## Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

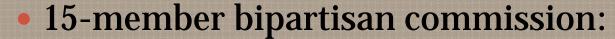
# KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM COMMISSION CHAIR

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?



	Researchers and Administrators		Privacy Experts
President	Katharine Abraham  University of Maryland (CHAIR)	Allison Orris OMB	Paul Ohm Georgetown University
Speaker of the House	Ron Haskins  Brookings Institution (CO-CHAIR)	<b>Bruce Meyer</b> 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	<b>Kim Wallin</b> <i>Wallin Ltd.</i>	Robert Groves Georgetown University

## 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?



#### Meetings, Hearings, Research & Deliberations

July 2016-August 2017

**Final Report** September 2017 Commission Ends

Sept. 30, 2017

#### **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

Requires approval of 12 Commissioners

## 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:

o events@cep.gov