



**NOTICE**

**Business Enterprise Council  
CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, November 23, 2020**

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Location: Webex Videoconferencing**

**MINUTES**

I. Welcome

Chair Roberts welcomed everyone.

II. Call to Order

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. Carlos Gutierrez proceeded with roll call.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Full Quorum was established.

<b>BEP Certification Subcommittee</b>				
<b>ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Present</b>			<b>Absent</b>
	<b>In person - Chicago</b>	<b>In person- Springfield</b>	<b>via WebEx</b>	
<b>Sharla Roberts, Chair</b>			<b>x</b>	
<b>Bola Delano</b>			<b>x</b>	
<b>Jaime DiPaulo</b>			<b>x</b>	
<b>Beth Doria</b>			<b>x</b>	



Karen Eng			X	
Larry Ivory			X	
Sharron Matthews			X	
Edward McKinnie			X	

Note: The meeting was held via WebEx video conference to adhere to the social distancing guidelines due to the COVID -19 pandemic.

BEP Certification Subcommittee				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Chicago	In person - Springfield	via WebEx
Central Management Services	Kori Acosta			
	Carlos Gutiérrez			
	Radhika Lakhani			
	Nicole Mandeville			X
	Mike Merchant			
	Rebecca Roussell			

Total: 6 CMS and other Agency Employees attended this meeting.

Posted Business



**a. Approval of September 28, 2020 Certification Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Member Doria motioned to approve the minutes from September 28, 2020. Member Ivory seconded. All agreed. The minutes were approved

**b. Appeals:**

**i. Neta Scientific, Inc.**

1. Mr. Gutierrez summarized that Neta Scientific was over the cap and that they are requesting a waiver to continue to work on their outstanding contract.
2. Chair Roberts introduced the council members, explained the proceedings, and gave the floor to Mrs. Sanders for opening remarks.
3. Mrs. Sanders thanked the council and introduced Elaine Macy, their Business Contracts and Certification Manager present with them today.
4. Mrs. Sanders reported they have not had to layoff any of their employees. She said they are headquartered in Hainesport, NJ and have representation throughout the U.S.
5. Mr. Sanders pointed to the graph demonstrating the diversity of their company. He explained that their new hires for the state will be in Illinois.
6. Mr. Sanders presented their diversity plan. He stated that Neta Scientific is committed to 1) to increase annual diversity hiring, 2) set-up a Neta entity in Illinois to generate jobs for diversity hiring, 3) increase spend with other diverse Illinois companies targeting digital marketing and logistics firms, 4) to spend more with Illinois small business partners to ensure better delivery service in Illinois, and 5) providing annual KPIs on their progress and performance.
7. Member Ivory commented that they did a thorough analysis and gave one of the best presentations he has seen in quite some time. Members Doria and Matthews agreed with Member Ivory.
8. Mrs. Sanders gave closing remarks, confirming their commitment to continuing to work with the State to meet BEP goals.

**ii. Inspired Solutions, Inc.**

1. Mr. Gutierrez explained Inspired Solutions' affiliate partnership put them over the cap and the appeal had been tabled in order for them to provide additional supporting information which has been provided.



2. Mr. Gutierrez stated the vendor provided documentation reflecting that the company is being utilized as an MBE certified vendor on the contract they are bidding on for the veteran's home.

**c. Update on 2020 by 2020 Plan**

1. Mr. Gutierrez stated they are still working on the 2020 by 2020 goal. He said the plan needs to be revamped and then an update will be presented.

Member Ivory to motioned to move to Closed Session to discuss the appeals. Member Mathews seconded. All agreed.

Deliberations were held, votes taken, and the following recommendations were made:

- **Neta Scientific, Inc.** – Recommended approval of the exemption
- **Inspired Solutions, Inc.** – Recommended approval of the exception

IV. Upcoming Business Enterprise Council & Subcommittee meeting dates:

- Next Council Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2020
- Next Certification Subcommittee Meeting – Monday, November 23, 2020
- Next Outreach Subcommittee Meeting – Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Next Compliance Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2020

V. Public / Vendor Testimony

Chair Roberts asked if there was public/vendor testimony. There was none.

VI. Adjournment

Member Delano moved to adjourn. Member Doria seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.