

Human Services Commission Meeting Notes

February 18, 2011

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Joseph Antolin, Heartland Alliance
Damon Arnold, Department of Public Health
Mary Ellen Caron, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Eileen Durkin, Neumann Family Services
Pam Heavens, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living
Anne Irving, AFSCME Council 31
Toni Irving, Office of the Governor
Marco Jacome, Healthcare Alternatives System
Shawn Jeffers, Little City Foundation
Charles D. Johnson, Department of Aging
George Jones, Ada S. McKinley
Ngoan Le, Chicago Community Trust
Maria Pesqueira, Mujeres Latinas
Dee Ann Ryan, Vermillion County Mental Health
Kathy Ryg, Voices for Illinois Children
Michelle Saddler, Department of Human Services
Nancy Shier, Ounce of Prevention Fund
Ray Vasquez, YMCA
Maria Whelan, Action for Children

Commissioners not in Attendance:

William Delgado, IL State Representative
Sara Feigenholtz, IL State Representative
Mattie Hunter, IL State Senator
Naomi Jakobsson, IL State Representative
David Leitch, IL State Representative
Rosemary Mulligan, IL State Representative
Carole Pankau, IL State Senator
Dave Syverson, IL State Senator
Arthur Bishop, Department of Juvenile Justice
Erwin McEwen, Department of Children and Family Services
Julie Hamos, Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Gladys Taylor, Department of Corrections
Christopher Koch, Illinois State Board of Education
Sam Balark, AT&T Communications Inc
Denver Bitner, Lutheran Social Services of IL
Byron Brazier, Apostolic Church of God
Rosemary Connelly, Misericordia

Art Dykstra, Trinity Services, Inc
Gary Huelsmann, Catholic Charities
Mark Klaus, Charleston Transitional Facility
Maggie Laslo, SEIU HCII
Valerie Lies, Donors Forum
Soo Ji Min
Gregory Pierce, United Power
Laura S. Thrall, United Way Metropolitan Chicago
David Whittaker, Chicago Area Project
Diane Williams, Safer Foundation

Attendees:

Delia Coleman, Donor's Forum
Veronica Cunningham, Safer Foundation
Clayton Frick, Deloitte
Robert Goerge, Chapin Hall
Layla Gonzales
Caronina Grimble, DHS
Gina Guillemette, Heartland Alliance
Cemere James, Action for Children
Larry Joseph, Voices for Illinois Children
Matthew Josephson, Deloitte
Jack Kaplan
Judy King
Carol Kraus
Jim Lewis, Chicago Community Trust
Susan Locke, Illinois Framework Project
Dave Lowitzki, SEIU HCII
Kate R. Maehr, Greater Chicago Food Depository
Sharron Matthews, HFS
Jennifer Becker Mouhcine, Chicago Jobs Council
Crispina Odeja, Chicago Jobs Council
Janice Pacheco, Chicago Community Trust
Rob Paral, Rob Paral and Associates
Dan Schwick, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Roopa Seshadri, Chapin Hall
Jerry Stermer, Office of the Governor
Sara Sullivan, Department of Corrections
Gladyse Taylor, Department of Corrections
Amy Terpstra, Heartland Alliance
Cheryl Whitaker, Chicago Community Trust
Tony Zipple, Thresholds

Support Staff:

Lory Mishra, Office of the Governor

Brandon Thorne, Chicago Community Trust

Notes:

Jerry Stermer presented a briefing of Governor Quinn's proposed state budget for FY 2012.

- Priorities:
 - Create jobs
 - Pay bills
 - Education—Improvement and funding
- Significant cuts to funding human services
- A number of programs currently managed by the Illinois Department of Human Services have been proposed to be reorganized and moved to other state agencies

Many commissioners expressed deep concern and opposition to the proposed cuts and program reorganization.

- Commissioners disappointed for not being consulted about these proposed changes given the breadth and depth of human services expertise represented on the Commission
- Commissioners expect the Governor's Office to have more constructive working relationship with the Human Services Commission on decisions impacting Illinois human services

Mr. Stermer extended an open invitation to the Commission to provide input on the proposed budget cuts and the reorganization of human services programs.

In the open discussion, plans were made to:

- Review the initial charter for the Human Services Commission and reassign (what?)
- Gather a workgroup to talk about structure, design, relocation of programs and functions in a logical way
- Advise about priorities to the Governor: the disproportionate impact on human services will make other goals like education and jobs harder to achieve
- Refocus on the General Assembly as they will be working on it next and emphasize a need to understand the Governor's use of "budgeting for outcomes" in his budget
- Discuss money allocated for administration vs. services provided