

**Kate Brown
Governor**



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, October 31, 2015, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Portland Community College Cascade Campus
Cascade Hall, Room 310
Portland, OR 97217

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James I Manning, Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin (phone), Musse Olol, Gwendolyn Trice,
Representative Frederick, Senator Monroe
Absent: Kayse Jama
Guests: Mary Nolan, Executive Director, Advocates for Planned Parenthood;
Sharon Gary-Smith, Executive Director, MRG Foundation; Gary Sims,
Oregon Department of Corrections; Lawanda Manning; Shayla
Richardson and Brandy Torres, Chemeketa Community College students
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order - a quorum was established partway through the agenda. Meeting called to order at 9:05am.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Monroe/Trice): To accept the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA August 2015 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Monroe/Morris): To accept the minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment

Shayla Richardson introduced herself. She is a Human Services program student at Chemeketa Community College in Salem studying culturally sensitive and culturally appropriate practices and services. She and her colleague are studying the Black and African American community and culture. The Commissioners made several suggestions of other groups and people to speak with including Urban League, NAACP, Coalitions of Communities of Color, Africa House; Kayse Jama the Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing and Commissioner Musse Olol, President of the Somali-American Council of Oregon, a population that is growing rapidly in Oregon. Professor Lisa Bates, Urban Planning at PSU, and Antoinette Edwards at the City of Portland were also suggested and Commissioner Collin asked the students to email her so she can offer any other suggestions of people to speak with at rcollin@willamette.edu

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Annual training and joint meeting of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions, 10/29/15, recap
Chair Manning provided a recap of the day's events. The Oregon Government Ethics Commission provided a training which was well received. The joint meeting of the Advocacy Commissions which followed the training included a presentation by Dr. Hilda Rosselli on the [2015 Oregon Educator Equity Report](#). The joint meeting also included equity policy and legislative reports from state and community partners.

B. Subjects/bills of interest for 2016 Session: The subject was tabled for a future meeting that will include OACO's new Policy Analyst currently being hired.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mary Nolan, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

Ms. Nolan reported on the number and variety of services for communities of color provided by Planned Parenthood statewide. Services are provided in local offices across Oregon and also through affiliated health centers in Eugene and Bend and an education center in Portland. The educational services are provided by high schools, colleges and senior centers. Their mission is empowering people through controlling their own reproductive health care. They also advocate in the legislature for adequate funding and policy access for all Oregonians. 90% of their clients are women with 50% accessing education programs. 20% of women nationwide have used Planned Parenthood services, which includes cancer screenings and pre-natal services, at least once during their lifetime. Abortion services constitutes 5% of services.

They are committed to making these services available, and equally committed to providing information to help women make their own decisions regarding reproductive health care. Oregon women have avoided abortion and have reduced the usual number of abortions by 3 – 4,000 annually because of Planned Parenthood services and nationally 300,000 abortions are avoided annually because of Planned Parenthood services. Transgender services, which includes peer education and training for trainers, are a relatively new program for Planned Parenthood (PP).

The Planned Parenthood network includes coalitions such as Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA), Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), and Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO) promotion culturally accessible health care service and ensuring providers are culturally appropriate. Their services also improve economic security for women. 70% of patients are low income. Through their work with Fair Shot for All and Our Oregon (A Better Oregon campaign) they provide reproductive health support. Also, PP enables students to remain in school because of family planning services and education.

Discussion followed. The Commission thanked Ms. Nolan for her presentation and good work.

B. Sharon Gary-Smith, Executive Director, MRG Foundation

Ms. Gary-Smith discussed the work of the MRG Foundation which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2016. The foundation was begun with an endowment from Eugene philanthropists wishing to invest in social equity and change for those populations who experience implicit bias and institutionalized racism. The foundation invests in efforts that affect isolation in both rural and urban communities. The MRG annual meeting and fundraiser is

April 2nd, 2016 and OCBA is invited to attend. The Commission thanked Sharon for her leadership at MRG and her excellent presentation.

C. Consideration of an OCBA Award Program for individuals of achievement in the African American community

Chair Manning discussed the importance of recognizing leaders in the Black community who exemplify uncommon achievement in the advancement of their community. He and Vice Chair Morris have been supporters of the OCFW's Women of Achievement Awards with nominations each year. He and the Vice Chair wish to ask OCBA if it would be interested in acknowledging Black leaders of achievement as well. The Commission expressed its interest and discussion of ways and means to establish such an award for OCBA could happen, possibly in connection with the Governor and her proclamation of Black History Month.

Because a quorum was not present at the time of this discussion, the Chair requested that a poll of OCBA Commissioners to approve establishing OCBA's Achievement Award. Vice Chair Morris offered to do the organizing work necessary for the 1st such award. Once approved the OACO will develop a webpage in support of the award, how people are nominated and selected, and communication about the event.

D. OCBA Commissioner recruitment

The Commissioners discussed outreach to interested individuals in support of the Governor appointed into 3 current vacancies vacant seats on the OCBA. The next round of appointments will be in February.

VII. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Trice, who travelled from Enterprise to attend both the Joint meeting of the OAC's and OCBA in person, noted how much she felt inspired by being present in person and meeting a number of her colleagues for the first time.

Commissioner Olol served as a panelist on the Hate Crimes Identification Panel recently and was pleased to share his viewpoint and representation on the OCBA as a panelist. He then discussed an ongoing issue with the Reynolds School District where a Somali boy and his family were called names by another youth. Commissioner Olol asked for a meeting with the principal but has received no response. OCBA thanked Mr. Olol for his work on this issue and will also reach out to the Reynolds School District about it.

Vice Chair Morris reported on his participation for OCBA on OYA's Isolation/Solitary Task Force. He met with OYA Deputy Director Joe O'Leary to discuss several issues including lack of tracking of the staff who send inmates into solitary confinement. James Morris will share the OYA report with the OCBA. Discussion followed. A number of commissioners expressed an interest in having a training on the impact of Measure 11, possibly by reaching out to OCHA Commissioner, John Haroldson, who is the DA for Benton County. He is very familiar with the issue and regularly visits the youth incarcerated at McLaren because of Measure 11.

Chair Manning reported on his testimony for OCBA before the Secretary of State Atkins on the Motor Voter Law. He also attended a Hate Crimes Identification meeting and served as a panel member at the OLMV annual dinner where Rep. Frederick received an award. He also expressed interest in programs in Texas and Chicago where law students review and work on death row cases.

VIII. Administrator Report

A. Update on hiring for new OACO .5 Policy Analyst position – The hiring panel for the OACO’s new Policy Analyst have conducted first interviews. Lucy expects to have a finalist in the next week. She hopes to bring on the new staff person in November.

B. Commissioner travel reimbursement process: Nancy discussed new procedure for collecting Commissioner travel reimbursement requests she is initiating.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

Next mtg 12/5/15, PCC Cascade Campus, exact location to be determined, 9am–12pm

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.