



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 September 9, 2021, at 3:03 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.



Notice of Meeting:

Sufficient notice of the meeting was posted on August 26, 2021 to the Secretary of State's Open Meeting Act Posting Board.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting on May 5, 2021.

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

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – desire was expressed to continue in their roles as chair and vice-chair.

Chair – Commissioner Orr was nominated by Commissioner Filmore and seconded by Commissioner Green. Motion made by Commissioner Green to close nominations and seconded by Commissioner White.

Vice Chair – Commissioner Filmore was nominated by Commissioner Orr and seconded by Commissioner Carlton. Motion made by Commissioner Albritton to close nominations and seconded by Commissioner White.

Opening remarks were made by the Director including introduction of representatives in attendance from the Board for Medical Scholarships, Board of Dental Scholarships, and Board of Optometric Scholarships.

A brief explanation of the Service Assessment – Medical Professional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs was provided clarifying the intent to understand the subject matter to include the supplemental Policy Spotlight on Rural and Underserved Alabama Healthcare Initiatives.

Amber Bullock delivered a presentation on the work products.

Following the presentation, Dr. Jones, Chairman of the Board of Dental Scholarships Awards, addressed the Commission. Topics included:

- Dr. Jones thank the commission and discussed how the evaluation process had been beneficial to the board and help to confirm some of their own thoughts. They began in 2016 to make the transition to larger loans pushing rural service. They were able to pass the Alabama Rural Dental Scholarship law allowing for this to take place, but it wasn't until FY2020 that the program was funded. They have awarded their first 2 scholarships under that program and should be awarding a 3rd in the coming months.
- Commissioner questioned whether the applicants had to sign a contract and Dr. Jones confirmed they did.
- Commissioner questioned what the cost of dental school was currently, and Dr. Jones stated that each scholarship was for \$180,000.
- Commissioner questioned the number of applicants and Dr. Jones stated that 4 applied for the first round, and 3 applied for this current round.
- Commissioner questioned whether the Board had staff and Dr. Jones stated that UAB provides an executive secretary from the admissions office.
- Commissioner offered context on the work of certain legislators to work toward improving and adapting the programs in the past several years.



- Commissioner asked who the Board works with at UAB, and Dr. Jones stated that they were not affiliated with the dental school, although the Dental school did have representation on their board. Dr. Jones reiterated the need to publicize the program. Follow-up from a Commissioner pointed out that they loans were not limited to dental school students in Alabama, and we might need to look into advertising outside of the state.

A Commissioner noted that they weren't necessarily in favor of uniformity but did wonder about the goals of the programs. The Director responded that the recommendations were to target clear achievable goals.

Commissioner stated that historically the Legislature is good at establishing programs but bad at establishing programs without defining clear outcomes the programs are meant to achieve. Follow-up discussion included:

- Members caution against being too prescriptive. Organizations are allowed to define their goals and develop rules to achieve their outcomes. Responding Commissioner stressed the need to ensure providers are held accountable.
- Commissioner noted that improvements have been made through the budget language but need to continue to get better tracking and data. Follow-up with more details around the long-term accomplishments of objectives.
- Commissioner stated that organizations don't do what you expect, they do what you inspect. Good reporting requirements are needed and should provide information on whether goals and outcomes are being achieved.

Commission tasked the staff to put together guidance on implementing recommendations and next steps.

Announcements: Director provided background information on areas that the Commission would utilize contracts for.

1. Economic Model and criminal justice data analysis – ACES has been conveyed ownership of an economic model previously held by Results First. Former TA that assisted ACES with the initial build-out of the model with Alabama specific data would potentially be contracted with to assist in the continued build-out as we expand on criminal justice evaluations.
 - Commissioner inquired about the use of the model over the past two-years which was followed up by another Commissioner asking if the former TA was the only provider capable of providing this service.
 2. Implementation Training – there is interest from agency and a desire from the Commission staff to provide resources to agencies on the topic of implementation science. Training would consist of workshops and more intensive technical assistance. Potential to utilize grant funding from Results First.
- Commission requested the staff prepare a contract and RFP to be presented to the Commission for approval.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, at 4:03 p.m. Chairman Orr moved that the meeting be adjourned.