



**African American Employment Plan Advisory Council**

Quarterly Meeting (#4)

November 3rd, 2022 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Coverson
- II. **Roll Call** –Chair Coverson

**A. Council Members**

<b>African-American Employment Plan Advisory Council</b>				
<b>ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Present</b>			<b>Absent</b>
	<b>In person - Collinsville</b>	<b>In person- Springfield</b>	<b>via WebEx</b>	
Coverson, Marrice (Chair)	X			
Batey, Gloria			X	
Burch, William			X	
Coleman, Arlene Y.				X
Day, Carolyn	X			
Dunbar, Sharryon	X			
Ford, Kevin Anthony			X	
Hightower, Andy	X			
King, Maurice				X
Sulamoyo, Dalitso Samson			X	

Total: 8 members present, 2 members absent. Quorum achieved. The meeting was held via WebEx video conference.

**B. Agency Representatives**

African-American Employment Plan Advisory Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Collinsville	In person - Springfi eld	via WebEx
Central Management Services	Mark Mahoney	X		
	Patricia Santoyo-Marin	X		
	Tony Lozzi	X		
	Mayra Magaña	X		
	Sarah Kerley			X
	Allison Macfarlane			X
	Araceli Morales			X
Illinois State Police	Sherise Gipson			X
	Mary Dowdy			X
Human Services	Amelia Gavina			X
Innovation & Technology	Vickie Simpson			X
Children and Family Services	Christopher Towers			X
Health and Family Services	Dani Menez			X
	Patrick Hostert			X
	Angela Ryan			X
Financial and Professional Regulations	Alia Choudhury			X
Department of Revenue	Phyllis Tate			X

Total: 6 CMS and 10 other agency staff attended this meeting.

- III. General Public** – Jan Austin – Africa International House in person  
 Stephanie Beverly – St. Clair Housing Authority in person  
 Stephanie Seehausen – Madison County Housing Authority in person  
 Constance Slack – Madison County Housing Authority in person  
 Marie Nelson – Madison County Housing Authority in person

**IV. Council Discussion Items**



A. Approval of July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes (3rd Quarter)  
Motion made by Council Member Dunbar to approve the July 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Council Member Day seconded and the minutes were approved.

B. Q4 In-person Meeting and Career Fair Update  
The job fair preceding the council meeting was considered a “big success” per Councilmember Hightower and he expressed his interest in doing this again. Councilmember Day also stated that the event had a good amount of opportunities.

**V. CMS Updates**

A. Introduction of Anthony “Tony” Lozzi, CMS D&I Human Resource Specialist  
Mark Mahoney of CMS introduced Anthony Lozzi, CMS D&I HR Specialist, talked about his background and the skills and experience he brings to the job. Anthony introduced himself and also spoke about his past experience.

B. Update on Council’s request to Review Statute for addition of African American Outreach Coordinator  
Mark Mahoney reports that it was voted that a coordinator would be brought on for each council, and that one had already been hired for the Hispanic Council, with the other council job coordinators being filled in the upcoming months. The coordinators would be based in Cook County.

C. Meeting of the four Council Chairs  
Patricia Santoyo-Marin of CMS stated that the meeting of the four Council chairs would take place at the CMS building at 555 Monroe in Chicago on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12 pm.

D. State Workforce Diversity Numbers Update  
Sarah Kerley presented the state workforce numbers, showing that the percentage of African Americans employed in state government is holding steady, despite an overall decline in state employment numbers in general. She went on to say that state government is less competitive in general versus the private market and that Governor Pritzker had brought attention to what he calls a “staffing crisis”.

It as brought up by Sarah Kerley that we should time our open positions with various agencies to when we are having career fairs, like the one we had before this meeting. This way we could capture potential employees and help them apply immediately to



relevant, open jobs seeking candidates.

E. CMS D&I Updates – Patricia Santoyo-Marin

Patricia Santoyo-Marin of CMS explained some of the goals CMS is working on in the upcoming months, particularly a survey of other agencies and how they're conducting outreach. The goal is to identify opportunities within agencies and communities and once the survey is completed, it will be presented to the councils for feedback.

Patricia Santoyo-Marin also spoke about the internship program; 6 students were selected in January of 2022, and we are moving forward to fill 25 intern positions this January. We are looking for more opportunities to find interns, and are hoping to collaborate with community organizations to find students for these positions.

Chair Coverson asked if we had newsletters and Patricia Santoyo-Marin talked about the CMS newsletter that goes to all state agencies, and the Director's Office newsletter that goes to CMS, and finally about CMS university.

**VI. New Business**

Mayra Magaña of CMS brought up the meeting dates for 2023 and suggested these dates:

Q1 – Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Q2 – Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Q3 – Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Q4 – Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

From 2pm – 4pm

Councilmember Ford stated he had no issue on dates but requested we move the hours because the 2-4 times conflict for him. Mayra stated that the Council can agree on a different time, and that 2-4 was simply the past year's schedule.

Chair Coverson asked to motion for time. Councilmember Ford stated that 10am-12pm is good. Councilmember Hightower motioned to move the meeting hours from 2-4 to 10-12. Chair Coverson seconded, and there was no opposition.

Councilmember Ford moves to adopt dates as exhibited. Councilmember Hightower seconds the motion; motion passed, finalizing the dates and changing the time to 10am – 12 pm.



**VII. Public Comment**

Chris Towers from DCFS stated that he thought there were many good candidates and that he is looking forward to next career fair. Chair Coverson stated she would like to know how many people were hired from this event.

Patricia Santoyo-Marin mentioned the CMS recruitment calls as opportunities to help outreach, with the lunch and learn professional development meetings, and asked that CMS be invited to community events throughout the state to demonstrate “D&I live in action”.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- A. Motion was made by Councilmember Ford to adjourn, and Councilmember Dunbar seconded. Meeting was adjourned.