

**Governor's Taskforce on Equality
Initial Meeting, Wednesday, April 12, 2006**

Meeting Minutes

Location: BOLI Bldg., 800 NE Oregon St., Suite 120C, Portland, Oregon.

Attending:

Governor Ted Kulongoski
Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner

Taskforce Members:

Paul J. Kelly, Jr. (Chair)
Annabelle Jaramillo
Bruce Samson
Calvin O. L. Henry, Ph.D.
Clara Padilla Andrews
Dan Bryant
Eugene Ross
Kenneth "Rick" Brissette
Sara S. Mason
Sho Dozono
Tiffany Telfer

Non-Voting Members:

David Reese, General Counsel to the Governor
Dave Hicks, Department of Justice
Amy Klare, Bureau of Labor and Industries
Tiffany Harris, Attorney at Law, Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt
Kim Boswell, Law Clerk, Office of the Governor

Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 10 am.

Governor Kulongoski, in opening remarks, asked the Taskforce to perform a comprehensive review of Oregon laws, listen to citizens and develop a proposal that will lead to fundamental equality for gays and lesbians and improve the State for all of its citizens.

Commissioner Gardner, on behalf of BOLI, stated in opening remarks that he and his predecessor have worked to promote equality for gays and lesbians to the full extent of state law. He looks forward to the results of the taskforce that furthers these goals.

Introductions

Paul Kelly – Although he is the Chair, he views his role as an equal member of the task force. The Task Force has a very serious charge. He would like to see taskforce conversations remain informal.

Meetings will solicit public comment – obtain alternative viewpoints.

Open Meetings Law – comments by Dave Hicks

- Although it is not technically applicable to this taskforce, the Governor wants the taskforce to follow the principles of the Open Meeting Law for sake of transparency.
- Six Task Force members must be present in order to have an official meeting.
- Quorum is six members.
- Public testimony is not mandated.
- All votes must be recorded; decisions effective by majority vote.
- Minutes must be taken at each meeting.
- Any time six members meet to discuss Task Force business, 24-hour advance notice and public access is required. It is permissible to discuss matters between fewer than six members without a formal meeting.
- Public records law applies.
- Records of all meetings and correspondence between members, notes taken by all members and all documents generated must be pooled at some time and will be made part of the public record.
- David Reese, Governor's General Counsel, indicated he should be the one to receive all such documents.

Governor's Executive Order 06-03

- Paul Kelly outlined the highlights of the Executive Order that created the Task Force on Equality. The scope of the Task Force's charge is to review and analyze current law and recommend changes.
- The Task Force will seek to function by consensus to the extent possible, but take votes if necessary to reach results.
- The Task Force has a deadline of December 1, 2006 to present a final report to the Governor.
- Working backward, that means the Task Force will need to reach conclusions by October and produce the report in November.

Review of Workbook Contents

Discussion of initial materials provided in notebook.

Discussion of Additional Research Needs

Political history of SB 1000 and other proposed legislation

Tiffany Harris will work on this.

Comparison of various bills with current law

It would be helpful to see path of what was proposed and why.

Outline of existing anti-discriminatory laws (race, religion, etc)

SB 1000 mirrors, for the most part, Oregon's antidiscrimination law.

Schedule of meetings:

May 25, 9am to 12pm in Salem, place TBA. No public comment. This will be a working session.

June 30, 9am to 12pm, city/place TBA.

- Everyone should send scheduling information to Paul Kelly, who will try to set dates for successive meetings.
- The Task Force will have several meetings per month once it gets going.
- The public comment portion of meetings may have two different focuses:
 - 1) Invite certain members of the community who can present representative views
 - 2) Have an open microphone session during which anyone can speak.
- The Task Force may want to have subcommittees travel to selected locations in the state to obtain local community input.
- The Governor's website will be a vehicle for letting parties know about meetings and open forum time for comment.

Meeting adjourned 11:58 am.