



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, February 7, 2003

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### **SAMUELS APPOINTED TO LEAD DCFS REVIEW COMMISSION**

Governor Rod Blagojevich selected Bryan Samuels, a senior staff member at Chicago Metropolis 2020, to convene a panel to review problems associated with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services.

The Governor asked the seven person task force to assess the State's current welfare needs and to determine whether or not those needs are being met. The Governor has also asked the task force for recommendations on changes to the system and how they might be implemented. The task force will present its report to Governor Blagojevich within 60 days.

Bryan Samuels is a Program Manager at Chicago Metropolis 2020 with responsibility for research and analysis on policy issues such as regional equity, the jobs-housing mismatch, juvenile justice reform, and ex-offender reentry. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

Prior to joining Chicago Metropolis 2020, Samuels spent more than a decade working on state and local government reform in Illinois, Maryland, Rhode Island, Missouri, Indiana, California, and Nebraska. From 1997 to 1998, he served as Deputy Director of Health and Human Services for the State of Nebraska. In Illinois, he served as Assistant to the Governor for Human Services under Jim Thompson during 1990-91.

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Samuels has also worked as a state and local planning consultant for eight years. He has done work for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Cummins Foundation, and the Danforth Foundation.

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit civic organization created in 1999 by The Commercial Club of Chicago to promote long-term planning, better regional cooperation, and smart investments in the Chicago region and its people.

Bryan Samuels holds a BA in economics from Notre Dame and an MA in public policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. He lives in Chicago.

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