

# ICED

**Interagency Committee on  
Employees with Disabilities**

*Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities*  
December 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes  
*Meeting Conducted via WebEx*

## Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) Members

Ex-Officio Members	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
<b>Co-Chair, Human Rights</b>	Jim Bennett, Director	X		
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Donna Hardy</i>	X		
<b>Co-Chair, Human Services</b>	Grace Hou, Secretary			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Francisco Alvarado</i>	X		
<b>Attorney General</b>	Kwame Raoul, AG			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Pamela Blackorby</i>	X		
<b>Central Management Services</b>	Janel L. Forde, Director			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Rebecca Rousell</i>	X		
<b>Civil Service Commission</b>	Timothy D. Sickmeyer, Chairman			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Andrew Barris</i>	X		
<b>Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities</b>	Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Director	X		
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Margie Harkness</i>	X		
<i>Designee</i>	Mariel Hamer			
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	Juliana Stratton, Lt. Governor			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Victoria Villalpando-Sanchez</i>	X		
<b>Secretary of State</b>	Jesse White, Secretary			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Bill Bogdan</i>	X		
<b>State Comptroller</b>	Susana A. Mendoza, Comptroller			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Kevin Derrig</i>	X		
<b>State Treasurer</b>	Michael Frerichs, Treasurer			
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Rosemary Laudani</i>	X		
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	Linda Chapa LaVia, Director	X		
<i>Designee</i>	<i>Matt Eddington</i>	X		
<b>Employees with Disabilities</b>				
Department	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Human Services	Matt Abrahamson	X		
Human Services	Nathan Painter	X		
Vacant				
Vacant				

Vacant				
Vacant				
Vacant				
<b>Other Attendees</b>				
Human Services	Ryan Croke	X		
Human Services	Rahnee Patrick	X		
Human Services	Caronina Grimble	X		
DoIT	Vickie Simpson	X		
Central Management Services	Barbara McDonald	X		
Council on Developmental Disabilities	Dennis Deany	X		
Human Rights	Chet Pinski	X		
Human Rights	Alex Bautista	X		

**I. Call to Order**

- Director Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm

**II. Roll Call, Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

- Donna Hardy conducted Roll Call  
Quorum established
  
- Approval of Agenda  
Approval by acclamation
  
- Approval of Minutes  
October 22, 2020 was the Annual Recognition Celebration no minutes were recorded.

**III. Co-Chair Remarks**

- **Director Bennett ~**
  - Thanked everyone for all the work done in 2020 despite the many obstacles everyone faced.
  - Acknowledged the collaboration of agencies across the state during the pandemic to ensure the Disability community had access to resources they needed to successfully navigate health and technology barriers.
    - Specifically, Guidance was put out by DHS, DHR, DOA and the Governor’s office on affirming civil rights and protections against discrimination in the rationing of medical equipment, the face mask mandate and the vaccination prioritization plan.
  - Highlighted the Governor’s commitment to DEI work and IDHR’s commitment to ensuring that ICED also follows inclusive practices as a Commission.

- Announced the re-launch of the Hate Crimes Commission. The first round of names have been submitted to the Governor's office and the Disability Community is represented on the Commission.
- **Ryan Croke on behalf of Secretary Ho~**
  - Announced the appointment of Benro Ogunyipe, as the new Director of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. He was an outstanding member of the IDHS team.

#### IV. New Business

##### ➤ **Committee Updates**

- **Hiring Process Review and Outreach Committee, Rahnee Patrick, Chair,** Provided update on the Committee's arduous task of removing barriers to accessing employment with the State of Illinois. One of the goals in particular that the committee has been working on, and has recommended eliminating, is the requirement that applicants have an "Open Case" with IDHS. Currently potential applicants must go through the Secretary of State's office to obtain an ID that certifies they qualify for the "Disabled Individual" classification.
- The "Open Case" requirement erects an unnecessary barrier and limits the pool of highly qualified candidates for more advanced opportunities with the State. The State is missing out on very talented candidates with advanced degrees because they do not see the need to go through IDHS.
- Bill Bogdan shared with the committee the process that potential applicants must go through in order to receive the "Disabled Individual" classification.
- The complexity of removing this requirement involves multiple layers of State agencies and potentially the State Legislature. The committee will continue to work on this and other barriers to employment.
- **Nomination Committee ~**  
IDHR has recommended two highly qualified candidates to represent State of Illinois Employees to the Governor's office for vetting. We have five vacancies.
- We are desperately in need of diverse candidates. We currently have no People of Color representing State of Illinois Employees.

##### ➤ **Website Update**

- Help has arrived! We look forward to unveiling our new website during our next meeting.
- We welcome additional support with content, resources, etc. Please let us know if you're interested in serving.

**V. Public Comments**

**VI. Meeting dates for 2021**

**February 4, 2021**

**April 1, 2021**

**June 3, 2021**

**August 5, 2021**

**October 7, 2021**

**December 2n 2021**

**VII. Meeting Adjournment**

- a. Moved by Kimberly Mercer-Schneider
- b. Seconded by Matt Abrahamson
- c. All in favor
- d. No oppositions
- e. No abstentions

**VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.**