

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, February 21, 2015, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Portland Community College Cascade Campus Terrell Hall, Room 201
705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland OR 97217

ATTENDANCE

Chair: James I. Manning Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Karol Collymore, Kayse Jama, Robin Morris Collin (phone), Musse Olol, Gwen Trice (phone), Representative Frederick
Absent: Senator Monroe
Guests: Lawanda Manning, Clifford Walker, Lorraine Wilson, Sharon Gary-Smith, Kate McPherson, Isaiah Johnson Jackson, Dominique Deo, Mike Schmidt, Joe O'Leary, James Barta, Anselmo Villanueva, Midge Purcell
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:11am.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Frederick/Collymore): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA December 2014 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Jama/Collymore): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

IV. Public Comment

Clifford Walker requested assistance in understanding why he and other OCBA Commissioners were dismissed from the Commission by the prior Governor.

The Commission thanked Mr. Walker for his comment and will help reach out to the Governor's Office for an answer.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ratification of e-vote for 2015 Legislative Session Bills and resolutions supported by OCBA

1. SB 454 - Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees

2. HB 2005 - Requires All Employers to Implement Paid Sick Time for Employees
3. Resolution Urging Governor Kitzhaber to Commute Death Sentences before stepping down

MOTION (Frederick/Trice) to ratify e-vote for SB 454, HB 2005, resolution letter to Kitz asking him to commute death sentences. CARRIED.

B. Commissioner Grey's resignation

Commissioner Grey submitted an email with her resignation. Chair feels it is appropriate to accept her resignation and the Governor's Office has been notified.

C. Oregon private colleges/universities and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Commission discussed that some colleges and universities do not observe the holiday with a paid time off for staff and a holiday from class for students. It is a national holiday, and the Commissioners believe that education ought to be embracing it and the important message Dr. King imparted to the nation by assuring that it is observed as a holiday by all Oregon schools. During discussion it was noted that some colleges and universities may not be in session in January and may still be exemplary in hosting and encouraging students and faculty to participate in meaningful ways.

The OCBA agreed that it will ask these Oregon's schools of higher education to notify the Commission of what they are doing in observance. They also agreed that given staff bandwidth that the survey will be conducted after legislative session. Commissioner Collin offered to help with the survey wording. Chair Manning will provide a cover letter.

MOTION (Jama/Morris): To create a survey that solicits info from colleges asking them what their protocol is in observing the MLK Day holiday. CARRIED.

D. Oregon Youth Authority, Joe O'Leary, Deputy Director

Joe O'Leary presented to the OCBA on the OYA and the educational opportunities it offers for the youth who are incarcerated there. This includes the expectation of achieving a full high school diploma at the accredited high school which OYA operates, and pursuing higher education on line through an agreement with Oregon state universities. He welcomed Commissioner interest in touring OYA's facilities including ones in outlying areas that may be close to rural members. The commission thanked him for his presentation and accepted his offer for a tour. Chair Manning with work with staff to find a date for Commissioners to visit the McLaren facility and meet some of the youth there.

E. Criminal Justice Commission, Mike Schmidt, Executive Director

Mike Schmidt discussed the new role of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) in providing the legislature with requested racial and ethnic impact statements for bills proposed in the current session. This new authority was established in 2013 with the passage of SB 463 (sponsored by Rep Frederick) which requires that anytime legislation is proposed and bipartisan request for Racial Impact statement that the CJC will provide a suitable analysis for the legislature. The CJC analyses how it will effect racial and ethnic impact on offender population and victim population. Mike noted that there is no reliable database on victimization for crimes in Oregon. The CJS will be letting legislators know they do not have capacity, and do not have data. He asked the OCBA if they would meet with him again after session to consider the problem together and explore a public policy internship to analyze the

current system of reporting information on crime victims, identify gaps and potential remedies. He also noted that the last survey on victims of crime in Oregon was conducted in 2002. Discussion followed.

The Commission thanked Mr. Schmidt for his presentation and invited him back to consider how the OCBA can support their work on assuring good data on crime victims is established.

F. Children First for Oregon, James Barta, Legislative Director

James Barta shared and discussed highlights from the County Data Book developed by Children First for Oregon. He highlighted that in every region of the state minority children have less opportunity. His organization is a data-driven, policy oriented non-profit with expert staffing in key areas including research and data. Their goal is to make Oregon the best state for children nationally. This includes a policy agenda for the 2015 legislative session and beyond that will be released before the end of February. James looks forward to connecting with OCBA and other OAC community partners to forward mutual areas in their missions. This includes CIO, APANO, Latino Network, CAUSA and others. He knows that economic security is vital for a stable environment and is looking forward to partnering on the subject. They are starting a new coalition called United for Kids to focus on kids' issues and asked OCBA's help in partnership and in spreading the work in their partner networks.

The OCBA thanked Mr. Barta for his presentation and offered to post on their Facebook page, key documents and invitations from Children First for Oregon as part of OCBA's support.

G. Roosevelt High School Rough Writers, Kate McPherson, Community Engagement Specialist

Kate McPherson described to the Commission the program she staffs at Roosevelt High School called the Roosevelt Rough Writers. It is a community engagement and writing class for Freshman how are paired with state and community leaders of color to learn about their personal history and explore their wisdom with in depth interviews followed by a written report and person reflection by each participating student. Their reports and findings are summarized on a series of posters and displays along with being chronicled in a booklet. She introduced Dominique Deo and Isaiah Johnson, Rough Writer students who presented to the OCBA on their experience with the program and what they have learned about leadership from their interviews. Lew Frederick and Midge Purcell, both of whom were present at the OCBA meeting have been interviewees and they noted how excellent it was to connect with these amazing students.

The OCBA thanked Kate and the students and asked how the Commission can support or partner with the effort? Kate invited the OCBA nominate community leaders to be interviewed and to consider a sponsorship that would allow better community engagement and materials or exhibits for the Rough Writers. Discussion followed in which it was suggested that a display created for the Portland Airport would be an exceptional way to greet visitors and new residents to the area. The OCBA is also interested in partnering with the Rough Writers around African American History in Oregon and may have some joint projects that would be helpful and wish to explore further. Kate also noted that the students take on other research projects that are spurred by the interests they gain through their leader interviews. This includes air quality and the effects of pollution on communities. Commissioner Morris Collin will connect with Kate about the work of the Environmental Justice Task Force.

The Commission invited the Rough Writers to provide a sponsorship proposal to the OCBA which they promised to do.

H. Urban League of Portland, Midge Purcell, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy

Midge Purcell, Legislative Director for the Urban League of Portland discussed the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session with the OCBA and highlighted several bills of mutual interest. Discussion followed on HB 3025, Ban the Box, retirement security, raising minimum wage, and police profiling. The Urban League and OCBA historically co-host a legislative advocacy day at the capitol with other groups and wish to do so for the 2015 session in April. Midge proposed that the Commission and UL work together to host that day on April 20th for the Our Voices United legislative advocacy day which will run from 8:30 am to 3 pm. The Commissioners look forward to supporting the effort with their attendance, spreading the word in their networks and on Facebook and providing a sponsorship to help cover transportation and other costs of the advocacy day. They also discussed the work of UL, with the supportive participation of the OCBA developing their State of Black Oregon report which will be distributed in 2015.

MOTION (Collymore/Morris): That OCBA will co-sponsor the State of Black Oregon report and Our Voiced United Legislative Day event with budget details provided in a proposal from UL in March. CARRIED

I. PAALF, Marcus Mundy, Interim Director (INVITED)

Mr. Mundy was not available.

J. Public Policy Research Internships update

Apprentice to Journeyman: Commissioners Morris and Frederick and Lucy Baker updated the Commission on the joint BOLI/OCBA Research Internship on disparities for tradespeople of color from Apprentice to Journeyman. A Lewis & Clark student is the current researcher with BOLI's Apprenticeship Office and has submitted her report on disparities in the Apprenticeship graduation rates by race. Rep. Frederick has been most appreciative of this policy research internship and has shared the report and referred to it as he addresses groups who share an interest. Both Andrew Colas and James Posey have connected with him regarding the report. James Morris and Rep Frederick have been getting a lot of positive response regarding the report. Electricians, which provide practicums for their Apprentices have much better rates of graduation than do the Carpenters and Laborers, which have no such programs. Rep Frederick will speak with the trades and the trades are interested in this.

Disproportionate discipline: Commissioner Morris Collin reported on the OCBA/ODE joint research internship on Disproportionate Discipline in schools. She is supervising the new 3L Willamette law School student working currently working with ODE's School Discipline Advisory Council and is preparing a white paper for the group on restorative justice. She and the intern will report OCBA in April or May.

K. OCBA Committee updates

1. Advocacy Committee – Has not met in January
2. Legislative Committee – Has not met in January

MOTION (Manning/Morris): Committee chair will make a brief wrap-up of work they have done so far and send to Nancy and Lucy to send to the Commissioners. CARRIED.

VII. Commissioners Comments

Rep Frederick and Commissioner Jama noted that 2/25 is Lobby day for CIO and invited all Commissioners to attend. Rep. Frederick discussed HB 2716 – a bill monitoring MWESB contracts for the state. He introduced his new legislative assistant, Ammira, to the Commission.

There were no further Commissioner comments.

Chair Manning introduced from the audience Anselmo Villanueva from DHS.

Mr. Villanueva noted that K-12 schools also might or might not participate in MLK Day observance and suggested the OCBA consider surveying them as well.

He offered to assist the OCBA if it wishes to host one of its regular meetings in Eugene, where Mr. Villanueva is based.

Anselmo noted that his employer the Oregon Department of Human Services is the largest employer in the state and encouraged the Commissioners to send him potential job seekers.

He also invited OCBA to attend the African American film festival in Eugene.

VIII. Administrator's Report

- A. Update on Joint Ways & Means budget hearing for the OACO – expected to present in late March or April before Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee, will present jointly with the Chairs, and supportive other testimony from the Governor's Office, Community Partners, Rep. Frederick and research partners.
- B. Budgeting for available General Fund at the end of the biennium. Lucy is requesting the Chairs and Vice Chairs to work with their Commissions to suggest ways of expending General Fund in support of the leadership development and advocacy missions. Each biennium there is generally some General Fund left in the OACO budget and each biennium the Chairs suggest ways to budget the funds and expend them by June 30th. The OCBA's interest in sponsoring their legislative day with UL and helping with the finalizing and publishing of the State of Black Oregon are good examples of ways to invest modest amounts of GF in support of the mission.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

Nancy reminded Commissioners that:

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair will be taken at the April OCBA meeting.

Next mtg 4/18/15, PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 208, 9am–12pm

X. Adjourn

Meeting ended at 12:06pm