Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

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NCVHS MEETING

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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** *University of Maryland* **(CHAIR)**	***Vacant**** *OMB*	**Paul Ohm** *Georgetown University*
Speaker of the House	**Ron Haskins** *Brookings Institution* **(CO-CHAIR)**	**Bruce Meyer** *University of Chicago*	**Robert Hahn** *University of Oxford*
House Minority Leader	**Hilary Hoynes** *University of California, Berkeley*	**Sherry Glied** *New York University*	**Latanya Sweeney** *Harvard University*
Senate Majority Leader	**Kenneth Troske** *University of Kentucky*	**Robert Shea** *Grant Thornton LLP*	**Kathleen Rice** *Faerge Baker Daniels LLP*
Senate Minority Leader	**Jeffrey Liebman** *Harvard University*	**Kim Wallin** *Wallin Ltd.*	**Robert Groves** *Georgetown University*

What is the Commission's timeline?

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

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
- **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
- *3-4 more public meetings to come …*

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. Data infrastructure and data security considerations
  2. Incorporation of evaluation in program design
  3. Integration of survey and administrative data
  4. Models for a possible Federal data facility

Privacy considerations central to 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 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
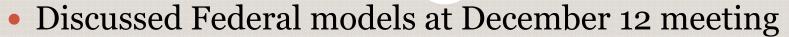
What is the role of evaluation in the Commission's work?

- 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

Consideration of Data Models

- 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

What are we hearing: Existing Federal models

- Discussed 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

We'd love to learn from you

- The Commission and NCVHS ...