



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

APPROVED JUL 7 0 2026

NOTICE

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday May 5, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Location: Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion 115 S. LaSalle Street, 4th Floor –
Lincoln Park Conference Room, Chicago, IL 60603**

**Lincoln Tower Plaza 524 South 2nd Street, Suite 502 - CEI Executive Conference Room,
Springfield, IL 62701**

Virtual: Webex Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call Meeting to Order

- Chair Alan Brazil called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the Commission provided telephonic and video access to the meeting so that members of the public can monitor the meeting and has updated its website to keep the public fully apprised of the Commission activities relating to virtual participation.
- **Roll Call of Subcommittee Members**
Parliamentarian and BEP Deputy Director Latasha Binder conducted roll call of members. A quorum was present.

BEP Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS				
Members	Present			Absent
	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	via WebEx	
Chair Alan Brazil	X			
Member Bola Delano	X			
Member Andrew Johnson	X			
Member Jesse Martinez	X			
Member Olivier Kamanzi	X			
Member Gabriela Garza			X	
Member Debra Jennings-Johnson				X



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
 Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
 115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
 Chicago, IL 60603

Agency Representatives

BEP Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Chicago	In person - Springfield	via WebEx
Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion	LaTasha Binder	X		
	Carlos Gutiérrez	X		
	Andres Padua	X		
	Jacob Perez			X
	Alexandria Wilson			X
	Angela Phillips	X		
	Hilaree Butler			X

- II. **Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2026 (Action)**
 - Member Jesse Martinez motioned to approve minutes from April 7, 2026. Seconded by Member Olivier Kamanzi.
 - Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **Ongoing Business**
 - A. **BEP Certification Unit Report – LaTasha Binder, CEI Deputy Director**
 - i. Deputy Director Binder presented updates on Certification Unit operations, outreach and process improvements.
 - a. The Certification Unit is participating in the **Certify & Thrive** campaign to increase BEP certification participation. Efforts include:
 - Collaboration with Outreach to leverage vendor and stakeholder networks.
 - Encouraging firms to update their information.
 - Enhancing public understanding of the certification process.
 - b. The Certification Unit continues to aid the public through **weekly virtual office hours**, offering:
 - General guidance on the certification process.
 - One-on-one support for applicants.
 - Services in English and Spanish.
 - c. The Certification Unit continues coordination with partner agencies to strengthen relationships and remain informed of program updates.
 - ii. **BEP Certification Metrics**
 - a. Current BEP active Certified Vendor Pool as of March 27, 2026 there were 2853 active files in the Diversity Management Portal.
 - b. Average application processing time takes approximately 46 days from start to finish: 14 days under the time allotted by statute.

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140) the above meeting is open to the public.

**Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion**

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

- iii. Subcommittee Member Discussion and inquiries
 - a. Member Bola Delano inquired whether outreach efforts applied solely to State certification or if they also extended to City and County certification programs.
 - b. Deputy Director Binder informed the Subcommittee that the outreach efforts are focused on obtaining full BEP Certification with the State of Illinois. She further explained that the BEP also recognizes certifications issued by other qualifying governmental entities and agencies through the State's 30-day FastTrack application process.

B. The Consultants Consortium LLC - Certification Appeal (Action)

- i. **Fact Overview CEI Certification Unit Manager Carlos Gutierrez**
 - a. Carlos Gutierrez, Manager of the Certification Unit, presented the basis for the denial of the application. Mr. Gutierrez reported that the denial was issued due to concerns related to ownership and control, including:
 - A complex holding company structure.
 - Conflicting documentation regarding ownership, control, voting rights, and authority among Class A, B, and C members.
 - b. Mr. Gutierrez further reported the following concerns identified during the review process:
 - The holding company maintains 100% ownership of The Consultants Consortium LLC.
 - The individual claiming eligibility maintains 51% ownership of the holding company.
 - The governance structure may dilute control among multiple board members.
 - c. Mr. Gutierrez also noted that a non-qualifying individual currently serves as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company.
- ii. **Vendor Testimonial**
 - a. Company representative, Glorify Mandmi, provided testimony on behalf of the applicant and stated the following:
 - Mr. Steve Maudlin owns 51% of the holding company.
 - The holding company, Consortium Holding, maintains control of The Consultants Consortium LLC).
 - The Board of Directors serves in an advisory capacity, and Mr. Maudlin retains authority to override decisions made by the Board.
- iii. **Subcommittee Decision**
 - a. Members of the Subcommittee expressed concerns regarding the following:
 - A lack of clarity within the submitted documentation concerning actual control of the company.
 - Potential inconsistencies between ownership interests and operational authority.

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140) the above meeting is open to the public.



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

- The unconventional structure and authority of the Board of Directors.

iv. Subcommittee Vote

- a. Member Andrew Johnson made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the denial of BEP Certification. Member Jesse Martinez seconded the motion.
- b. The motion to uphold the denial of certification passed by unanimous vote.
- c. The applicant was advised of the right to appeal the decision before the Full BEP Council for further review.

V Public Comment

- Tracey Sullivan provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding ongoing efforts to evaluate and improve the Certification process. She stated that the goal is to increase the number of firms successfully obtaining certification through CEI. Ms. Sullivan expressed concerns that many applicants do not fully understand the questions presented within the application portal, noting that portions of the application lack clear and concise language, which may create barriers for applicants navigating the certification process.

Vi. Adjournment

- Member Olivier Kamanzi made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Andrew Johnson. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.