

**MEETING SUMMARY  
OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD  
JUNE 7, 2019**

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board (CAB) met in Springfield and connected by phone on Friday, June 7, 2019.

Present in Springfield:	Deanie Brown, Kathleen Dunn, Randy Eccles, William Holland, Bethany Jaeger, Brian Mackey, Kent Redfield, Karen Witter
Present by phone:	Mario Jimenez, George Van Dusen
Absent:	Cindi Canary, John Carpenter, Bob Gallo, David Kohn, Laurence Msall, Adam Porter, Megan Pressnall, Blake Roderick, Stephanie Rhodes, Chuck Scholz, Dick Schuldt, Corrine Wood

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1. The Nominating Committee of Cindi Canary, Bethany Jaeger, Mario Jimenez and George Van Dusen formally nominated six candidates for board service beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.
2. While four or five nominees can aid in future staggering of terms so not all members roll off at the same time, the Nominating Committee identified six strong nominees that directly align with the priority areas identified by the Community Advisory board in March:
  - Young professionals and individuals younger than 50;
  - Individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds;
  - Geographic representation, particularly suburban and rural communities; and
  - Corporate foundations or other philanthropic networks.
3. The six nominees are summarized in Attachment 1 to this meeting summary. Updated board terms are included as Attachment 2.
4. The committee also nominated officers of chair and vice chair:
  - Bethany Jaeger is nominated for one more year as chair effective July 1, 2019.
  - Karen Witter is nominated as vice chair effective July 1, 2019. The vice chair serves a one-year term and is slated to become chair the following year.
5. A quorum was not present, so a vote on the nominations was not taken. The vote of all existing advisory board members will be sought by email in June 2019.
6. The committee will continue to build relationships with communities and organizations that can help grow and diversify the future pool of advisory board candidates. This includes groups such as the Northwest Municipal Conference managers, DuPage Mayors and Managers and the umbrella membership group called the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The committee also will include the Equip for Equality as a group with a high interest in volunteer board service and public policy issues.

7. The CAB will offer to schedule an in-person meet-and-greet with new advisory board members, potentially one in Springfield and one in Chicago. The Chicago gathering may be in advance of the next CAB meeting scheduled for September 6, 2019.
  - All CAB members will be invited and encouraged to attend either meet-and-greet with new members in either Springfield or Chicago.

#### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GIVING**

8. The CAB established a goal for 100% of CAB members to financially support NPR Illinois. There is no minimum amount required. The CAB started with 50% of members giving.
  - Currently, 75% of CAB members have donated to NPR Illinois.
  - Three CAB members donate \$100 a month or \$1,000 as cornerstone members.
  - Nine CAB members are Calendar Club monthly givers.
  - Nine CAB members donate annually.
  - Three CAB members' businesses underwrite NPR Illinois promotions.
9. New CAB members are oriented to the expectation that they donate to NPR Illinois in any amount that is comfortable for them.

#### **NPR ILLINOIS UPDATE**

10. Public Radio Week in Springfield the last week of May 2019 was the first in the nation to coordinate a concentration of events to celebrate public radio. Most events were held in downtown Springfield and were designed to offer something for everyone. The series of events netted \$10,000 for NPR Illinois.
  - Future considerations include how to secure more sponsorships, whether to link Public Radio week with the spring appeal or a fall appeal, and how to attract people who came to events to become first-time members of NPR Illinois.
11. Brian Mackey, NPR Illinois Statehouse bureau chief, highlighted end-of-session legislative action, including the graduated income tax, legalized marijuana, gaming expansion, capital bill and reproductive health. Advisory board members suggested analyzing Illinois' overall tax burden compared with other states.
12. NPR Illinois is exploring a local journalism collaborative to build capacity for coverage of local news. Randy Eccles met with the University of Illinois Springfield Chancellor, Provost and Dean of the Center for State Policy and Leadership to discuss ways NPR Illinois can expand its local coverage and provide internship opportunities for more graduate students of the Public Affairs Reporting Program at UIS.
  - An initiative to hire three reporters and an editor would require \$500,000 a year over three years to launch and sustain the effort.

- NPR Illinois currently employs seven reporters. The preliminary concept is to increase staff to 12 reporters, each managing a PAR intern to learn firsthand how to cover state, county and local government.
  - The next step is to develop a proposed funding model and potential major funding sources. Randy will develop a preliminary model for CAB feedback prior to engaging potential stakeholders throughout the state to garner corporate and philanthropic support.
13. The NPR Illinois annual “This I Believe” essay contest for high-school students is exploring a partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to host a public event where the essay contest winners can read aloud their essays. The intent is to give the students a greater platform while honoring the Lincoln Legacy.
- The goal is to secure \$20,000 in sponsorships to host the event and offer larger scholarship amounts.
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “This I Believe” essay series offers one opportunity to kick off the event and engage past contest winners.

## **STORY IDEAS**

14. George Van Dusen suggested the following story ideas:
- Highlighting what the legislature did not address in the Spring 2019 session: the \$150 billion pension liability.
  - Explain the work of Gov. JB Pritzker’s Pension Consolidation Task Force and the concept of consolidating 650 pension funds across the state to save millions of dollars and to relieve local municipalities that are hampered by pension obligations.
  - What is the effect of Chinese tariffs and the looming tariff war with Mexico on the State of Illinois, particularly farmers (NPR Illinois aired a recent story on the affect on soybean farmers).
15. Mario Jimenez offered to connect NPR reporters with families in South America or Bolivia to cover indigenous rights or other relevant topics.
16. Randy Eccles and the NPR Illinois team will try to distribute links to the stories that were suggested by CAB members and that NPR Illinois covered.

## **NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Bethany Jaeger will email a request for advisory board members to vote on the six nominees and two officers by the end of June 2019.
2. Randy Eccles will periodically distribute links to NPR Illinois stories based on or related to the CAB’s ideas.
3. Randy Eccles will convene the Civic Education Committee of Cindi Canary, Mario Jimenez and Kent Redfield.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### CANDIDATES FOR THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

#### Nominees:

1. **Michael Diaz** – Recommended by Deanie Brown. Michael is Deanie’s colleague at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where since 2016 he has served as Executive Associate Director and Title IX Coordinator in the UIC Office for Access and Equity. Michael is also an attorney who has worked with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Banking, as the Director of the Division’s Legal Department. He earned his law degree and a master’s degree from Loyola University in Chicago, and his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
2. **Jamey Dunn-Thomason** – Recommended by Bethany Jaeger; current Senior Coordinator of Strategic Communications for the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA); former Illinois Issues bureau chief; former Comptroller Suzanna Mendoza’s communications office; 2018 Edgar Fellow.
3. **Regina Kovach** – Recommended by Bill Holland in 2018; Springfield internal medicine; philanthropist; avid NPR Illinois listener; expressed interest in serving on the CAB
4. **Lisbeth Lenos** – Recommended by Cindi Canary. Lisbeth is an alumna of the Mikva Challenge and serves on the Mikva Challenge Board of Directors. She graduated from the University of Illinois Springfield in 2013 and is a recipient of Yale University’s Junior Statesman of America Honors Fellowship. She currently works as an assistant legislative liaison with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).
5. **Phillip Lopez** – Recommended by Mario Jimenez in 2019. Phillip lives in Avon and retired last year. He previously worked for the Illinois Department of Human Services in Monmouth and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services in Springfield. He was an adjunct instructor of Sociology at Henry Hill Correctional Center and a DUI service provider through Bridgeway. He has much experience in substance abuse prevention and treatment dating back to the 1980s. This includes working with clients in the criminal justice system for possible diversion into substance abuse treatment programs. He donates to his local NPR station in Macomb and enjoys family activities, working out, sports, music and film.
6. **Nabih Elhadj** – Recommended by Mario Jimenez. Adjunct instructor of entrepreneurship at University of Illinois Springfield; current director of Sangamon CEO; prior business analyst at Horace Mann; entrepreneur who opened The Market on Koke Mill in Springfield; former Northwestern Mutual financial representative; he earned his undergraduate degree from Eureka College, his master’s degree in public administration from UIS and his MBA from Purdue University; he earned a certificate in disruptive strategy from the Harvard Business School in 2017.

### AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

#### STAGGERED TERMS OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The following summary of terms is pending CAB action to affirm nominees, who appear in **blue font**.

Advisory Board Member	Term 1	Term 2
<b>1. Deanie Brown</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023
<b>2. Cindi Canary</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021
<b>3. John Carpenter</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022
<b>4. Jon Davis (2017)</b>	Ex officio	Ex officio
<b>5. Michael Diaz</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>6. Kathleen Dunn (2006)</b>	N/A	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019
<b>7. Jamey Dunn-Thomason</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>8. Gov. Jim Edgar</b>	Emeritus	Emeritus
<b>9. Nabih Elhajj</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>10. Robert Gallo</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022
<b>11. William Holland (2018)</b>	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>12. Bethany Jaeger (2010)</b>	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2017 – 2018, Chair, year 1</li> <li>• 2018 – 2019, Chair, year 2</li> <li>• 2019 – 2020, Chair, year 3</li> </ul>
<b>13. Mario Jimenez (2018)</b>	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>14. David Kohn (2012)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>15. Regina Kovach</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>16. Lisbeth Lenos</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>17. Phillip Lopez</b>	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
<b>18. Laurence Msall (2006)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023
<b>19. Adam Porter (2012)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
<b>20. Megan Pressnall (2013)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022
<b>21. Kent Redfield</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023
<b>22. Stephanie Rhodes (2018)</b>	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>23. Blake Roderick (2012)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020
<b>24. Chuck Scholz (2006) – (Involved since 1990s)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021, Past Chair	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>25. Dick Schuldt (2013)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>26. George Van Dusen</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024
<b>27. Karen Witter (2013)</b>	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019-2020, Vice Chair</li> <li>• 2020-2021, Chair</li> </ul>
<b>28. Corinne Wood</b>	N/A	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021

- Members serve three-year terms and can serve up to three terms.
- Officers serve one-year terms and can opt to serve additional terms as officer.