



MINUTES

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Friday, April 13th, 2018, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
421 SW Oak Street, Suite 770 Conference Room
Portland, OR 97204**

ATTENDANCE:

Chair:	James Morris
Vice Chair:	Musse Olol (ph)
Commissioners:	Jamal Fox, Mariotta Gary-Smith (ph), Nicole Rowe (ph), Senator Monroe, Representative Janelle Bynum (ph)
Absent:	Kayse Jama, Lawanda Manning, Gwen Trice
Guests:	Karanja Crews, Green Hop; Sheila Randall, community member; Haylee Morse-Miller, Dept of Administrative Services, Budget Analyst; Albert Lee, Portland Community College
Staff:	Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey

I. Meeting Called to Order – Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 11:40am. A quorum was established. Chair Morris welcomed and introduced Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, OACO's new half-time Researcher/Policy Analyst.

II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes

- A. Review and approval of OCBA April 2018 Meeting Agenda
MOTION (Monroe /Fox): To accept the agenda as written with agreement to re-open Public Comment when Karanja Crews, from Green Hop, arrives to request a letter of support from OCBA for the City of Portland's taxation dollars from marijuana sales to be invested in professional training for the Black and African American entrepreneurs to enter the marijuana market. CARRIED.
- B. Review and approval of OCBA February 2018 Meeting Minutes
MOTION (Fox/Monroe): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment – The guests introduced themselves:

- Albert Lee, who works for PCC, came to learn more about the OCBA and its work.
- Shiela Randall, a member of the Black Community of Portland (a new organization in Portland), would like to become more politically aware.
- Hayley Morse-Miller is the OACO's Budget Analyst in the Chief Financial Officer's Office. She is new to the role and attending to learn more about the workings and needs of the Advocacy Commissions.
- Karanja Crews is an educator who began Teaching with Purpose, a program designed to develop and implement culturally responsive practices in schools, and is knowledgeable of the school-to-prison pipeline for Black and African American males, who are

disproportionally represented in prisons. He is also a co-owner of Green Hop, a marijuana dispensary. Despite the legalization of marijuana sales in Oregon, many Black people are still incarcerated for selling marijuana when it was illegal.

He and his business partner created a business incubator to expose people of color, with a focus on inmates, to the marijuana seed-to-sale industry. He is developing a curriculum for this program, wearing his educator hat, and has asked Mayor Wheeler for the city's financial support to jumpstart this program. He asked OCBA to write a letter of support to the Mayor for this request and to also look at diverting state cannabis taxes to this program. Commissioners discussed the request and Mr. Crews answered their questions.

Commissioners agreed by common consent to have Chair Morris draft a support letter and have Lucy circulate it for review and e-approval by the OCBA. Commissioner Fox abstained from the vote. Chair Morris will draft the letter and distribute it by Wednesday of next week.

IV. Nominations for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Morris acknowledged this meeting is his last as Chair and also as Commissioner as he completes his second term serving on OCBA. He appreciates all that OCBA has accomplished during his tenure and knows there is more good work to come. The Commission thanked Chair Morris for his leadership over the past six years and expressed their deep appreciation for his service and good work.

Chair Morris opened the nominations for OCBA Chair. He nominated Jamal Fox for Chair. Mr. Fox accepted the nomination. Chair Morris called for nominations from the floor two more times then, hearing no further nominations, closed the nominations for Chair.

Chair Morris opened the nominations for OCBA Vice-Chair. Representative Bynum nominated Lawanda Manning. Mrs. Manning accepted the nomination. Chair Morris called for nominations from the floor two more times then, hearing no further nominations, closed the nominations for Vice- Chair.

Elections will be held at the June meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Chief Justice Balmer's response to the Joint OACs letter to the Oregon Supreme Court regarding religiously required attire in court

The Commission reviewed the response of Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Balmer declaring the rules for respectful attire in Oregon Courts to be immediately changes to include wording to include religiously required head covering. The Chief Justice noted twice in making his determination that the Oregon Advocacy Commissions' letter to him requesting immediate change to the rule was influential in his decision to act immediately for the change, not waiting for the usual cycle of court rule revisions to institute such changes.

OCAPIA Chair Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura worked with the OACs to write the letter to Chief Justice Balmer of the Oregon Supreme Court, after it came to her attention that a court security officer in a Washington County courtroom asked a woman wearing a hijab to remove it in consideration of a court rule on respectful attire.

B. New Commissioner recruitment update

1. Djimet Dogo, Executive Director of Africa House and Angela Addae, JD, at Schwabe, are expected to be appointed to OCBA in May by the Senate Rules Committee during legislative days.

C. Change of location for OCBA meetings

The Chair reported that as per OCBA's interest in meeting at a new location, the next meeting of OCBA will be held at Oregon State Bar on Friday, 6/15 – all future OCBA meetings will be held at the Oregon State Bar (OSB). The OSB has easy access from the highway for Commissioners coming to meetings from south of Portland, has free parking, is on a bus line, is fully accessible, and has reliable in-room wi-fi, speaker phone, and projector. The OSB is donating the use of the room to OCBA, welcoming the opportunity to have their facilities utilized for policy-oriented discussions among communities of color. The Commission thanked Nancy Kramer for making those arrangements.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative discussion

1. Ratification of submitted testimony to date by OCBA Commissioners – (8 testimonies for bills ratified at last OCBA meeting, total is 13)
 - a. HB 4009 – Parental rights and foster care
 - b. HB 4010 – Task Force on addressing racial disparities
 - c. HB 4081A – DHS use savings in TANF to increase amount of cash grants
 - d. HB 4102 – Directs Dept of Ed to study dropout rates
 - e. HB 4150 – Report after conclusion of sexual harassment investigation in school

MOTION (Monroe/Fox): To ratify the OCBA's e-approvals of testimony on specific bills which OCBA submitted, as read into the public record. CARRIED.

2. Other legislative updates. There were no further updates.

B. OCBA Public Policy Research updates and reports

Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey reported:

1. Education: Final Report of Layan Ammouri's research on Responding to Disproportionate Discipline with Multicultural Education
 - a. Education: Final Report of Layan Ammouri's research on Responding to Disproportionate Discipline with Multicultural Education. Ms. Ammouri is currently working on data analysis and of a large data set provided by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to Portland State University's (PSU) Graduate School of Education for this research. It is the largest and most complete data on granular reporting by district across Oregon on disproportionate discipline information. Dr. Burk is working with ODE to cross correlate the discipline data with investments ODE has made in individual schools who have requested help building their culturally responsive practices. This has never been done, and the research findings will be of great interest.
 - b. Partner presentation to ODE of final report
The final date for the presentation of the research outcomes to the OCBA and Oregon Department of Education by Ms. Ammouri and Dr. Burk has not yet been set, but all OCBA members will be invited to attend, along with legislators who have been champions for education focused policy research from OCBA. Lucy and Connie will let the Commission know when the date is set and ask for RSVP's from interested Commissioners.

2. Exploring Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/partnership w/PSU's Graduate School of Education: Chairs meeting w/Dean Dr. Marvin Lynn
Discussion followed. The OCBA would like to invite Dr. Lynn, who is an expert in critical race theory, to present at an OCBA meeting this summer.
3. Workforce: Integrating immigrant professionals' credentials in Oregon's workforce – OCBA's partnership
 - a. New internship with PhD student in Applied Linguistics Department at PSU re: alternative to the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

MOTION (Monroe/Fox): OCBA will continue to be a supportive partner of the OACs' policy research on immigrant re-credentialing as it progresses into the next phases.
CARRIED.

4. Health: Update on policy research on student reproductive health.
Stacie Balkaran presented at the February OCBA meeting about her interest in working with OCBA and the OCFW for her Master's capstone requirement on reproductive health and students of color. On further exploration with her major professor, she was not able to do so after all. She appreciates that OCBA offered her the internship.

C. Discussion of Policy Arc

The OCBA considered the draft of the Policy Arc process which OCHA's Dr. Joe Gallegos has prepared for the OACs' consideration and edits. Representative Bynum offered to help add legislative elements to the Policy Arc in preparation to finalizing wording and graphics that will be captured in a future broadside. Lucy will follow up with her about this.

VI. Commissioners' Reports – there were no Commissioners' reports

VII. Administrator's Report

A. Staffing plan for OACO

Lucy discussed the current staffing plan for the OACO and the interest of the Chairs and Vice Chairs to increase the plan to include a full time Policy Analyst 3 AND a full time office assistant. The full time office assistant would allow Nancy to move routine functions to an assistant allowing her to provide more high level support to the OAC's and to the Researcher. This would allow faster and deeper support to all the OAC's in their research and partnering work as well as give the OACO an entry level position that could be filled by new graduates from constituent communities.

B. 2019-2021 OACO Budget

Lucy discussed the upcoming budget process for the 2019-2020 budget. In June, she expects to have the Current Service Level (CSL) Budget to circulate to the OAC's and will have a full review and discussion with all of the Commissions at that time. The CSL budget is the first step in budgeting for the upcoming biennium and assumes that all staffing and service levels remain the same, with set inflationary increases into the coming biennium. Agencies also request increases to their budgets for specific purposes related to their statutory work during the budget preparation period which will go forward during the summer. These budget increase requests are called Policy Option Packages (POP) and reflect each request. The OAC's are currently considering requesting 1.5 FTE increases as described in the staffing plan report.

An additional consideration for the OACO budget and staffing plan is raising the level of its Principle Executive Manager (PEM) C to PEM F. The OACO was created in 2005 and was an office inside Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and its Administrator position was considered to be a back office function which supervised one other staff person and managed the state requirements associated with the public meetings of the OAC's. This has changed over the years to be a leadership position that works regularly with OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs, legislators, state policy makers, and partners to forward the policy work of the Advocacy Commissions. The Chairs and Vice Chairs have met about this and will be preparing a letter to DAS Human Resources about this.

OACO's Strategic Plan will be updated for the new budget. Lucy will be sharing the draft strategic plan with OACs for review, edits, and comment in June.

C. Office has new mailing address

Nancy noted that the office mailing address is now the same as its street address: 421 SW Oak St, Suite 770, Portland 97204

VIII. For the Good of the Order:

- A. Next mtg Friday, June 15, 2018, Oregon State Bar, 11:30am – 1:30pm
- B. Elections for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair at the June OCBA meeting
- C. OCFW Fundraiser to Support Women's Leadership Development 4/25, 5pm – 7pm
- D. Departure of Serena Stoudamire Wesley from the Governor's Office to the Oregon Youth Commission.

IX. Adjourn – Chair Morris adjourned the meeting at 1:39pm.