

Commission on Evidence- Based Policymaking



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COMMISSION CHAIR**

**FEDERAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 9, 2016**

What is the Commission?



- The Commission is the result of discussions between Congress and the Executive Branch on **opportunities for improving how the government uses survey and administrative data**
 - Particular interest in the use of administrative data to produce more robust statistics and support program evaluation
- **Created by bipartisan legislation** co-sponsored by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray, enacted March 30, 2016 (P.L. 114-140)

Who are the Commissioners?



- 15-member bipartisan commission:

	Researchers and Administrators	Privacy Experts
President	Katharine Abraham <i>University of Maryland</i> (CHAIR)	Allison Orris <i>OMB</i>
Speaker of the House	Ron Haskins <i>Brookings Institution</i> (CO-CHAIR)	Bruce Meyer <i>University of Chicago</i>
House Minority Leader	Hilary Hoynes <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>	Sherry Glied <i>New York University</i>
Senate Majority Leader	Kenneth Troske <i>University of Kentucky</i>	Robert Shea <i>Grant Thornton LLP</i>
Senate Minority Leader	Jeffrey Liebman <i>Harvard University</i>	Kim Wallin <i>Wallin Ltd.</i>
		Paul Ohm <i>Georgetown University</i>
		Robert Hahn <i>University of Oxford</i>
		Latanya Sweeney <i>Harvard University</i>
		Kathleen Rice <i>Faerge Baker Daniels LLP</i>
		Robert Groves <i>Georgetown University</i>

What is the Commission working on?



- Major focus on uses of data to produce relevant evidence about Federal programs
- Data lifecycle model a framework for thinking about current practice and potential future models
 - Data acquisition
 - Data curation
 - Data linkage
 - Data access/analysis
 - Data archiving/destruction
- Also charged to make recommendations about how to institutionalize robust evaluation in ongoing program operations

Privacy considerations central to our work



- 5 of the 15 Commissioners were appointed based on expertise in “protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization”
- The Commission’s September 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 are we hearing: Existing Federal models



- **Will discuss Federal models at December 12 meeting**
 - Data acquisition, curation and linkage
 - ✦ BLS QCEW program
 - ✦ Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications
 - ✦ Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program
 - Data access/analysis
 - ✦ Statistics of Income Joint Statistical Research Program
 - ✦ Federal Statistical Research Data Center network
 - ✦ CMS Virtual Research Data Center
 - ✦ NCES Data Licensing System
- **Data access models differ in several respects**
 - Implementation of privacy and confidentiality safeguards
 - Criteria and process for research project approval
 - Approaches to funding necessary infrastructure

What are we hearing: International models



- Working to understand how other countries tackle these issues; will explore this more at our January 13 meeting.
- Four aspects of approach to data access that appear to be common across several countries:
 - Centralized, but shared, governance: Centralized approval of research applications by board that include lay members
 - Privacy Principles – Five Safes: Safe people, safe project, safe setting, safe data, safe outputs
 - Distributed Access: Virtualized access, walled off analysis
 - Cost Recovery: User fees fund access models

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 November 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 are we hearing: RFC



- CEP published a Request for Comments in September; will remain open thru December 14.
- More than 220 comments received thus far
- Major themes we're hearing from the public
 - Nearly 150 comments related to privacy concerns with collecting and using specific data. Many are related to the student unit record ban or objecting to government collection of data
 - More than 70 comments include detailed suggestions about improving access to microdata for research purposes, with extensive focus on strategies for preserving privacy and confidentiality
 - Multiple commenters have offered specific models of linkage, access, or data security
 - Multiple commenters have encouraged integrating program evaluation in the design of Federal programs, with many encouraging the Commission to promote a range of methods in final recommendations

What is the Commission's timeline?



*Requires approval of
12 Commissioners*

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
- **Public Hearing, Feb 9, 2017** – San Francisco, CA

How can you participate?



- **Submit Written Comments:**
 - Request for Comments posted in *Federal Register* on Sept. 14 available at *regulations.gov* under Docket ID USBC-2016-0003 until Dec. 14, 2016.
- **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 January 5 in Chicago
 - Third hearing scheduled for February 9 in San Francisco
 - Check CEP.gov for notices regarding attendance options
- **Join the Commission **email list** for future updates:**
 - events@cep.gov