

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

Establish the Illinois Commission on Children, Youth, and Families (HB 4456)

Representatives Harris - Pritchard

What is the issue?

- Despite recent initiatives to expand health care and preschool for all children statewide there continue to be unmet needs, service gaps, and other challenges facing children and youth.
- Illinois needs a coordinated body that is proactive and strategic in nature, which engages the diverse array of children and youth stakeholders, and takes a comprehensive approach to improving and expanding service delivery to prepare all children and youth in Illinois for successful transitions to adulthood.

What does HB 4456 do?

Creates the Illinois Commission on Children, Youth and Families to work collaboratively and strategically across diverse service delivery systems to support and enhance a more intentional, aligned, coordinated and comprehensive set of children and youth service systems in Illinois. Key public and private stakeholders will serve on the Commission to advise state planning, priority setting, and investment of resources in children, youth, and families.

- Membership – The Commission will be composed of a diverse array of public and private stakeholders with expertise and a demonstrated interest in issues impacting children, youth and families, including: members of the General Assembly; a member of the Governor's Leadership Team; representatives of State agencies serving children, youth and families; public members from fields such as child advocacy, child welfare, children's mental health, civic engagement, education, healthcare and wellness, housing and homelessness, human rights, juvenile justice, philanthropy, pregnant and parenting youth, substance abuse, and workforce development; as well as parents and young people themselves.
- Goals – The goals of the Commission shall include enhancing coordination of existing state program and services and developing innovated strategies related to preventive health, education completion, workforce development, social and emotional development, and civic engagement. The Commission will consider the following factors in its assessments and recommendations: Strategies to broaden access to programs and services to youth up through age 24; Disparities in access and outcomes that may be present along racial, ethnic, geographic, gender, sexual orientation, and other variables; Mechanisms to ensure youth, family and community input in the Commission process; and Mechanisms for data collection and tracking that integrate data across programs and funding streams when possible.
- Report – The Commission will issue an interim report to the constitutional officers and members of the General Assembly on its activities, findings, and recommendations on or before December 31, 2009 and a final report on or before December 31, 2011.

How will HB 4456 empower young women and girls?

Through the creation of the Commission, Illinois can leverage the wealth of experience and expertise that is present across the state to devise solutions that support the well-being of all children, youth, and their families and the future well-being of our State as a whole.