Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM
COMMISSION CHAIR

BEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2016
What is the Commission?

- The Commission is the result of discussions between Congress and the Executive Branch on improving how government uses survey and administrative data.

- Making better use of administrative data has tremendous potential to improve how government programs operate.

- Created by bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray, enacted March 30, 2016 (P.L. 114-140).

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### Who are the Commissioners?

- **15-member bipartisan commission:**

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<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Researchers and Administrators</th>
<th>Privacy Experts</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Katharine Abraham</td>
<td>Paul Ohm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
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<td>(CHAIR)</td>
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<td>Speaker of the House</td>
<td>Ron Haskins</td>
<td>Robert Hahn</td>
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<td>Brookings Institution</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(CO-CHAIR)</td>
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<td>House Minority Leader</td>
<td>Hilary Hoynes</td>
<td>Latanya Sweeney</td>
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<td>University of California,</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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<td>Berkeley</td>
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<td>Senate Majority Leader</td>
<td>Kenneth Troske</td>
<td>Kathleen Rice</td>
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<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td>Faerge Baker Daniels LLP</td>
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<td>Senate Minority Leader</td>
<td>Jeffrey Liebman</td>
<td>Robert Groves</td>
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What is the Commission working on?

- The Commission has the opportunity to
  - Consider how data, research, and evaluation currently are used to build evidence about Federal programs,
  - Consider and make recommendations about how to strengthen evidence-building in the Federal government

- **Key Areas of Focus:**
  1. Integration of survey and administrative data
  2. Data infrastructure and data security considerations
  3. Incorporation of evaluation in program design
  4. Models for a possible Federal data facility
How is the Commission Considering Privacy?

- Privacy considerations are an important component of the Commission’s work
  - 5 of the 15 Commissioners were appointed based on expertise in “protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization”
  - The Commission’s Sept. 9 meeting was devoted to key considerations about privacy related to evidence-building

- Privacy considerations will continue to play a substantial role as the Commission formulates findings and recommendations
What is the Role of Evaluation in the Commission’s Work?

• Important for the Commission to understand the needs of the evaluation community
  ○ Evaluators both inside and outside of government play a central role in generating relevant and rigorous evidence

• The Commission’s Nov. 4 meeting focused on issues of concern to evaluators
  ○ Nine witnesses described key capacity challenges and opportunities, including those related to collecting and accessing data for evaluation
  ○ Numerous other evaluation associations, advocates, and contractors have contacted the Commission to provide suggestions and advice
What is the Commission’s timeline?

Past Events
- **Meeting #1, July 2016** – Introduction
- **Meeting #2, Sept. 2016** – Privacy Considerations
- **Public Hearing, Oct. 2016** – Washington, DC
- **Meeting #3, Nov. 2016** – Key Issues Related to Evaluation

Upcoming Events
- **Meeting #4, Dec 12, 2016** – Federal Models
- **Public hearing, Jan. 5, 2017** – Chicago, IL
- **Meeting #5, Jan 13, 2017** – State and International Models
- Future meetings, to be announced

**CEP Enacted**
March 2016

**Meetings, Hearings, Research & Deliberations**
July 2016-August 2017

**Final Report**
September 2017

**Commission Ends**
Sept. 30, 2017

Requires approval of 12 Commissioners

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How can you participate?

- **Submit Written Comments:**

- **Attend a Meeting of the Commission**
  - Next meetings scheduled for Dec. 12 and Jan. 13 in Washington, DC
  - Check CEP.gov for notices regarding in-person and remote attendance

- **Attend a Public Hearing**
  - Next hearing scheduled for Jan. 5 in Chicago and third hearing will be held on the West Coast in February
  - Check CEP.gov for the latest notice

- **Join the Commission email list for future updates:**
  - events@cep.gov

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