

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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Minutes
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, February 23, 2019, 9:30 AM– 11:30 AM
Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room
16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tigard OR 97224

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Jamal Fox
Vice Chair: Lawanda Manning
Commissioners: Angela Addae, Mariotta Gary-Smith, Ben Duncan, Djimet Dogo, Representative Janelle Bynum
Absent: Musse Olol
Guests: Meies Matz, Oregon DHS; Joshua Freeman, Oregon Legislature; Lakeitha Elliot, Rep. Bynum Chief of Staff; Alletta Brenner, Carmel Karmni, Matt Mount, Joseph Bryan, Sonice Albornoz, Ruth Flores, Kati Von Lahman, Amani Kelekeleand and Patrice Mays, Trillium Charter School staff and parents
Staff: Lucy Baker

I. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Introductions and roll call – welcome to incoming Commissioner Ben Duncan
Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 9:35am, led introductions, and welcomed new OCBA Commissioner Ben Duncan.

II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes

- A. Review and approval of the February agenda
MOTION: (Manning/Bynum): To Approve. Carried.
- B. Review and approval of OCBA October Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION: (Bynum/Manning): To approve October OCBA minutes. Carried.
- C. Review and approval of OCBA December Notes
MOTION: (Bynum/Manning): To approve December OCBA minutes. Carried.

III. Public Comment – Patrice Mays, Executive Director, Trillium Charter School, Joseph Bryan, and parents from Trillium Charter School addressed the Commission regarding the potential loss of their Charter. They raised several issues regarding the high-need population of students attending Trillium Charter, the skewed nature of the data being used to support the recinding of the Charter for Trillium, and key decisions by the board on school closure being made prior to a public hearing attended by 100 parents and students requesting continuance. Discussion followed. The Commission committed to

crafting a letter to Guadalupe Guajardo, Director, PPS, and Craig Kuler, Chief of schools, encouraging their positive consideration of retaining Trillium as a Charter School, providing a reasonable period of time to institute changes that all are agreed are important for sustained success. Representative Bynum will also call to request the vote on rescission of the Trillium School charter be postponed from the Wednesday Board meeting.

The OCBA thanked Ms. Mays, the staff, and parents of Trillium Charter School for their good work in growing and sustaining success, and providing a fair process of evaluation of the success of the school going forward.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of OCBA revised Bylaws

The Commission discussed and concluded the review period for the updating of the OCBA Bylaws, which began at the December meeting.

MOTION: (Gary-Smith/Manning): To approve the OCBA Bylaw changes. Carried.

B. Statute revision: OCBA Commissioners to serve 4 year terms

The Commission reviewed and discussed a statutory change establishing the length of terms for OAC Commission members from 3 year terms to 4 year terms. This brings the OAC's in line with most other Boards and Commissions which allow a length of term more suitable to the complexity of the work of the Commissions.

MOTION (Manning/Bynum): To support 4 year terms for OAC members. Carried.

C. Statement on recent racist incidents

Chair Fox reviewed OCBA's January statement on racist incidents across Oregon and calling on policy makers to improve equity in their internal and public policies. The Commission thanked Chair Fox for his leadership on this issue.

D. Pathways to re-credentialing

Lucy reported for Dr. Connie Kim-Gervy on the work that OCAPIA is leading with support of OCBA and OCHA, on improving the licensing processes and educational supports for recredentialing of skilled immigrants and refugees in Oregon.

Reciprocity would be helpful between states for licensing in specific professions in health fields and also among barbers and cosmetologists. Discussion followed.

E. Black History Month proclamation signing debrief – Vice Chair Manning hosted the event with many OCBA members and members of the legislature attending. Chair Fox had arranged for several speakers including OCBA Commissioner Dogo and the president of NAACP in Portland who provided a stirring address. The Governor was present to hear and appreciate the speakers. The Commission thanked Chair Fox and VC Manning for their leadership in making the day a huge success, along with Rep. Bynum, Commissioner Dogo, and the others who attended to make it a celebration of contribution as well as a reminder of many inequities and injustice still to be addressed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative discussion

The Commission reviewed the list of bills that were generated by using the OCBA's

search words of equity-related issues. The potential list of tracked bills for OCBA is part of the meeting packet. After review, no bills were removed from the priority tracking list and the following bills were further discussed: Oregon Voting Rights Act (OVRA), Measure 11-related bills that address youth offenders and provide a second look of their sentences after a period of time, a potential Hate Crime-related bill, and bills addressing re-licensing for immigrants and refugees and establishing a coordinating hub for refugee and immigrants services and supports. Staff will use track the full list of priority bills for the OCBA, and notify them when hearings are coming up and when opportunities arise to partner with other commissions for joint testimony.

Chair Fox appointed Commission members as Chairs of the new Advocacy and Research committees of the OCBA (bylaws amendment) to provide leadership within the Commission on both these subjects. Mariotta Gary-Smith (Advocacy) and Angela Addae (Research) accepted their appointments as the committee Chairs. Staff will work with them and the Chair/VC to coordinate the support and work of the Commission around these subjects.

Chair Fox noted that the Urban League Joint Lobby Day is on 2/25 and the OCBA has the opportunity to help support the cost of travel and refreshments for the participants. Discussion followed. The Commission agreed to support by concensus. In past years, the OCBA has contributed \$500 - \$700 to support their joint lobby day with UL of Portland. After discussion, the OCBA approved \$500 in support and encouraged all Commissioners to attend in support of their priority bills.

B. DHS outreach to diverse communities

The Commission welcomed, Meies-Amour Matz, Sr. Operations and Research Analytics Manager, Oregon DHS, who discussed her work on mapping disproportionate representation in juvenile justice, foster care, restrictive settings, addictions and mental health, and incarcerated populations. She is looking for trends and on March 27 invited OCBA to a half-day presentation and discussion on the subject. The Commissioners thanked Meis for her work and her invitation and plan to attend. Commissioner Dogo is available and will attend with Lucy. Other Commissioners will attend as possible.

Meies described her ongoing work with Dr. Franklin on public health and incarceration. They found trends regarding violence, domestic violence, suicide, and homicide. She noted that the usual prediction in trend analysis is that poor people are more violent. She and Dr. Franklin have shown that this is not necessarily true. Meies is looking specifically at data around black women in Oregon, which shows that when this population is struggling, other demographics, including children, are deeply affected as well, in far reaching ways. Mies plans to make story maps and embed algorithms on disproportionality, and shared her first draft map. She is asking for community partners to join the work and participate, providing feedback, in forums and focus groups. She is asking the OCBA to support this work by providing her with names of interested individuals, groups and community partners for her to speak to. She wants to move the needle forward and DHS has approved funding and understands that partnership will be key to success.

C. Governor's Environmental Justice Task Force

The Commission welcomed Ben Duncan who will be representing the Commission on the Environmental Justice Task Force, a policy and review body for 12 State Agencies who work on various aspects of environmental impact on communities of color statewide. Each of the OCBA, OCHA, and OCAPIA have representatives on the EJFT and also the Oregon Office on Tribal Affairs, which is a separate agency within the legislative branch. He noted the complexity of EJ related bills in the 2019 session.

The OAC Chairs will be meeting with the EJTF Chair, Joel Iboa, at their April Leadership meeting to learn more about the EJTF and OAC's and look ahead together on their joint statutory work.

VI. Commissioners' Reports

Representative Bynum reported on a Legislative Concept that she is developing regarding the discomfort among community and the black experience. She will share more information when the bill drops later in February.

VII. Administrator's Report

A. OACO Budget hearing 2/28/19

Lucy and VC Manning are preparing for the presentation of the OACO budget to Joint Ways and Means General Government SubCommittee, along with the other OAC Chairs, on February 28th. The Chairs and Lucy will use a slide presentation to discuss the statutory work of the OAC's supported by their biennial budget in the areas of advocacy, research, partnership, and leadership development. The request for the OACO within the Governor's Request Budget (GRB) is for an additional .5 FTE OPA3 (Operations and Policy Analyst 3) to make Connie's position full time. This would bring the OACO staff to 3 FTE total. Everyone is invited to attend or watch the presentation streaming.

VIII. For the Good of the Order:

A. Next mtg Saturday, April 13, 2019, Oregon State Bar, 9:30am – 11:30am.

IX. Adjourn - Chair Fox adjourned the meeting at 11:45am.