

Audra D. Brennan

QUALIFICATIONS

- Extensive fiscal/public policy experience at local, state and federal levels
- Broad knowledge of Wisconsin fiscal policy issues and aid formulas
- Effective communication with media, legislative and regulatory officials
- 5 yrs. management consulting experience
- Excellent technology and analytical skills

EXPERIENCE

Project Manager, MPS Innovation and Improvement Advisory Council – Milwaukee, WI (June 2009- present)

- Managed the Advisory Council created by the Wisconsin Governor, Milwaukee Mayor, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction to advise the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) on fiscal, academic and systemic issues.
- In coordination with the Chair, established agendas, maintained the website and prepared summary reports of the Council and its Committees' meetings, findings, and recommendations.
- Provided research and in-depth analysis of various education reforms or MPS initiatives as requested by Council or Committee members.

WI Department of Health and Family Services – Milwaukee, WI (August 2007 – May 2009) *Southeast Wisconsin Medicaid Policy Liaison*

- Served as liaison between Department and Medicaid stakeholders in Southeast Wisconsin.
- Managed outreach for major expansion of Medicaid in Milwaukee area.
- Advised State Medicaid Director on Medicaid policy initiatives.

WI Department of Revenue – Madison, WI (September 2004 – June 2007)

Executive Assistant to Secretary

- Advised Secretary on tax policy, media, and legislative matters
- Managed the Department's press and legislative teams

Division Administrator, Research and Policy

- Managed 15 person team responsible for fiscal estimates, policy formation, and official State revenue estimates
- Reorganized division to achieve greater efficiency and better outcomes

City of Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI (July 2002 – August 2004)

Legislative Fiscal Policy Manager

- Analyzed legislation and prepared testimony on issues critical to the City
- Successfully worked with legislators from both parties to enact legislation from the City's agenda
- Helped spearhead regional cooperation efforts with municipal officials from southeast Wisconsin
- Specialized in issues surrounding aids to local governments, taxation, and transportation

Milwaukee Public Schools – Milwaukee, WI (May 2000 – June 2002)

Legislative Policy Manager (October 2001 – April 2002)

Legislative Policy Specialist (January 2001 – September 2001)

- Supervised legislative team comprised of full-time staff and consultants
- Worked with local, state and federal elected officials to advance MPS legislative agenda
- Identified and implemented strategies to maximize federal education funding to MPS
- Tracked and analyzed federal and state legislative activity

Fiscal Policy Analyst (May 2000 – December 2000)

- Assisted in assessment of financial impact of district-wide initiative to end forced busing
- Analyzed budgets for Business Services Department and several individual schools
- Co-author of proposal to significantly change education funding system in Wisconsin

Congressional Budget Office – Washington, DC (July 1999 – April 2000)

Education Analyst, Budget Analysis Division

- Constructed estimates for federal elementary and secondary education budget
- Produced official cost estimates for all proposed federal education legislation

Chicago Public Schools, Department of Charter Schools – Chicago, IL (June 1998 – September 1998)

Consultant

- Assisted Director in development of accountability agreement for Chicago charter schools
- Performed statistical analysis on demographic and test data to set accountability benchmarks

Annenberg Study, Chicago Consortium on School Research – Chicago, IL (October 1997 – June 1999)

Research Analyst

- Gathered data for a multi-school study of efforts to improve student performance
- Completed case summary for one school based on series of interviews and observations

Andersen Consulting – Chicago, IL (September 1992 – August 1997)

Experienced Consultant, Government Division

Cook County Juvenile Courts (January 1997 – August 1997)

- Managed 6-person team that designed a system to improve juvenile court processing. System decreased case backlog, improved tracking of facility residents and improved data accuracy

Nebraska Department of Social Services (December 1994 – December 1996)

Caterpillar/Northern Trust Bank (October 1992 – November 1994)

- Managed team of 20 clients to test integrated human services system prior to implementation. System improved efficiency of Medicaid, AFDC, and Food stamp approval and distribution.

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy

MA in Public Policy, June 1999

Harris Fellow – merit based full tuition and stipend award

Northwestern University – Evanston, IL

BA, Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences/Economics, June 1992, GPA: 3.68

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Maryland Avenue Montessori Fund Development Board

Agape Community Center, Board Member (2004- 2008)

Volunteer, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, Milwaukee, WI (2000 – 2008)

Tutor, Amidon Elementary School, Washington, DC (1999 – 2000)

President, Harris School of Public Policy Student Association (1998 – 99), Representative (1997 – 98)

Established Harris School Education Policy Group (1997 – 1999)

- Activities included school visits, panel discussions, guest speakers, meetings with legislators

Chicago Marathon (1998), New York Marathon (2001)