



Councils on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Black Minnesotans, Chicano/Latino People, and Indian Affairs

Update to 2014 Evaluation Report

March 2016

Problems Identified

- **Unclear Purpose.** State laws have given the councils a broad range of duties but have not set forth an overall purpose for their existence. Although the councils have engaged in many activities, they have lacked focus and not made a significant impact in any one area.
- **Not Well Integrated.** The councils have been structurally isolated from state policy making. Although the Governor appoints council members, the councils each appoint an executive director who is not directly accountable to the Governor. The councils have not routinely reported to the Governor or the Legislature's policy committees, although one of their duties is to advise the Governor and Legislature.
- **Inadequate Objectives and Outcome Measures.** The councils have done little to clarify expectations, set priorities, or measure the results of their work. Although required to report on their outcome measures, they have generally focused on listing activities rather than measuring the impact of those activities.
- **Untimely Appointments and Poor Meeting Attendance.** The Governor has not appointed voting members to some of the councils within statutory timeframes, and some appointments have violated state law. Also, some of the councils have had problems achieving quorums at their meetings, making it difficult to conduct business.

Changes Implemented

- **Oversight and Membership Altered.** The 2015 Legislature made significant changes to three of the four councils (the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council was excluded). Changes included: (1) making the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) the appointing authority for the councils' executive directors, (2) giving legislative members voting rights, (3) clarifying the councils' purposes and duties, (4) setting term limits for nonlegislative council members, and (5) increasing reporting requirements. It also renamed two of the councils.
- **Executive Directors Appointed.** In November 2015, the LCC reappointed the executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and appointed new directors for the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage and Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs.