



MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)
Saturday, February 24th, 2018, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman St., White Library Room 108
Portland, OR 97211

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James Morris (phone)
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Jamal Fox, Mariotta Gary-Smith (phone), Lawanda Manning, Gwen Trice (phone), Representative Bynum
Absent: Kayse Jama, Musse Olol, Nicole Rowe, Senator Monroe
Guests: Senator James I. Manning Jr.; Joy Alise Davis, Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF); Stacie Balkaran, MPH candidate at OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order and welcome to Commissioner Jamal Fox

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 9:18am and welcomed Commissioner Jamal Fox. Commissioner Fox hails from North Carolina and works for Portland Parks & Recreation. He looks forward to serving on OCBA and improving equity in the OCBA's strategic priority areas.

II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes

- A. Review and approval of OCBA February 2018 Meeting Agenda.
MOTION (Rep Bynum/Trice): To accept the agenda with the addition of the discussion of possible new public policy research internship w/Stacie Balkaran to be added as item H in New Business. CARRIED.
- B. Review and approval of OCBA December 2017 Meeting Minutes
MOTION (Fox/Manning): To accept the December 2017 minutes as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment – Senator James Manning is pleased to be back at the OCBA meeting. He complimented Representative Bynum for doing an outstanding job as a legislator. He continues to co-chair the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee and looks forward to supporting OCBA and the OACs in 2019. He also thanked Commissioner Lawanda Manning for an excellent job in delivering the OACs' testimony on HB 4008 on Monday, 2/19/18.

Representative Bynum thanked Senator Manning affirmed the importance of the work of the OCBA, and Commissioners' dedication and commitment.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update on OAC's planning committee on incorporating intersectionality, rural analysis, policy arc and joint partnerships

The OAC's Intersectionality Committee met twice since the annual Joint meeting of the OACs in October 2017, to determine how the OAC's slate of 2018 session bills would be prioritized. This is the first year the OACs had a Joint Legislative Committee to develop the list. Commissioner Lawanda Manning testified on two bills, and Commissioners Rowe and Gary-Smith wrote testimony for two separate bills for the OACs. OCBA will ratify eight OAC testimonies to-date for this session later in the agenda today, with more expected before session ends.

B. Black History Month proclamation February 2018 recap

The proclamation signing was February 8th, and the ceremonial room was full. Chair Morris was the emcee and Bill Mitchell, a local businessman, gave the keynote. Representative Bynum brought students, and the Governor brought her two student winners of *Be Governor for a Day*.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Joy Alise Davis, Executive Director, PAALF (Portland African American Leadership Forum)

– PAALF People's Plan

Joy Alise introduced herself and provided a brief background on PAALF and the People's Plan. AALF is a national movement that began in 2009. There are 6 AALF's (African American Leadership Forums) across the country. PAALF has 86 graduates to date. The People's Plan came out of the conflict about a new Trader Joe's store to be built in NE Portland, and the ongoing gentrification crisis. The African American and Black community wanted to build their own policy table instead of being invited to others' policy discussions.

In 2015-16 PAALF organized 26 engagement events to engage with community members and students to talk about the 7 strategic priority areas of importance to the OCBA and also the arts. They asked questions such as: *What would a Black utopia look like? Where can you be black in Portland? Does it still feel safe in NE?* They focused on solutions to get from where they are to where they want to be. Health and healthcare received a lot of attention and in general people had a lot to say. One solution was to focus on supporting and training emerging Black leaders and building a pipeline to all levels of leadership in the plan's strategic priority areas, so that Black voices are heard and represented. PAALF is developing its own candidate school so there will be more Black leaders running for office. Commissioner Fox invited PAALF to reach out to the legislators in the room.

Former Senator Avel Gordly, a prominent community and social justice activist, hoped to attend today's OCBA meeting and looks forward to partnering with the OCBA to improve the lives of the Black community across all areas, and thrive.

Representative Bynum noted that financial resources are crucial. There is not currently a Black-owned formal meeting space in Portland, so money is not recirculating within that community. Commissioner Trice noted that she was recently invited to enroll in ALF (American Leadership Forum) and looks forward to this excellent opportunity, beginning in August.

Joy Alise Davis asked to be kept informed about any upcoming opportunities to collaborate and thanked Commissioners for the opportunity to brief them on the PAALF People's Plan.

The Commission thanked Ms. Davis for her presentation and looks forward to exploring possibilities for future collaboration.

B. Legislative discussion

1. Ratification of 2018 Legislative slate

MOTION (Gary-Smith/Rep Bynum): To ratify the electronic votes of the OCBA to support the slate of bills for the 2018 Legislative session which is appended as part of the minutes.
CARRIED.

2. Ratification of testimony to date by OCBA Commissioners

- i. HB 4134 – Voice for those impacted by discriminatory housing restrictions
- ii. HB 4154A – Close the boyfriend and stalker firearm loophole
- iii. HJR 203 – Ensure every Oregonian resident access to healthcare, testimony by Commissioner Gary-Smith
- iv. HB 4141 – Establish student advisory council to consider higher education tuition increases
- v. HB 4008 – Fair calculations in civil damages
- vi. SB 1563 - Noncitizen students qualify for instate tuition
- vii. SB 1554-1 - Individual accounts for education
- viii. HB 4149A - Limits plea bargaining

MOTION (Manning/Fox): To ratify the electronic approval of the OCBA's submitted testimony to support bills as read into the record. CARRIED.

Commissioner Representative Bynum spoke about the tuition equity bill. Oregon and Oregon's students are leading the way in this issue, with the OACs also pushing for change. Students were strong advocates for this issue and there are more issues for them to lead on.

3. Update on OCBA's bills of interest – An OCFW Commissioner is writing testimony this weekend in support of a verdict being reported to the victim on conclusion of sexual harassment case in school. More hearings will be scheduled, and all Commissions will be writing more testimony.

4. Other legislative updates - The tax bill to fill the gap generated by the federal tax plan passed on party lines and generated a lot of negative energy. A pharmacy transparency bill will be due for a vote in the coming week. The Clean Energy bill is moving forward. Health care for all is not moving forward this session.

5. Final steps for the 2018 Legislative Session – As the session moves into its final days, the Senate is now allowed give only one hour notification of a public hearing, work session, etc., and the Speaker of the House will waive the reading of the bills. March 6 is filing day for candidacy, and March 11 Sine Die.

C. Public Policy Research Internships update

1. OCBA Public Policy Research – Robin/LayanAmmouri & Dr. Pat Burk, Portland State University, Graduate School of Education

i. Update on Layan Ammouri's research on Responding to Disproportionate Discipline with Multicultural Education

Layan provided an update and this was emailed to Commissioners. ODE, which is a partner with the OCBA in this policy research, has provided the data for this public policy internship. The ODE data set, provided to the PSU Graduate School of Education (also a partner in this research) identified discipline incidents by school, broken down by the race of the students involved, and indicates how many students have been disciplined. It is groundbreaking for this information to be shared and speaks well of ODE's appreciation of the research partnership between OCBA, PSU, and ODE. Ms. Ammouri is a Master's

student in the Hatfield School of Government, will look at this and Restorative Justice practices. She will report at the April meeting of the OCBA and to ODE following that presentation.

Lucy noted that the 4 research partnerships with Advocacy Commissions and the PSU Graduate School of Education are a great foundation for a conversation with the new Dean of the School, Dr. Marvin Lynn, around developing an MOU between the school and the OACs/OACO, and making the partnership more formal.

2. Public Policy Research Internship: Integrating immigrant professionals' credentials in Oregon's workforce

- i. Lucy reported on the next round of policy research under OCAPIA partnering with Partners in Diversity and the PSU Graduate School of Applied Linguistics. OCBA has actively engaged with this policy research and will soon have the opportunity again as the researcher reaches out to immigrants with advanced degrees who are working to become licensed in their fields in Oregon. The next steps in the research include studying best practices around pathways to licensure for immigrants as well as alternatives to the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) as a hurdle to immigrants trying to re-enter their fields in the US. OCAPIA Chair Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura and OCAPIA commissioner Senator Michael Dembrow are the champions on OCAPIA for this research.

D. Joint OACs letter to the Oregon Supreme Court regarding religiously required attire in court

The Commission reviewed the letter of the OACs, signed by their Chairs, to Chief Justice Balmer asking that court rules be changed immediately to explicitly state that religiously required head coverings are allowed in Oregon courtrooms. The letter was composed by Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura for the Chairs and was reviewed and approved by all the OAC's. Lucy will keep everyone apprised of Chief Justice Balmer's response when it is received. Chanpone plans to attend the next meeting of the Oregon Court Rules committee on April 6th to personally represent the OACs' concerns.

E. New Commissioner recruitment

1. Identifying an attorney for OCBA – The commission discussed adding an attorney to the commission membership and will work with Serena Stoudamire Wesley, Governor Brown's Policy Advisor on Equity, to identify a good replacement for Robin Morris Collin on OCBA.

F. Review of nominations process for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair (nominations at April mtg)

As the Commission prepares to nominate for the Chair and Vice Chair positions at the April meeting, Chair Morris and Lucy discussed the responsibilities involved in the role of Chair and Vice Chair: they include being a sounding board when the Governor's Office calls; every other month OAC Leadership meetings; presenting the OACO's budget to the legislative joint committee on Ways and Means, General Government; reviewing and contributing to meeting agendas, and running meetings of the Advocacy Commissions. Lucy added that the OAC leadership must be committed to answering email requests from the Office in a timely manner and other Chairs for scheduling, review and comment/editing of pending documents, and other essential communication, on a regular basis. It is an important part of the OACs' leadership work.

G. Discussion about alternate meeting space for OCBA

There have been myriad technology issues during OCBA meetings, in part because meetings are held on the weekends and no tech support is available. Commissioners agreed that the meeting space should be as asset, not a barrier, conducive, warm and familiar. It also needs to be accessible to the public. Commissioners would like to find a new meeting space that better meets their needs, and are willing to meet on a weekday during business hours. Chair Morris suggested that email be used to identify week day dates for their April meeting. Lucy will send a doodle poll to all Commissioners, to pick a different day of the week and time to meet, beginning in April.

H. Discussion of potential public policy research internship w/Stacie Balkaran on sex education disparities

Stacie Balkaran, a Master's student, approached the OCBA about working on an internship on reproductive health. She has lived experience regarding minorities and sexual health education. The OCFW is already interested and committed as a partner. Oregon is perceived as a leader in the health movement. Oregon recently passed the Reproductive Health Equity Act, which was groundbreaking. She currently works in in Forest Grove, N. Clackamas and Portland and will study the diversity of health educators, and what languages the health educators use.

Commissioner Gary-Smith is working on the process of developing focus groups and implementing RHEA, and bring this info to OCBA so that the African American voice is heard. She will be the OCBA champion for this project and will work with Lucy on the final details. Stacie will work with Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, OACO's new OPA3. Representative Bynum agreed to be the mentor for this project. Stacie thanked OCFW for the opportunity and thanked OCBA for their expertise. If it is approved by her school, her internship would begin in early April.

MOTION (Manning/Gary-Smith): The OCBA will become a partner on this internship with the OCFW as primary champion on disparities in sex education for minors, if it is approved by Stacie Balkaran's school. CARRIED.

Mariotta thanked everyone for their comments and looks forward to working on this project, and bringing about positive change. Commissioners thanked Stacie for her presentation.

VI. Commissioners' Reports

Chair Morris - Robin Morris Collin recently stepped down from the OCBA and also the Environmental Justice Task Force, which she created, due to other commitments. Chair Morris thanked her for her service and asked Commissioners to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

VII. Administrator's Report

- A. Hiring for OPA3 position at OACO – Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey accepted the job offer and her first day is Thursday, March 1st. The first round interview panel consisted of a Chair or Vice Chair from each Advocacy Commission. The second round of interviews was with Lucy and Nancy. Connie was among the top choices of the Selection Committee.
- B. Staffing plan for OACO - the OACs developed a staffing plan in the 2013-15 biennium that they felt would adequately serve them. In addition to the full-time OPA3, it included a full-time Communications specialist, and a full-time Office Assistant. The Office Assistant would be able to take on the more routinized responsibilities that Nancy has worked out. The OACO will once again ask for an OPA3 to be full-time. Senator

Devlin's original hope for staffing the OACO when it was established in the 2005 legislature included more full-time positions than two.

- C. 2019-2021 OACO Budget - this budget is due August 1st. Lucy will convene meetings with Commissioners regarding this budget before June, for their input and approval.

VIII. For the Good of the Order:

- A. Due to today's discussion regarding alternate meeting spaces, dates and times for future OCBA meetings, staff will focus on identifying a different date and time during the week that will work for Commissioners.

IX. Adjourn - Chair Morris adjourned the meeting at 11:31am.