



Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council

February 16, 2022 | 10:00 AM –12:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting (#1) – Via WebEx

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Andrew Johnson, Council Chair.

II. Roll Call – Chair Johnson conducted the roll call.

A. Council Members

Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS				
Members	Present			Absent
	In person - Chicago	In person- Springfield	via WebEx	
Johnson, Andrew (Chair)			X	
Blanks, Tim				X
Boyd, Nichole			X	
Matthew Beaudet			X	
Poirot, Pete				X
Silas, Pamala M.			X	
Stanley, Susan			X	
Vigue, Kim			X	
White Eagle, Wendy			X	

Total: 7 members present, 2 members absent. Quorum achieved. The meeting was held via WebEx video conference to adhere to the social distancing guidelines due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic.



B. Agency Representatives

Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Chicago	In person - Springfield	via WebEx
Central Management Services	Mark Mahoney			X
	Jake Altman			X
	Demoya Gordon			X
	Patricia Young			X
	Cathy Kwiatkowski			X
	Corey Anne Gulkewicz			X
	Ayesha Patel			X
	Valerie Cowen			X
	Mayra Magaña			X
Department of Children and Family Services	Jose Lopez			X
	Ellen Williams - ICWA			X
	Ryann Unabia - ICWA			X
Illinois Department of Employment Security	Anna D'Ascenzo			X
Illinois Department of Human Rights	Martin Duncan			X
Illinois Department of Human Services	Amelia Gavina			X
	Jesse Kamees			X
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology	Vickie Simpson			X
Department of Commerce & Economic Development	Diana Alfaro			X
Illinois Dept. of Financial & Professional Regulations	Temi A. Bennett			X
Office of the Governor	Javier Thompson			X

Total: 13 CMS and other Agency staff attended this meeting.

C. General Public.

1. Vincent Romero, California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc. (CIMC)

III. Minutes

A. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from December 08, 2021

1. Chair Johnson asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from December 08, 2021. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Stanley and seconded by Council Member Pamala Silas. Council Member Wendy White Eagle noted her name was incorrectly hyphenated and requested the correction in the minutes. A motion was made by Council Member Susan Stanley to approve the minutes with the correction. It was seconded by Council Member Wendy White Eagle. The December 08, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

IV. CMS Discussion

A. Introduction of Patricia Young, CMS HR Director

1. Jake Altman of CMS introduced Patricia Pat Young, CMS HR Director. When Pat joined the meeting, she shared some of her HR background and her enthusiasm to work with the State and the council.

B. Introduction of Cathy Kwiatkowski, Deputy Director of the Illinois Office of Communications and Information (IOCI)

1. Jake Altman of CMS also introduced Cathy Kwiatkowski, Deputy Director of the Illinois Office of Communications and Information (IOCI). Cathy then shared some of her experience revolving diversity and her enthusiasm to work with the State and the council in amplifying the efforts towards diversity.

C. State Workforce Diversity Numbers Update

1. Jake Altman presented employee headcount numbers for Native Americans in state government which included current State employee headcount that included leadership.
2. Council Member White Eagle requested that the council receive the list of the members of the Illinois Gaming Board. Council Member Beaudet shared that the list of names is on their web page and accessible to the public.
3. Chair Johnson indicated that he would like to request for Native Americans in senior leadership to join the call to share their feedback and engagement.

D. Council Meeting and Job Fair in the Community Update

1. Mayra Magaña shared on behalf of Patricia Santoyo-Marin, who was unexpectedly unable to attend, that Patricia was working on the idea of hosting a job fair in the community on the same day as one of the upcoming council meetings. Patricia will share additional details/updates on this at the next meeting for discussion.

E. FY2021 Native American Employment Plan Report

1. Mayra Magaña updated that Patricia Santoyo-Marin shared that she will be sending a copy of the final Native American Employment Plan Report submitted to the General Assembly highlighting the action items for the year.

2. Chair Johnson indicated that they look forward to receiving the final copy of the report.

V. Council Discussion Items – Chair Andrew Johnson

A. Member appointment status

1. Chair inquired as to whether there was an update on the applications for Melodi Serna, Marne Smiley, and Vincent Romero. Mark Mahoney of CMS updated that Marne Smiley was approved but there has been some difficulty in getting a hold of her so will need to confirm contact information to ensure they are able to reach her. The office is waiting on a resume from Melodi Serna. Mark recommended that the resume be sent to him or Patricia so it can be forwarded to the Governor’s Office. Mark indicated that he would look into Vincent Romero’s application and circle back on a status update for him.

B. Native American Internships

1. Chair Johnson indicated that an initial meeting took place a few months prior and the intent was to have something in place by spring so internships could be in place and filled by the fall. Chair Johnson inquired as to whether there were any updates on the progress. Mayra Magaña shared that the internships were something that Patricia Santoyo-Marin has been working on and that she would inform Patricia of the request so she can plan to update the council.
2. Chair Johnson indicated that it would be necessary to see who all was involved in the initial planning to possibly form a subcommittee to ensure their continued involvement in planning and meetings.
3. Council Member Beaudet noted that because many students go away for college, summer internships should be considered as well in the planning.
4. Council Member White Eagle indicated that with so much information being sent via email it would be helpful to note “Action Item” or “Action Required” in the email’s Subject Line to ensure the information is shared and the efforts are augmented.
5. Council Member Pamala Silas shared an idea to think of for the long-term, of developing a bulletin that packages opportunities both educational and employment, for Native Americans in a way that would brand the effort or campaign to bring awareness of the opportunities to the Native American Community. This could then be forwarded to the Community through the Council and its networks. Cathy Kwiatkowski asked for clarification on the preferred format for the community. Council Member Wendy White Eagle shared that it would need to be flexible so that those who are not utilizing social media can also effectively distribute. She also indicated that the discussion can continue around this topic to determine how the branding and packaging of the opportunities should be handled. Council Member Pam Silas recommended starting with a bulletin twice a year to see how it is received

and volunteered to work with the communications team work on developing some pilots.

C. Job Fair

1. Establish planning committee

- Council Member Susan Stanley shared that there was a meeting with Ryann Unabia of ICWA to plan a job fair in Chicago at Northeastern possibly on June 17th and 18th.
- They would like State Agencies and other governmental and private sector employers to participate.
- They are also looking into hosting a job fair in the quad cities possibly in September. She indicated that she would have more updates on this event at the next meeting.
- Jake Altman informed Chair Johnson that they can send the information about the events to CMS and they would be shared with recruitment staff to help facilitate State Agency participation in the recruitment events.

D. Discussion to consider meeting with members of the Illinois State Board of Education

1. Javier Thompson, Governor's Office of Equity will help facilitate the connection between the Council and ISBE so they can engage in discussion relative to increasing the number of Native American educators as well as career building in the schools

E. Continuing educational opportunities to inform departments about Native Americans (Indians 101)

1. Chair Johnson indicated more structure around this. Council Member Beaudet indicated that if diversity trainings are already being provided then a Native American component can be incorporated into that rather than developing a stand-alone system.

VI. New Business

- A.** Chair Johnson Indicated that he would like to add a brief presentation by Diana Alfaro of DCEO for the next meeting.

VII. Public Comment

- A.** No public comment was made

VIII. Adjournment – Chair Johnson requested that a motion be made to adjourn the Council meeting. Council Member Wendy White Eagle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council member Susan Stanley seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.