The Illinois State Charter School Commission is pleased to announce its restructuring, effective November 1, 2014:

Interim Executive Director:   Hosanna Mahaley Jones
Deputy Director:   Dr. Karen E. Washington
Senior Advisor:    Jeanne L. Nowaczewski, Esq.

Ms. Hosanna Mahaley Jones brings a wealth of experience in the leadership and administration of urban public school districts as well as significant legislative expertise in public affairs to the Commission, which is pleased to have her join its team as its Interim Executive Director. Most recently, Ms. Mahaley Jones served as the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia.  Formerly, she served as Chief of Staff to United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan during his tenure as CEO of the Chicago Public Schools.  Ms. Mahaley Jones’s resume also includes service as President of the Atlanta Public Education Fund, a philanthropic fundraising organization supporting public education in Atlanta, Georgia.  Ms. Mahaley Jones will lead the Commission during its restructuring and assist in the process of securing a permanent Executive Director.

Ms. Jeanne Nowaczewski has served the Commission with distinction as its Founding Executive Director since November 2011.  After three years of leadership, during which Ms. Nowaczewski led the Commission’s assessment of 39 appeals as well as the Commission’s first renewal process, among many other accomplishments, Ms. Nowaczewski will assume the role of Senior Advisor to the Commission.  As Senior Advisor, Ms. Nowaczewski will continue to utilize her charter school authorizing skills and legal training to assist the transition of Commission business, including on-going renewals, annual reviews and contract negotiations, during the next several months.

Dr. Karen E. Washington will continue to serve as the Commission’s Deputy Director, responsible for direct supervision of the Commission’s four schools: Prairie Crossing Charter School, Southland College Prep Charter High School, and the Horizon Science Charter School Academies -- McKinley Park and Belmont Campuses.

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The State Charter School Commission is an independent state entity created by the Illinois legislature effective November 2011, with the authority to review, approve or deny charter school proposals that
are denied by local school boards in Illinois. The Commission also serves as the charter school authorizer for the four schools identified above. The Commission is legislatively mandated to provide best practices for authorizers and to issue regular reports on charter schools to the legislature.

The nine volunteer Commissioners are nominated by the Governor and appointed by the State Board of Education for four year terms. The affiliations and offices held by the current Commissioners are:

- Greg Richmond, CEO, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Chicago
  - Chairman of the Commission
- Angela Rudolph, Executive Director, Hadiya’s Promise and President, T.P.D. Consulting, Chicago
  - Vice-Chair of the Commission
- William Farmer, Teacher, Evanston High School & Illinois Education Association Rep., Evanston
  - Secretary of the Commission
- Jaime Guzman, Executive Director, The Taproot Foundation - Midwest, Chicago
  - Chair, Schools Committee of the Commission
- Dr. Michael Jacoby, Executive Director, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, DeKalb
  - Chair, Operations Committee of the Commission
- DeRonda Williams, Principal, DW, Inc. Consulting, Long Grove
  - Chair, External Relations Committee of the Commission
- Dr. Kathryn Robbins, Retired Superintendent, Leyden High School District 212, Franklin Park
- Dr. Rudy Valdez, EIS Systems Engineering Lead Aftermarket, Hamilton Sundstrand, Rockford
- Sylvia Zaldivar, Executive Director, Maestro Cares, Arlington Heights

The Commission’s Offices are located at the Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 North LaSalle Street, Suite S-601, Chicago, Illinois 60601, telephone (312)814-1258, and its website, which includes postings regarding the latest news and events, is http://www.isbe.net/scsc/default.htm