



ALABAMA COMMISSION ON THE EVALUATION OF SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

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Date and Location

The Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services met on November 2, 2021, at 4:02 p.m. in Alabama State House, 11 S. Union Street, Montgomery, AL, Room 825.

Attendance

Member	Present	Teleconference	Absent
Chairman Orr	☐	☐	☒
Vice-Chair Filmore	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Albritton	☐	☐	☒
Commissioner Carlton	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Coleman-Madison	☐	☐	☒
Commissioner Green	☐	☐	☒
Commissioner Sawyer	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Scott	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Story	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner White	☐	☒	☐
Commissioner Whitt	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Wingo	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Poole, <i>ex officio</i> (Finance Director)	☒	☐	☐
Commissioner Fulford, <i>ex officio</i> (LSA Fiscal Division Deputy Director)	☒	☐	☐

A lawful quorum of voting members is present to conduct business.

Chairman Orr joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.



Notice of Meeting:

Sufficient notice of the meeting was posted on October 25, 2021, to the Secretary of State's Open Meeting Act Posting Board.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting on September 9, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wingo to adopt the minutes as written. Commissioner Carlton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Reports and Presentation:

The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health delivered a presentation on service plans for suicide prevention and crisis interventions that included implemented recommendations from the Commissions 2020 report on suicide prevention efforts provided by the state.

Old Business:

The Commissions Assistant Director updated the members on the progress of the medical scholarship and loan program work group. The work group tasked the staff with working with the boards to clean up enabling legislation, address current program operations, address any areas within the appropriations bill regarding reporting requirements, and cash reserves held by the boards. Some meetings are scheduled with the various boards while others are awaiting scheduling.

The Dental Board has acted on their own based on evaluation findings and discontinued a small loan program.

Member Q&A followed the update and included the following:

- Commissioner questioned accumulated funds and the expectation for spending those funds. Assistant Director commented on working with the boards to set those expectations as well as making it clear to the members.
- Commissioner commented on a concern of the cash reserves being held outside the treasury and not really seen. Questioned whether the boards needed additional appropriations if there is money unexpended. If they are not spending down the cash reserves, do the boards need to be appropriated money for the same purpose.
- The Director added to the topic of cash reserves noting that the boards, for the most part, are spending their annual appropriation. The cash reserves are a result of board collection efforts. Recipients have chosen to pay back loans in lieu of serving in an area of need. This directly speaks to the effectiveness of the loan programs, are they working if recipients are choosing to pay back the loan rather than serve which is the intent of the loan. Member also commented on the collection of funds pointing out that the boards may have more to give in loans but aren't.
- Commissioner questioned the original program outcomes asking if we are seeing a decrease in needs or asked if intended outcomes are being met. Despite the fiscal funds flow, did we improve the outcomes by increasing the number of professionals in areas of need? Assistant Director provided an explanation which included gauging effectiveness based on new standards developed and the need to focus on enabling legislation not aligning with incremental changes that have been made or reporting language that would target specific outcomes moving forward.



- Commissioner asked if recommended changes to legislation and funding could be brought before the Commission before the next legislative session. Response was provided by the Assistant Director with wrapping up work group action items by early December.
- Commissioner asked if the boards have been responsive to staff requests. To date they have been. Follow-up questions on the timing of meeting with boards to meet the early December deadline and Assistant Director continued the response with dates that have been already determined.
- Commissioner questioned administrative fees taken by the board and Assistant Director the report for specifics but indicated minimal fees were taken by some boards.
- Director provided closing comments to the work group pointing out that starting with the actions taken by the Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health, and the Department of Education as a result of the suicide prevention evaluation and continuing with the work group meetings on medical scholarship and loan programs, that we are seeing a path forward for the Commission to establish a process for implementing report recommendations. Similar to the work group on loan programs, we are exploring opportunities to work with correctional education stakeholders on Commission action items.
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New Business:

The Commission Director presented the financial report that included FY21 actual expenditures, FY22 budget, and FY23 budget request. Questions followed the report and included the following:

- Commission questioned FY22 budget line item for Professional Services as well as Grants and Benefits. The Director provided an explanation of the budget line items and continued to provide further clarification as needed.
- Commission expressed an interest in approving any grants provided to agencies for research such as impact evaluations.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, at 5:02 p.m. Chairman Orr moved that the meeting be adjourned.