



Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 | Qtr 1 FY 2026

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Chair Andrew Johnson

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am

II. Roll Call by Chair Johnson

Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council			
COUNCIL MEMBERS			
	In person	WebEx	Absent
Johnson, Andrew (Chair)		X	
Beaudet, Matthew		X	
Davidson, Charlotte		X(joined at 10:20)	
Stanley, Susan		X	
Vigue, Kim			X
Wendy White Eagle			X

4 Council Members present, 2 were absent; 5 Vacancies

Quorum was reached during the meeting.

B. Agency Ex-Officios, Agency Representatives and CMS Staff

Native American Employment Plan Advisory Council					
EX-OFFICIOS					
Ex-Officio Agency	Agency Designee	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	Via Webex	Absent
IL Department of Children and Family Services	Ellen Williams			X	
	Ryann Unabia			X	

IL Department Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Diana Alfaro			X	
IL Department of Human Services	Amelia Gavina			X	
IL Department of Public Health	Ericka Williams			X	
IL Department of Transportation	Aisha Price Brian Hendricks			XX	

Attendance Roster: Agency Representatives

Agency	Representative	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	Via Webex	Absent
IL Department of Central Management Services	Louise Jett Kathleen Lyons			X X	
IL Department of Innovation and Technology	Jason Thoron			X	
IL Department of Human Services	Amelia Gavina Krista Culbertson			X X	
IL Department DCEO	Teri Morris Diana Alfaro			X X	
IL Department of Children and Family Services	Ellen Williams Ryann Unabia			X X	
Illinois Department of Transportation	Aisha Price Brian Hendricks			X X	
Illinois State Police	Mary Dowdy			X	
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	James Wilcockson			X	

Illinois Gaming Board	Dovie Shelby			X	
Illinois Department of Public Health	Ericka Williams			X	
GOV	Denise Maldonado			X	

- General Public – No one present

III. Old Business:

Quorum not present at start of meeting, Chair requested to move to item B – Native American representation among the Unions

Statewide Manager for Native American Diversity & Inclusion, RoxAnne LaVallie-Unabia provided an overview of Union data provided by Chief Administrative Officer Sarah Kerley. Data for Unions included persons who self-identify as Native American, which may include persons who are not members of US federally recognized tribes. LaVallie-Unabia further indicated that this will be part of the in depth look that D&I takes after the Annual Report has been completed (February 1, 2026).

Council Member Beaudet indicated that specific information on the trades, e.g. carpenters, mechanics, electricians was missing and he would like to see specific numbers and representation in these areas, as there are many Native Americans who have these skills. LaVallie-Unabia advised that she will review data request with CAO Kerley to ensure most accurate data is provided on current levels of trades professionals who are Native American, as well as ensuring the availability of any openings is shared with Native American community groups.

III. Item A. Approval of FY 25 Q4

Approval of May 21, 2025 Q4 Minutes – Chair Johnson (Council Member Davidson joined WebEx allowing NA EPAC to make Quorum)

Council Member Beaudet motioned to approve minutes from May 21, 2025 4th Quarter; Seconded by Council Member Stanley. Minutes approved by Council unanimously

IV. CMS Updates

- A. CMS D&I Outreach & Recruitment & CMS Internship Update – LaVallie-Unabia informed the NA EPAC that there were 3 Native American interns who participated in the CMS D&I Summer intern program this year. LaVallie-Unabia thanked Council Member Stanley for collaborating with Colleges and Universities to find 3 applicants for Internships & for providing CIMC services to eligible interns. Chair Johnson indicated his appreciation for the advocacy to ensure representation of Natives in the Internship program.
- B. CMS D&I Team Staffing – LaVallie-Unabia provided an update that the D&I Team would be advertising a Statewide Bilingual Program Manager role
- C. CMS D&I Survey Updates – LaVallie-Unabia provided an update that the Annual Survey would be going live on October 1. CMS D&I will be working to

encourage agencies to complete the survey so that a more complete picture will be provided to the General Assembly.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion regarding FY 25 Employment Plan Report Data – CMS Data Team Kathleen Lyons of the CMS Data Team provided an overview of the different statistical data that exists in the Census Bureau site (decennial versus American Community Survey). Ms. Lyons indicated that in other minority communities, the difference in data is not as noticeably significant as it is in the Native American community. Lyons further explained that due to the significant difference, an explanation can be written to explain why the Native American community data varies from other communities, however, to accurately reflect the Native American population in Illinois.

Chair Johnson thanked Lyons for the information and the efforts being put forth to ensure data that more accurately reflects the population of Native Americans in the state which will lead to an annual report that reflects the actual Native American population.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments or comments in the chat.

VII. Adjournment

Council Member Stanley motioned to adjourn the Q1 FY 26 meeting
Council Member Beaudet seconded the motion
Motion passed unanimously

Chair Johnson called for adjournment at 11:17