of the Committee by the 15th of each Month.

- **Outreach Event Calendar Review**
Same as Strategic Plan Review.
- **Subcommittee Meetings Calendar Review**
Chair DiMenco asked whether there were any questions about future council and subcommittee meetings. There was none.
- **House State Government Committee Meeting – April 4, 2018**



Assistant Director Harper reiterated that the State Government Affairs Committee which is chaired by Rep. Al Riley will be having a meeting on April 4, 2018

V. Define Action Items

- Member DiMenco talked about Assistant Director Harper sharing everyone's proposal for the Legislative Hearing with the group.
- Ms. Lopez will give the subcommittee information on an ongoing basis and if she needs help.
- Subcommittee minutes from the previous meeting must be submitted to the Chair for review and approval by the 15th of the Month.

VI. Suggestions for BEP Full Council Meeting Agenda Item(s)

Chair DiMenco talked about coming up with appropriate speakers that we could have at the full council meeting. She recommended the CPOs. Assistant Director Harper said one of the questions that come up in our office is finding where the line is between what the CPO does and what BEP does. He said one of the issues we are having is that the BEP vendors that have been selected for goals and they are contingent, are not being used which we have observed when these contracts are up for renewal. He said the primes are relying on what the State is buying as a basis for that. He said the State views it as when you sign a contract, the goal is a part of the contract. So, if you are not compliant with that, you have not met up with your obligation. He believes there are opportunities for some education between the CPOs and the agencies.

Chair DiMenco wants to know how that can be handled in a full council meeting. Assistant Director Harper said one of the questions that should be asked is what they have done to be inclusive whenever they are drafting the RFPs, and as they are selecting them, BEP vendors are being selected for contingent work.

Chair DiMenco would like to propose that the council talk about payments. She said it is taking a long time to get things approved for payment.

Assistant Director Harper talked about doing a better job of educating the vendors about the Vendor Payment Program. He said we are also looking for more transparency from the comptroller's side regarding who being paid, for what contract, and what amount so that subs can know when to ask.

Chair DiMenco also said people want to know about pending legislations and how they can get that information. Assistant Director Harper said this is something that should be in the Director's report to the council. He said it is usually handle thru out intergovernmental Affairs person. The Chair wants to know if we can have that person come in to talk to us. Assistant Director Harper said yes.

Member Hunt recommended what other topic that the council wants to hear about.



VII. Public/Vendor Testimony

The Deputy Director for Minority and Economic Empowerment said one of the things that they are really focused on is outreach. He said the Metro East is where a lot of federal dollars are being spent. He was wondering whether Ms. Lopez could visit there.

Member Hunt recommended the topic of Work Force Development as another topic that could be discussed at the council meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Member Ratner moved to adjourn. Member Hunt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.