

Bank On Illinois Commission Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: March 6, 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

In person meeting: 555 W Monroe Street, 10th Floor, Rockford Room, Chicago, Illinois 60661

Online meeting access: Webex

Commission members attended in person:

Commission members attended via Webex: Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Francisco Menchaca, Barbara Martinez, Paul Lopez, Tracy Frizzell

Advisory: Chasse Rehwinkel, Andrea Ramirez-Justin

Staff: Bola Delano, Samantha Alonso, Louisa Keefe, Ted Cox, Cesar Orozco, Grecia Tures, Julie Ayres, Wendy Onofre, Nassir Faulkner, Jessica Velez

Other: Kimber Beckler, Patrick Basler, Tere Wang, Sarah Stennis of Senator Belt's Office

Call to Order/Roll Call:

On behalf of Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Bola Delano welcomed commission members to the first Bank On Illinois commission meeting in 2024. Samantha Alonso conducted the roll call.

Approval of Meeting Minutes 12/6/23:

Paul Lopez made a motion, No second motion.

Since there were only 3 members of the Commission in attendance when the request was made, there was a brief discussion that approving the minutes should be tabled at the meeting in June. Bola Delano deferred to Jessica Velez, Deputy General Counsel, Illinois Office of Comptroller, for any comments, she explained that as per the Open Meeting Act and the Bank On legislation the Commission did not need a quorum to approve minutes.

Member, Nikki Giancola-Shanks expressed concern so it was left that the Dec 6, 2023, minutes will be approved at the June meeting.

National/Bank On Updates:

Bola Delano thanked everyone for their time and commitment and gave a summary of what was happening nationally with the Bank On program.

No products were certified in Illinois, but a Devon Bank product was just added to the Bank On Illinois program. To date Bank On Illinois has 56 banking products.

Under the newly updated Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations, banks can now get CRA credit for offering a Bank On certified account (Bank On certified accounts are specifically called out as eligible for credit). Small and intermediate banks can also receive extra credit that can elevate their CRA score to outstanding rather than satisfactory. This is great news for the Bank On Illinois program and staff will be reaching out to all participants to inform them of this additional benefit. This credit does not apply to credit union participants.

Bola Delano also informed members that there are discussions at the federal level with the Department of Treasury to develop a national strategy for financial inclusion. This will provide a unique opportunity to build a national systemic banking access strategy that will connect unbanked Americans to mainstream banking. As much as Bank On coalitions are already doing this, this initiative will create more effective bankable moments across the nation with federal agencies partnering on similar programs. Agencies include Federal Prisons, the IRS, the Social Security system, Veterans Affairs, and migrant agencies.

In conclusion Bank On programs are making a difference.

Bola Delano asked for comments or questions: None were asked.

Digital Equity and Broadband Update: Alicia Ross, Community Engagement Manager, Office of Broadband, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Alicia Ross gave a PowerPoint presentation on Digital Equity Act and the Broadband Equity Access & Deployment Program (BEAD). The presentation focused on the work done to date and included a timeline of activities for the next five years. Ms. Ross highlighted the point that Bank On Illinois staff have been working to ensure that financial education/ literacy/empowerment was included in the plan. The presentation included plans for on-going engagements for digital and financial literacy. (Presentation attached)

Subcommittee Updates:

Financial Products – Andrea Ramirez-Justin, V.P., Government/NFP Banking & Community Outreach, Old Plank Trail Community Bank

Ms. Ramirez-Justin provided an update on four new Bank On Illinois products/accounts which brings a total of 56 Bank On Illinois products available in Illinois. (they will be certified at the next meeting)

Ms. Ramirez-Justin spoke about a couple of events that staff attended.

- Malcolm X College on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024. 500 new arrivals were in attendance, and were provided with a variety of resources as well as training opportunities. Bank On Illinois had a resource table at this event.
- An upcoming outreach event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago. Bank On Illinois will be attending as a resource partner to highlight the Bank On Illinois products. BMO will also be in attendance as a banking partner.

Bola Delano thanked all banking partners, particularly Old National, Wintrust and BMO who attended some events and were able to open new accounts on the spot.

Predatory Lending - Matthew Parrot, President/CEO, SIUE Credit Union

Grecia Tures of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller and Paul Lopez, VP Community Development Manager of Old National Bank gave an update on several initiatives that the subcommittee was working on. She highlighted that the predatory lending and research committee had several joint topics they were looking to expand on. These included:

- Expanding information on what FHA loans are and how they work, conventional vs FHA.

- Developing topics and issues to be covered on the financial empowerment web portal.
- Bank On Illinois app development.
- Additional research into digital currency such as cryptocurrency, fintech support, and other digital assets. Grecia highlighted the fact that Bank On Illinois staff and some committee members met with the IDFPR/Office of Innovation to talk about next steps and working together. More research into digital currency.
- The subcommittee was committed to provide more information/literature on Buy Now Pay Later apps.
- Develop Financial information and education for the increasing migrant community which will include training/literature on how to get an ITIN number and the benefits of getting one, such as being able to open an account with an additional form of identity.
- Increasing efforts to provide more information on the benefits of accounts with Credit Unions.
- Education on pension systems and retirement.

Tracy Frizzell, Executive Director of the Economic Awareness Council mentioned that she has some resources and research studies and newspaper articles that may be relevant to share with the group. Paul Lopez responded that the group was aware of the articles and that triggered the discussion in the research subcommittee.

Chasse Rehwinkel mentioned that the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank has done a lot of research in this space for banking access, and he was willing to make some connections if the commission is interested.

Financial Empowerment - Mike Lee, President/CEO, KCT Credit Union

Bola Delano gave an update on behalf of Mike Lee. A financial empowerment draft legislation (SB3117) was being sponsored by Senator Castor and Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin. Both legislators are in discussions to host a legislative meeting in the summer. Details will be provided once confirmed. Bola Delano clarified that this draft legislation is not expected to be passed this Spring Session but that she would welcome any feedback and participation once the legislation is released.

Commission Appointments:

Bola Delano mentioned that there are two vacancies on the Commission; one was representation from the East St Louis area and one from the Community Bankers Association.

To date Senator Christopher Belt (Senator of the 57th Legislative District, East St Louis, Illinois) has been appointed to the Commission. Senator Belt was not able to attend today due to the legislative session, however he plans to attend the next meeting. His staff member Sarah Stennis was in attendance, and was thanked for her participation.

The vacancy for the Community Bankers Association spot is still not filled. Bola Delano informed members that some Commission member positions were inactive, and these will be brought up for review and discussion later.

Ethics Training: Legal Counsel, Illinois Office of Comptroller

Wendy Onofre, Legal Counsel, Illinois Office of Comptroller announced and informed members that they should have received an email for them to participate in the State's ethics training. For people who did not receive the email or had any questions they should contact Wendy Onofre at wendy.onofre@illinoiscomptroller.gov.

The due date of the ethics training is March 27, 2024.

Legislative Updates: Gwen Peebles, Director of Legislative Affairs, Illinois Office of Comptroller

Due to the legislative session Gwen Peebles was unable to attend. She also had no updates to give at this time.

Considering the low attendance of members due to attending federal and state legislation sessions, Bola Delano mentioned it may be a good idea to move the first quarter (March) Bank On Illinois meeting to the third week in March as this will/should work better for members' schedules.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Lopez and seconded by Barbara Martinez at 10:50 am.

The next meeting is on June 5, 2024, at 10.00am.

Please note: **This will be an in-person meeting.**

Dates of Next Meetings:

June 5, 2024, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

September 4, 2024, 10:00am - 12:00 pm (virtual)

December 4, 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (virtual)