

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

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

100 W. Randolph
Room 9-040
Chicago, IL 60601

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

Monday, MAY 26, 2015- 1:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Kim McCullough, Karen Eng, Charisse Witherspoon, Perry Nakachi, Corinne Pierog, Denise Barreto, Jesse Martinez, Beth Doria, Fred Coleman (Phone), Larry Ivory, Hedy Ratner , Samantha Hufnagel (Phone)

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Kacy Bassett, Rodney Lewis, Charles Lowder, Susan Shaw, Lynne Marie Turner, Edward McKinnie

COUNCIL CHAIR

Kim McCullough, Acting Chairlady

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Paul H. Cerpa

CMS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Elias Ricks Ngwayah II, Harry Reinhard, Ellen Daley, Ben Jones, Carlos Gutierrez, Chantel Snelling

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gustavo Geraldo, Dreena Jones, Vincent Bass, Shirley Webb, Art Moore, Michelle Casey, Deanna Rossetto, Ben Bagby

**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

May 26, 2014

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 April 27, 2015.
- V. Chair's Report
- VI. Posted Business
- VII. Committee Updates
 - Procurement Committee
 - Business Development Committee
 - Capital Access and Banking Committee
 - Certification Committee
 - Policy, Rules and Enforcement Committee
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Public/Vendor's Testimony
- XI. Adjournment
 - Next Council Mtg. – June 22, 2015

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

Acting Chairlady Kim McCullough welcomes all.

II. Call to Order

Chairlady McCullough called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. She asked Secretary Cerpa to conduct the roll call.

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 however members were encouraged to review the minutes for possible amendments.

V. Chair's Report

a. None

VI. Posted Business

None

VII. Committee Updates

a. Procurement Committee

Committee Member Witherspoon reiterated her concerns from the last council meeting regarding the ten (10) years duration of a contract related to PR/Advertising. She was concerned about it being an allowable term and said it did not foster open competition. She wants to know if the policy could be changed. She thinks it is too long. She is looking for feedback from those in position of authority.

Acting Chair McCullough asked member Witherspoon whether she had met with her committee and done some research around the ten year term of this particular contract and what is the State policy the contract duration. She further said the committee could present a recommendation to the BEP Council regarding a policy position on it. Also she does not think the council was prepared to have a lengthy dialogue on it but said a recommendation from the committee would be looked at. Member Witherspoon said she does not have a specific recommendation but she is sure it would hover around 5 to 7 years at most. Member Witherspoon added this contract was within her area of expertise and she was intimately aware of the duration of these kinds of contracts. She did disclose that she did not bid on this contract.

Member Ivory apologized for being late but said he had a comment on this issue. He asked member Witherspoon whether it was a renewal contract or a 10-yr contract. Member Witherspoon said it was renewal for up to 10 years.

*Member Pierog announced her presence

Member Ivory pointed out renewal does not mean it will be automatically renewed at the time but will have the option of having the contract renewed.

b. Business Development Committee

None

c. Capitol Access and Banking Committee

Member Corinne Pierog said she met with members of Department Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on Friday, May 15, 2015. She also had a phone conversation with Paul, Legal, and other members of the committee regarding the Capital Access work. It was determined that the component of the Capital Access list will be managed in the future by DCEO as part of the Advantage Illinois Program. She said the Advantage Illinois Program has a comprehensive list of banks that are willing to lend money to small businesses. She stressed that instead of reinventing the wheel they are going to be working with DCEO. She said Stan Luboff, who is in charge of their capital program at DCEO has been invited to speak to the Council about their program. He was unable to attend the meeting today but will attempt to be at the next meeting in June. She also said there is another list that is not as robust as the Advantage Illinois Program list which is called the Community Development Fund. She said she will be reaching out to Dale, the lady in charge of that program in the coming days. The difference of these listings is that this list deals with non-for-profits loaning money from community funds to small businesses. This list is currently made up of four (4) vendors. She also disclosed that the list which the subcommittee has been working on is far more robust than this listing. She expressed her desire of having greater opportunities for representation throughout the State. Lastly, she said that Paul had shared with her that he will be working with their web developer so that it can be on the BEP home page.

Counsel Ben Jones said he had a chance to speak with Mr. Luboff from DCEO and it seems to him that this is a very good opportunity for vendors to get involved. He said they have a program where they will subsidize 2% of the interest that the bank is charging. The interest rate is capped at a certain level. The program is audited by the U.S. Department of Treasury. He said it is a very good program that should be implemented shortly. He commended the committee for their hard work.

Member Ratner asked at what time the company will be populating the list they had worked on. Member Pierog said the list from DCEO has about 40 banks on it and is already available. Member Ratner said her organization is hoping to work with DCEO to expand the list.

d. Certification Committees

Member Perry Nakachi said the committee had a certification Appeal meeting this morning and issued a conditional reversal of Southland Care Coordination Partners Inc. Secretary Cerpa asked what is meant by Conditional Reversal.

Member Nakachi said they had originally applied for a female/minority business but what they meant to apply for was a minority business. Member said there was confusion over MBE/FBE designation and they thought it was a combination status. Member Doria recommended clarity on these designations to avoid confusion in the future.

Chair McCullough asked whether a resolution will be brought to the Council for final approval regarding the conditional reversal, member Nakachi said no.

*Secretary Cerpa announced the presence of member Jesse Martinez.

e. Policy, Rules and Enforcement

Chairlady Doria announced that the committee had a waiver request to review and will be meeting immediately following this meeting.

VIII. Old Business

a. Member requested an update on the Sheltered Market in our next month's meeting. He wants to know where we are. Acting Chair McCullough said she will put that request under old/new business for an update at the next meeting.

b. Member Barreto has a question from the old business regarding the exemption and the budget that did not have a motion last month. She wants to know if the Chair had a chance to look at the data or have a report for the Council.

Chair McCullough said Harry was running the report and they had a draft which will be presented to the Council after review.

Member Hedy Ratner asked how the disparity study was coming on.

Chair McCullough said the disparity study was coming along and that the draft was being reviewed.

IX. New Business

a. Member Ivory said he had gotten calls regarding an IT contract coming from DCFS with no goals attached. He mentioned that Paul responded to him by saying that it was federally funded therefore there is no mandatory goal. Member Ivory then cited example of working with IDOT to put a DBE goal on a contract after initially not having any. He wants to know if there is anything that can be done to attach a goal to the contract.

Secretary Cerpa responded by saying that the goal from IDOT refers to construction which is driven by USDOT. He does not think that DCFS can abide by any federal requirements (DBE goal) but will take a look at it.

Member Ivory encouraged teamwork to avoid legislation sneak-up on the Council. Chair McCullough asked who the chair person is for the Policy, Rules, and Enforcement committee. Member Doria said she was the one. Chair McCullough recommended that the Policy, rules, and Enforcement committee be used as the landing place to discuss legislation and public policy initiative that have an impact on the council and how program operates. Member Doria agreed to take on that responsibility for the committee and requested that as soon as CMS learns of a legislation that could affect the program, they should immediately inform the committee so that they can have an early start on it and not wait until the third reading when it is too late.

- b. Council Ivory was wondering how the subcommittee will handle this new responsibility. Chair McCullough said that should be no problem as CMS has people who track these legislations and have requested them to flag those legislations that affect this program. This would then be communicated to the council along with CMS opinion on the legislation.
- c. Member Barreto said she will be willing to join that committee and help with that.

X. Public/Vendor's Testimony

- a. None

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chair McCullough called for Adjournment
- b. Member Doria casts for a motion (moved) for Adjournment
- c. Member Ivory seconded the motion to Adjourn.
- d. Meeting was Adjourned as of 2:13pm
- e. Next Council Meeting will take place on Monday, June 22, 2015