

Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council

Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2019

The Executive Committee of the Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council held a meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. via teleconference and in the Public Interest Conference Room, 11th Floor, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Illinois. In total, 9 individuals attended the meeting.

PRESENT:

Emily Friedman, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Marty Green, Illinois CPA Society
David Rosen, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Richard Sevcik, Perkins Coie
Eric Weinheimer, Forefront

In addition, the following staff members from the Illinois Attorney General's Office were present:

Barry Goldberg, Kristin Louis and Theresa Geary

Bryan Zarou from Forefront also participated.

I. Welcome

Barry Goldberg opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m., welcomed EC members and shared who was on the call.

II. Review and Approve 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Barry Goldberg asked the Executive Committee to review the minutes from the 2017 Executive Committee Meeting and shared that Janice Rodgers name has been corrected. Eric Weinheimer motioned to approve the minutes with that change and Marty Green seconded the motion. A voice vote occurred with all members voting in favor of approving the minutes. There were no objections.

III. Old Business

Barry Goldberg asked if there was any old business that needed to be addressed.

No comments were received.

IV. New Business

a. Schedule for Charitable Advisory Council Meeting

Barry Goldberg shared that the objective of today's meeting is to plan the next Charitable Advisory Council Meeting. The meeting has been held at the end of the year, which has been difficult for schedules. Barry Goldberg asked the Executive Committee for a recommendation on the month of the annual meeting.

Emily Friedman concurred that December is difficult.

David Rosen suggested spring due to year end scheduling issues and weather, and the rest of the Executive Committee members in attendance agreed.

In response to this feedback, Barry Goldberg indicated the Illinois Attorney General's Office will work with Scheduling staff on a spring Charitable Advisory Council meeting.

b. Charitable Advisory Council Agenda Discussion

Barry Goldberg shared the tentative agenda for the next Charitable Advisory Council meeting:

Forefront's Updated Illinois Principles and Best Practices Book
Recent OAG Outreach Efforts
Updates from the Treasurer's Stabilization Fund

Barry asked for feedback from Forefront on discussing the updated Illinois Principles and Best Practices Book. Eric Weinheimer shared that the book was last updated in 2008 and was widely distributed by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. They engaged a group of leaders to update and add in sections to the book including on social media and technology. The goal is for the book to be distributed widely. Bryan Zarou shared that Forefront is planning a larger event in March or April in Springfield to share the book with nonprofit organizations and foundations.

Barry Goldberg indicated the book is a fantastic resource and Kristin Louis shared that the book was distributed at her last presentation in DeKalb. The Illinois Attorney General's Office will also share it on the website.

Barry Goldberg indicated that the office continues to provide presentations and education and that an update on recent presentations can be shared at the meeting.

Barry Goldberg shared that Eric Spangler Raz replaced Jody Adler as the Attorney General's designee to the Treasurer's Stabilization Fund and asked if the Executive Committee thought update on the Fund would be of interest to Charitable Advisory Council members. There was a consensus by Executive Committee members in attendance that this would be of interest to Charitable Advisory Council members.

c. Review Charitable Advisory Council Charter

Barry Goldberg asked if the Charter needed to be revised or if there were any other recommendations. For example, the Charter sets membership at 40-60 members and currently with retirements we will have less than 40 members.

David Rosen shared for a functioning workgroup the committee there is a recommended size but for an education function the size is appropriate and at the discretion of the Attorney General's Office. He shared that a broad group is helpful.

Emily Friedman and Rick Sevcik voiced agreement and there was a consensus by the Executive Committee members in attendance.

d. Membership Discussion and Recommendations

Barry Goldberg shared that several members have retired or will be retiring and as such need to be replaced. Barry Goldberg asked the Executive Committee for any membership recommendations. David Rosen suggested the Executive Committee review membership and provide suggestions.

Emily Friedman asked about membership terms and if those whose terms expired have been renewed. Barry Goldberg shared that yes, the terms were automatically renewed.

David Rosen shared an opinion that there is not enough representation on the Charitable Advisory Committee outside of Chicago area and asked for statewide recommendations.

Bryan Zarou indicated Forefront would provide suggestions based on their membership statewide.

V. Public Comment

Barry Goldberg asked for Public Comment.

Rick Sevcik inquired if there are any differences in the mission or practices of the Charitable Advisory Council and how the council can assist the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Theresa Geary responded that there has not been any changes to the mission of the Charitable Advisory Council and that the group is anticipated to continue to be asked for assistance with outreach and educational events and materials.

Bryan Zarou inquired about the Charitable Advisory Council's participation in the spring event hosted by Forefront on the updated Illinois Principles and Best Practices Book. While Forefront is welcome to invite members, an event in partnership with the Charitable Advisory Council or where council business is discussed would need to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Emily Friedman shared that previously members worked to develop a resources webpage which may now be out of date. Can the committee work on this again? She also shared that the best practices link on the webpage needs to be updated.

Theresa Geary indicated discussing reviewing and updating the resources from the Charitable Advisory Council would be a helpful addition to the next meeting agenda.

Barry Goldberg shared that the Charitable Trust Bureau continues to monitor new laws which may affect charities and that the Charitable Advisory Council can be of assistance in providing organizations with resources. An example is sexual harassment training requirements for employers.

Marty Green shared that recommendations provided to the Attorney General as part of the transition included amending the audit threshold dollar standard which would require legislative changes.

Barry Goldberg shared that Forefront brought this legislative question to the office and it is under review by the Legislative staff.

David Rosen shared that the Legislative Committee has gathered feedback in the past and the audit threshold has been brought up previously.

Rick Sevcik agreed and indicated that a more recent example of the Legislative Committee's work was assisting Therese Harris with the UPMIFA Statute and possible changes the legislation.

David Rosen shared that the role of the Legislative Committee is to provide feedback and make recommendations on existing legislation for the Attorney General rather than to propose legislation.

Rick Sevcik agreed.

Theresa Geary shared that this legislative question was shared with the Illinois Attorney General's Office's legislative staff.

Marty Green indicated he would follow up with legislative staff regarding this issue.

VI. Closing

Emily Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Eric Weinheimer seconded the motion. A voice vote occurred with all members voting in favor of adjournment. There were no objections.