

NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 23, 2020

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board met by Zoom for its quarterly meeting on June 23, 2020.

1. The University of Illinois Springfield's Center for State Policy and Leadership, where NPR Illinois is based, is transitioning in leadership from David Racine, who has served as Executive Director of the Center for 10 years, to Molly Lamb, who joins the Center after spending 12 years at the Illinois Department of Public Health.
2. The Community Advisory Board approved three new members whose terms will start July 1, 2020: Monique Garcia, Jeremiah Stephan and Rachel Yokem. Karen Witter was approved as the incoming Community Advisory Board Chair for a two-year term. An orientation will be scheduled before the September 22, 2020 meeting.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a need to reschedule engagement events and fundraising activities. There is some good news and exciting programming planned.
 - a. The Spring Drive has raised \$485,000 of its \$500,000 goal, which is good considering the pandemic.
 - b. AARP Illinois will sponsor the State Week program, a significant contribution.
 - c. Virtual events are under development, including a virtual night with Terri Gross, NPR's host of Fresh Air.
 - d. Public Radio Days and a Podcast Academy will be planned for Spring 2021.
4. NPR Illinois staff is down. The university has approved a search for a Statehouse bureau chief, a critical position to serving NPR Illinois' mission with a front-row seat in the Capitol at a time when the Statehouse Press Corps has diminished in the number of reporters dedicated to covering state government and politics. The Statehouse position is funded by a collaboration between other NPR affiliates who benefit from content generated by the NPR Illinois Statehouse bureau.
5. NPR Illinois reporter Mary Hanson has started a blog dedicated to updating state and local information about the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Website analytics show an increase in NPR Illinois website visits during the pandemic.
6. NPR Illinois staff won three Associated Press awards for last year's reporting.
 - a. A report generated through a partnership with ProPublica, "[Preserving the Reputations of Sexual Harassers](#)," was named Best Investigative Report.

- b. Reporter Dusty Rhodes took the Best News Feature Award for "[School Nurse Breaks a Rule to Save a Life.](#)"
 - c. Brian Mackey took home the Best Light Feature award for "[Have We Been Misspelling J.B. Pritzker's Name?](#)"
7. Community Advisory Board members offered a variety of perspectives on timely story ideas for consideration by the NPR Illinois editorial team.
 8. Future quarterly meetings of the Community Advisory Board are scheduled but pending whether they will occur in person or virtually given the pandemic.