



MINUTES

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Friday, June 15, 2018, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
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 (ph), Djimet Dogo, Mariotta Gary-Smith, Musse Olol, Representative Janelle Bynum (ph)
Absent:	Kayse Jama, Senator Monroe
Guests:	Jim Labbe, Participatory Budgeting Oregon; Julia DeGraw, Dr. Darryl Tukufu, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Oregon Dept. of Education
Staff:	Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey

I. Meeting Called to Order

Acting Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 11:47. A quorum was established.

- A. Welcome to new Commissioners Angela Addae and Djimet Dogo – Acting Chair Fox welcomed the two new Commissioners.
- B. Introductions and roll call. Nancy Kramer called the roll.

II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes

- A. Review and approval of OCBA June, 2018 Meeting Agenda
MOTION (Olol/Bynum): To accept the agenda as written with clarification that Dr. Darryl Tukufu is making his presentation by phone. CARRIED.
- B. Review and approval of OCBA April, 2018 Meeting Minutes
MOTION (Bynum/Olol): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

IV. Elections for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair

Acting Chair Fox opened election for Chair. Jamal Fox has been nominated for Chair. He called for the vote. The vote carried. The Commission welcomed Jamal Fox as Chair and he assumed his duties immediately.

Chair Fox opened the election for Vice-Chair. Lawanda Manning had been nominated for Vice Chair. Chair Fox called for the vote. The vote carried. The Commission welcomed Vice Chair Manning and she assumed her duties immediately, with many thanks for Commissioner Olol who served ably in that role.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. OCBA meetings at Oregon State Bar on 2nd Fridays.
Nancy announced that she has successfully arranged for the OCBA meetings to be held at the Oregon State Bar (OSB) on the second Fridays, every other month.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Setting a meeting for OCBA Strategic Planning session (5 min) – Jamal
The next meeting of the OCBA will be primarily devoted to Strategic Planning, and in order to give the best opportunity for the Commissioners to attend the planning session in person, Lucy will poll the Commissioners for their best dates, on a Saturday in July or August. After that, the regular OCBA meetings will be held on 2nd Fridays at the OSB.

- B. Discussion on general elections versus voting districts
Led by a short presentation by Chair Fox, the OCBA discussed the situation that Portland and some other cities in Oregon have regarding local city council members running in general elections rather than voting districts. On the Portland City Council, because of this, most of the city commissioners come from a single wealthy neighborhood, while other neighborhoods with diverse populations and specific challenges, struggle for representation on the council. During discussion, it was agreed that every commissioner has encountered the effects of this lack of representation or knows of it, and that the Commission wishes to work with partners on legislation to require the use of voting districts at the local level across Oregon in municipal government.

- C. OCBA Public Policy Research updates and reports – Lawanda
 - 1. Education: Final Report of Layan Ammouri’s research on Responding to Disproportionate Discipline with Multicultural Education
Vice Chair Manning and Commission Gary-Smith were joined by Dr. Darryl Tukufu to report on OCBA’s June 7th meeting with ODE to hear and discuss their joint research project outcomes on disproportionate discipline k-12. The research, conducted by Masters in Public Policy student Layan Amouri and the PSU Graduate School of Education, focused on the effect of small grants by ODE to schools to improve the culturally relevant practices in teaching and administration on disproportionate discipline. The presentation was well attended by OCBA and ODE staff as well as legislators including Rep. Bynum, Sen. Manning, and Sen. Frederick. They discussed aspects of the final report with showed a positive effect from the additional investment and provided a new flow chart of drivers of change regarding discipline and culturally relevant practices.

ODE and OCBA are both interested in a joint release of the study and options for further research on the effect of investment using PhD students. The Commission thanked Lawanda and Mariotta for their excellent report and new leadership in the workgroup that will come from this work between ODE and OCBA.

 - 2. Workforce: Integrating immigrant professionals’ credentials in Oregon’s workforce – The OCBA considered its next steps in support of the ongoing OAC joint research on recertifying for immigrants and refugees. Commissioners will be invited to participate in the workgroup, championed by OCAPIA, that will be starting its work in August to hear report from their joint researcher. Senator Dembrow and OCAPIA Chair Sinlapasai-Okamura are the champions for the work from OCAPIA, working jointly with OCBA,

OCHA, and other academic, non-profit, and governmental partners.

D. Disproportionate contact with minority youth in education, and re-engaging dropout youth – Oregon Youth Development Council

The Chair announced that Serena Stoudamire Wesley is new Executive Director of the Oregon Youth Development Commission within ODE. Her special interest is family engagement and chronic absenteeism. She has asked to work jointly with the Advocacy Commissions to prepare research based briefing sheets on disproportionate minority contact within state institutions including education, correction, Oregon Youth Authority and others. She wishes to explore policy internships with graduate or PhD students, the OAC's and ODE. The Commission indicated an interest in exploring this opportunity with Serena. Lucy will learn more and update the Commission.

E. Discussion and review of Participatory Budgeting – Jim Labbe)

Jim Labbe, Participatory Budgeting Oregon, described Participatory Budgeting (PB) which is a potentially powerful and new tool for engaging underserved and underrepresented communities in budgeting issues at local and potentially state levels. He discussed the experience of a number of large and medium sized cities including Boston, Greensboro, and Phoenix, that have instituted a process that integrates local review, discussion, and guidance for certain aspects of budgeting, thus making better budget decisions and investments.

Chair Fox noted that he was invited to Obama's White House and talked about getting the voices of people at the table who wouldn't normally be there. Elected officials do not always know what the public/community wants. This can be a call for politicians to share some of their power.

There was consensus among the Commissioners to draft a letter introducing the concept for local and state budgeteers and invite more joint exploration of the concept. Jamal, Lawanda, Jim Labbe and Lucy will work to craft the letter and circulate it to the OCBA members for edits and approval prior to sending it to city electeds and legislators in Oregon.

F. Ethnic Studies Advisory Group update/appointment of Joy Alise Davis (5 min) –

The Commission reviewed its appointments onto the Ethnic Studies Advisory Group (ESAG) which was created out of a bill in 2017 long session. Rep Bynum and Rep Hernandez were active in supporting this bill. Mr. Irvin Brown, was originally selected as OCBA's appointee to the ESAG but he has been unable to participate in any but its first meetings several months ago and is unable to participate in its upcoming all-day meeting on June 28th. Lucy worked with OCBA Leadership to consider a new appointee: Joy Alise Davis, Executive Director for Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF). She has accepted this appointment.

VII. Commissioners' Reports

Chair Fox noted that the OCBA was invited by Mr. Karanja Crews to attend the grand opening of his new marijuana business.

VIII. Administrator's Report

A. Review of OACO Strategic Plan – Lucy discussed her work with the OAC leadership to draft an update of the current strategic plan which incorporates the strategic vision of the OAC around intersectionality, rural analysis, research partnerships, and the Policy Arc

into its goals. She and the Chairs expect to have the 2017-2022 goals and objectives circulating to all Commissioners for review and comment by next month.

- B. Review of OACO staffing plan – Lucy and the Commission reviewed the written descriptions and budget figures that will accompany the 2019-21 OACO Budget requesting making the OPA3 position full time (currently .5 FTE), and adding a full time Office Specialist 1 to support the emerging committee and work group structure of the OAC’s policy research and development initiatives.
- C. Chair’s review of OACO Principal Executive Manager (PEM) qualifications.
The Commission and Lucy considered the work of the Chairs regarding increasing the grade of the Principal Executive Manger (PEM) of the OACO. It is currently a grade C PEM which was assigned to the position in 2005 when it was a back office position within a small office inside DAS. Since then the OAC’s and their Administrator have moved the OACO into becoming an independent office and now expect their PEM to advance their work with policy makers including Department leaders, Governor’s Policy Advisors, and legislators. The Chairs have met recently to review the needed qualifications and will be pursuing a PEM F level for the OACO Administrator position.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

- A. Next mtg Friday, August 10, 2018, Oregon State Bar, 11:30am – 1:30pm

Public comment was re-opened and Julia DeGraw spoke about at-large voting. She ran for Portland City Council and campaigned on this point. Feels Portland’s representation . PCUN is supporting an Oregon Voting Rights act, the subject matter of which was discussed earlier in the OCBA meeting. Julia will continue to work on this with a broad coalition. The OCBA thanked Julia for her comment and looks forward to reaching out to PCUN to learn more.

X. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Manning adjourned the meeting at 1:18pm.