



Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2024 – 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting conducted In-person and via Webex

For additional meeting information [click here](#)

Ex-Officio Members	Name	Present In Person (IP) Virtual (V) Phone (PH)	Absent
Co-Chair, Human Rights	Jim Bennett, Director	IP	
<i>Designee</i>	Donna Hardy	IP	
Co-Chair, Human Services	Dulce Quintero, Secretary		A
<i>Designee</i>	Steven J. Dennis	V	
Attorney General	Kwame Raoul, AG		A
<i>Designee</i>	Judith Levitan	V	
Central Management Services	Raven A. DeVaugn, Director		A
<i>Designee</i>	Patricia Santoyo-Marin	V	
Civil Service Commission	Teresa Smith, Chairman		A
<i>Designee</i>	Andrew Barris	V	
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities	Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Director		A
<i>Designee</i>	Margie Harkness	V	
<i>Designee</i>	Mariel Hamer		A
Lt. Governor	Juliana Stratton, Lt. Governor		A
<i>Designee</i>	Eryn Jones	V	
Secretary of State	Alexi Giannoulis, Secretary		A
<i>Designee</i>	Bill Bogdan	V	
State Comptroller	Susana A. Mendoza, Comptroller		A
<i>Designee</i>	Kevin Derrig	V	
State Treasurer	Michael Frerichs, Treasurer		A
<i>Designee</i>	Rosemary Laudani	V	
Veterans Affairs	Terry Prince, Director		A
<i>Designee</i>	Matt Eddington	V	
Employees with Disabilities			
Department	Name		
Human Services	Nathan Painter	V	
Human Services	Rahnee Patrick	IP	
Central Management Services	Glen Minks	V	
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			

Other Attendees			
Abraham Lincoln Pres Lib. & Mus.	Mark Mahoney	V	
Central Management Services	Tasha Hunter	V	
Central Management Services	Arthur Sutton	V	
Central Management Services	Chris Bond		A
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities	Gary Arnold	V	
DoIT	Vickie Simpson	V	
DoIT	Mike Scott		A
Employment & Security	Anna D'Ascenzo		A
Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission	Benro Ogunyipe	V	
Human Rights	Allison Macfarlane		A
Human Rights	Chet Pinski	V	
Human Rights	Bryant Dunbar	V	
Human Rights	Betsy Buttell	V	
Human Rights	Dr. Addie Shrodes		A
Human Rights	Dr. Chris Smith		A
Human Rights	Marcio Mendoza	V	
Human Services	Casey Burke	V	
Human Services	Caronina Grimble	V	A
State Treasurer's Office	Stephanie Kanter	V	
State Treasurer's Office	JJ. Hanley		A
Illinois Tollway	Sharon Ferguson	V	
Other Guests:			
	Kitty Aubry, ASL Interpreter	V	

**Present: In Person (IP) / Virtual (V) / Phone (PH)*

1. Call to Order

- a. Director Bennett called the meeting to order at 11:04am on August 1, 2024

2. Roll Call

- a. Donna Hardy conducted Roll Call
- b. Quorum established

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Director Bennett – Called for approval of minutes from June 6, 2024, Meeting
 - i. Motion to Approve: Rahnee Patrick
 - ii. Seconded Motion: Chet Pinski
 - iii. No opposition or edits - Minutes approved

4. Co-Chair Remarks

- a. Director Patrick
 - i. Disability Pride Parade update
 1. Director Patrick shared this was the largest attendance she can recall since participating. There were people lined up all along the parade route. All three major networks covered the parade, which had never happened before. Lt. Governor Stratton attended and spoke at the ceremony.
 2. Director Patrick stated “disability is so beautiful and such an important component of the human experience. The parade helps to destigmatize disability by saying we’re proud and let’s celebrate.”

- b. Director Bennett
 - i. Pitchfork Music Festival is now fully accessible!
 - 1. Director Bennett shared he attended the “Pitchfork Music Festival” which occurred the same weekend as the Disability Pride Parade. He was elated to share that this event has become fully accessible to wheelchair attendees and there were interpreters for the music. Director Bennett stated “there wasn’t a place you could go without having access everything a person needed.”
 - ii. Illinois State Fair from August 8th to August 18th
 - 1. IDHR & Hate Crimes Commission will be in Lt. Governor’s tent. He encouraged everyone to stop by and say hello.
- c. Steven Dennis, Co-Chair Designee
 - i. Reported on the Disability Pride Parade’s success and that Chicago has the longest running Disability Pride Parade in the country.
 - ii. Dennis encouraged everyone to watch the YouTube video, featuring Director Patrick, highlighting the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)
 - iii. DRS conducted disability training for the Illinois Housing Development Authority
 - iv. The Disability Hiring Initiative Report was sent to the General Assembly with DRS Goals
 - v. *Steven shared updates on his 25th cruise!*

5. Guest Speakers

- a. Benro Ogunyipe, Director, Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
- b. Kitty Aubry, ASL Interpreter
 - i. Here are some of the highlights from Director Ogunyipe’s presentation
 - 1. Director Benro was hired in 2020 during the Covid pandemic and was instrumental in ensuring that the deaf and hard of hearing community needs were met.
 - 2. The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) or the Commission advocates on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing persons in Illinois. It promotes education and awareness about hearing loss and the legal requirements for effective communication on behalf of 2 million people in Illinois.
 - 3. The Commission is charged with eight statutory mandates
 - a. Educational and informational program
 - b. Cooperate with Public and Private agencies
 - c. Provide Technical Assistance, Consultation, and Training Support
 - d. Evaluate and Monitor State Programs Delivering Services
 - e. Monitor State Funded Programs Delivering Services
 - f. Review/Evaluate/Develop Statutes, Rules, Regulations & Policies
 - g. Promote Cooperation among State & Local Agencies on Educational Programs
 - h. Rules and Regulations related to Evaluations, Certification, Licensure, and Training Standards of Sign Language Interpreters
 - 4. The Commission provides the following Programs and Services. ****They do not provide direct service to the Public.***
 - a. Statewide Services, Resources, and information and Referrals
 - b. Communication Cards & Brochures
 - c. Community Outreach & Collaboration
 - d. Technical Assistance, Consultation, & Training Support (Communication Access Training)

- e. **No Direct Service or Legal Advice** but provide referrals for example: Deaf Service Coordinators (Centers for Independent Living); ITAC (Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation); Equip for Equality & Disability Rights Bureau; IL Attorney General; Chicago Hearing Society & other Non-Profit Organizations
 - f. Legislative Bills & Resolutions (The Commission monitors legislation impacting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind communities in Illinois.
5. Sign Language Interpreters in Illinois certify by IDHHC
- a. In 2007 Illinois passed the Illinois Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act. This law requires anyone providing interpreting services be licensed unless specifically exempted under the Act.
 - b. The Commission administers the Illinois Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Certification Test. Illinois is only one of five states in the country to have the BEI certification. The Commission maintains an online directory of licensed interpreters by proficiency levels, geographic regions, counties, and contact information. There are approximately 850+ licensed sign language interpreters. There is an urgent need for more to serve over 2 million deaf and hard of hearing Illinoisans.

6. New Business: 2024 ICED Goals Reports

Goal 1: Develop and Implement an Awareness Campaign for ICED

Chair: Betsy Buttell

- Continuing to work on state-wide distribution efforts
- Director Bennett will reach out to Ryan Croke for support with this effort
- Patricia Santoyo-Marin volunteered to assist with distribution efforts

Goal 2: Build an Online Community Resource Portal

Chair: Stephanie Kanter

- Continuing to update and refresh ICED Website
- The committee is working with Mike Scott to update the Website

Goal 3: Create Interagency Equipment Accommodations Transference Process

Chairs: Bill Bogdan & Steven Dennis

- Bill shared that Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias signed a proclamation in honor of the Disability Pride Parade, and he will email a copy to the group.
- Bill thanked Chet Pinski for reaching out to the EEO and ADA coordinators to get a copy of their Reasonable Accommodations forms. They received 30 responses and reviewed the forms and are happy to report that most agencies use the same standardized state of Illinois Reasonable Accommodation form. There were a few agencies that customized the form to meet their specific needs. He mentioned that IDHS and DoIT have extensive forms that can be used as a model to update the current form.
- Next steps are to review all the forms and have the committee to review and come up with recommendations for a standard form for agencies to use. This will be a recommendation only to state agencies.
 - i. Director Patrick requested clarity on the strategy going forward. Is the goal to maintain local control or allow agency discretion?
 - ii. Goal is to identify standard form and disseminate best practices. Initially the committee wanted to build a database of reasonable accommodation equipment, but the amount of resources required made that goal unrealistic and unattainable; so, they refocused their efforts on what would be most helpful and beneficial.

- iii. Margie Harkness asked if forms will be fillable and accessible?
- iv. Forms will be printable and accessible to all users.
- v. The committee is looking to develop guidelines to help departments with this process. The ICED Website will be a great place to share the form and best practices.

7. ICED Annual Celebration Event

- a. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Our theme for 2024 is: ***Access to Good Jobs for All.***
- b. Nomination forms will be sent after the meeting for the following categories:
 - i. Outstanding Employee of the Year
 - ii. Outstanding State Agency of the Year
 - iii. Exceptional Advocate of the Year
 - iv. Outstanding Legislator of the Year
 - 1. Judith Levitan – Noted the current date for the celebration is a religious holiday.
 - a. Director Bennett – stated they would select a new date for the celebration.

8. Old Business

- a. Nomination Committee: Four vacancies for State of Illinois Employees with Disability
 - i. Nominees must complete the application at [Boards and Commissions - Appointments](#) for ICED Committee
 - ii. Employees should get approval from their supervisor to serve on Commission
 - iii. Particularly interested in large agencies that are not represented
 - iv. Share potential nominees with Director Bennett and Donna Hardy for tracking purposes
- b. Director Patrick announced an LGBTQIA Improv Group will be holding classes in August in Springfield with a focus on people with Disabilities.

9. Public Comment

- a. None

10. Future Meetings

- a. Annual Awards Celebration new date TBD
- b. Next ICED meeting, December 5, 2024, at 11:00am

11. Adjournment

- a. Director Bennett offered motion to Adjourn
- b. Motion to Adjourn: Director Patrick
- c. Motion Seconded: Chet Pinski
- d. None opposed
- e. Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm on August 1, 2024