SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RESPONDING TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO IOWA CODE 16.2D and draft responses

September 2021

So based on what I am seeing financial institutions would not be ICH.  Why is there no mention of the nomination and term of a secretary?

If that’s the plan, I guess that is the plan. Wouldn’t you want a secretary in the proposed changes?

*The secretary role only appears to be mentioned in our Governance Charter, which will obviously need revising (September 2017) when other changes are approved.*

The examples included private business, that may exclude publicly traded corporations or a cooperative like FHLB or potentially Credit Unions.

*Perhaps adding banking/finance specifically to 2.a.(1) would make sense since it would be among the most relevant categories of private business?*

Rather than identify the agency’s to be represented, should we instead change this to allow flexibility in which seven agencies are represented?

*This seems entirely plausible.*

For what it’s worth, I strongly recommend that state agencies act as partner members of the ICH but in a non-voting role. Since state agencies serve the Governor and are not allowed to take a policy position contrary to that of the Governor’s office, asking state agency members to vote on any matter potentially related state policy puts us in an uncomfortable position at best. Let’s not even talk about where it might wind up at worse for a state agency rep who goes rogue.

*Having non-voting/advisory-only members on a board is not unusual. Would this be an incentive or deterrent to departmental participation?*

4.a. This sentence should end with “subcommittees.” Only the Executive and Nominating Committees have been limited to Council members and the last clause indicates that only Council members can serve on committees.

*No where else does language preclude non-Council members from serving on committees, though practices has always required that committee chairs be current ICH members?*

 Quick question regarding section 9b regarding Point in Time. The current language says the  council shall prepare and file with the governor and the general assembly on or before the first day of December.  With the PIT being done the last 10 days of January, does the council then have 12 months to report the data? If so, these seems excessively long and the data is pretty much out dated.

*Timing is always an issue; the December date seems to be chosen in the hope that such information would influence the legislative agenda for the following year. Nothing would preclude Council from sharing the Point in Time data with the governor and legislators as soon as it becomes finalized.*

With the state fiscal year being July to June, would the data be able to be reported prior to the start of the fiscal year?

*Point in Time data reports are normally available by May. However, funding decisions are typically made as the data are being processed and would likely be too late to influence budgets for the coming year; more likely for the following year.*

Under 8 d & e I wonder if we need to keep those or finesse somehow. What I get from utilizing existing resources is partner with department programs.  Should we be that blunt and say that?

*Perhaps the spirit could be left in and made more forceful by charging the ICH with coordinating information about existing and potential resources.and applying those to reducing homelessness. This would include federal grants that typically flow through state departments and which address homelessness/housing but currently operate outside of any ICH role. Other resources such as USDA Rural Housing (public) and United Way, community foundation and faith-based initiatives (private) should at least be identified and invited to engage.*

*No comments were submitted for or against the proposed reduction to specific numbers on the Council as a whole (38 to 19), to deleting representation of the Iowa State Association of Counties (1), the Iowa League of Cities (1), or the agencies suggested for removal from representation (IEDA, Human Rights, Public Safety, Veterans Affairs), or reduction in representation from the general public (26 to 12)*