

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)
Saturday, June 18, 2016, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Concordia University
2811 NE Holman Street
George White Library, Room 120
Portland, OR 97211

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James Morris
Vice Chair: Robin Morris Collin (phone)
Commissioners: Mariotta Gary-Smith, Kayse Jama, James Manning, Jr., Musse Olol, Rep Frederick, Senator Monroe
Absent: Gwen Trice
Guests: Sam Chapman, Sonja Skarla, Jamal Gardner
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Meeting Called to Order – welcome to new Commissioner Mariotta Gary-Smith
The meeting was called to order at 9:02am. A quorum was established. Added item D to ratify.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Manning/Monroe): To approve revised agenda with added item to agenda: ratification of e-vote for OCBA research internship. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA April 2016 Meeting minutes –

MOTION (Monroe/Gary-Smith): To approve minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

V. Elections for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Manning conducted the elections by voice vote of officers that were nominated at the OCBA May meeting.

- James Morris was elected Chair.
- Robin Morris Collin was elected Vice Chair.

The new officers took their positions effective immediately.

The OCBA thanked Commissioner Manning for his excellent service as Chair and the new officers look forward to working together to forward the work of the Commission.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. OCBA Commissioners' recruitment – Currently there are two vacancies on OCBA. Chair Morris has met with Dr. Lisa Bates to discuss service on the OCBA. The Commissioners agreed that geographic and gender representation are important. Rep Frederick reached out to Tramell Tillman. Chair Morris will reach out to him as well. Commissioner Manning is also looking. Representation from Bend and Redmond and outside the Willamette Valley is desired. Mike Green who lives in Medford and travels frequently was mentioned.
- B. Oregon Youth Authority Isolation Committee update – Chair Morris reported on his participation on the OYA committee which has instituted tracking of which staff send a youth to isolation. This has never been done before. There will now be records to review to see what patterns emerge.
Rep Frederick reported that OYA is in the process of making changes of this order which gauge the use of isolation as punishment by staff and monitor how long the assigned isolation is by staff person. A number of legislators and leaders have now toured the OYA facilities to learn more about these and other changes. Chair Morris was nominated to the national Council of Juvenile Corrections committee. He noted that some of the juveniles go to isolation as a preventive measure for controlling their behavior. It is sometimes a useful tool in cited cases of protection.
- C. OCBA/OAC's letter of complaint to the Oregon State Bar (OSB) re: Washington County District Attorney's office
Nancy reported that the OSB has not completed its review of the case yet, but she expects to hear back from them soon. Discussion followed that included:
- This is a problem widely shared across the state. Where each prosecutor's office is a separate unit, with the DA elected from largely uncontested races, and that can use their prosecutorial discretion to boost the statistics that appeal to voters.
 - To change this would require identifying champions within the DA's who would be interested in pursuing implicit bias training for the profession, or meeting with DA's individually to discuss the issues of implicit bias.
 - The OSB Minority Bar Associations may be interested in this and may be pursuing some aspects of bias training or other approaches already. Rep Frederick hears from the Association of DAs, has had conversations with them in the past around incidents such as harassment of African immigrants on the bus and the MAX and how this escalates to a higher penalty. This is addressed as part of the racial profiling bill.
 - Incarceration of people of color in Marion County is extensive and extremely disproportionate. This is an opportunity to raise consciousness. Former Chief Justice de Muniz and Edmond Peterson could be allies.
 - Meet with Attorney General Rosenblum to speak with her about OCBA's concerns about implicit bias within the legal system and need for training. Staff will coordinate that meeting.
- D. Ratify research internship approval from e-vote. The internship between ODE and OCBA on disproportionate discipline was reviewed electronically after the commission's April meeting and was unanimously approved in an e-vote.

MOTION (Manning /Olol): To ratify the e-vote of the ODE/OCBA research internship on disproportionate discipline. CARRIED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sam Chapman, Oregon Cannabis Jobs + Report

Sam Chapman presented information that his group has prepared regarding participation by the county's permitting the growth and sale of marijuana. The number of permitting counties, especially outside the I-5 corridor is low which keeps the citizens of those counties outside the opportunities offered by this new sector in the Oregon economy. Also, the legislature, when approving the enabling legislation, opened the trade to out of state firms and growers who are taking advantage of the slow adoption by counties to increase their share of Oregon business, taking the profits in the marijuana sector out of the state.

Discussion followed. The Commissioners are concerned that the Black community in Oregon is not aware of the potential for them to be involved as business owners in this sector and discussed ways that the state could reach out and help educate all potential entrepreneurs. They thanked Sam for his informative presentation.

B. Sonja Skvarla, A Social Ignition program

Sonja presented along with Jamal Gardner, a graduate of A Social Ignition programs. Ms. Skvarla is a small business expert who is the CEO of a small non-profit business that teaches business planning and start up skills to individuals who are or have been incarcerated. It differs in this its approach by providing ongoing mentoring and training to the new entrepreneurs once they have transitioned back to the community and are growing their businesses. Mr. Gardner discussed his experiences in the program, which he began while serving his sentence, but is now pursuing his business in the Portland area having completed his prison term.

Discussion followed focused on the challenges that individuals face in the community after transitioning from prison, where lack of resources and absence of housing options threatens their wellbeing, family engagement and community retention. The commission thanked Sonja and Jamal for their informative and insightful presentation.

C. National Reconciliation Act discussion

[Link to full text of the proposed Act](#)

Chair Morris briefly discussed a national effort for legislation that would replace the use of the word "race" in all federal legislation and associated documents with the word "ethnicity." He plans to chair a meeting of the OCBA's Advocacy Committee and discuss it in full there and will also work with Commissioner Manning to reach out to the author of the bill proposal for clarity on his work. The OCBA's interest in national issues, such as this, will be shared with National Coalition of African American Advocacy Commissions.

D. Replicating White House Roundtable for the Black community

Chair Morris related his experience attending the OCAPIA/White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) event last summer in Portland. The event was publicized in the local API community and offered a series of roundtable sessions for the local community with the leaders of Federal departments located in Portland and Seattle. Each roundtable was facilitated by an OCAPIA Commissioner or IRCO staff person, the content of which included a brief presentation about what the featured Federal office does that touches local communities, followed by a discussion session between the attending community members and the Federal presenters. The OCAPIA handled the local meeting arrangements at IRCO and helped publicize the event in the community, and the WHIAAPI staff made all the arrangements for the Federal presenters.

He asked OCBA if they would be interested in replicating such an event for the Black community. There was some interest expressed including inviting both federal and state departmental leaders to attend and present. Commissioner Olol will reach out to DHS and the Department Homeland Security. He had attended an event with them and found it helpful. Chair Morris and staff will reach out to Serena Stoudamire Wesley in the Governor's Office to see if OCBA might partner on this.

E. Legislative discussion

1. The Joint Legislative Committee Meeting of the OACs prior to long session will be held December 6th, 2016 in Portland. It will be an all-day event co-hosted by all of the Advocacy Commissions, to hear from departmental legislative staff, legislators, and community partners about the equity focused legislation they are pursuing for the 2017 long session. Subjects will include education, health, jobs/economy, justice/safety/policing, stable families, civic engagement and environmental justice. This Joint Meeting of the OAC's informs the legislative slate being pursued by each Commission during legislative session which runs from February through June, 2017. The meeting will be located at 800 NE Oregon St., near Lloyd Center in Portland. Research partners will be invited. ODE, DHS, OHA, BOLI and other state agency partners will present.

2. Upcoming webinar training: *How to Be Effective in the Interim*, 7/7 11:30am – 1pm. Ty will resend the invite today so people can register. This is the first training webinar developed by the OAC's in support of their advocacy work. It is being taught by Sen. Michael Dembrow, who serves on OCAPIA.

F. Public Policy research update

1. Disproportionate Discipline internship, topic was discussed in detail earlier in the agenda.

VIII. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Mariotta Gary-Smith thanked everyone for their welcome and looks forward to engaging in the work of the OCBA.

IX. Administrator's Report

A. Update on the 2017-19 OACO Budget development - Lucy shared a draft copy of the Current Service Level budget for the OACO in the upcoming biennium. She discussed each line item including Staffing (Personal Services) and Services and Supplies with include \$100,000 of Government Service Charges, which are non-negotiable. These include the costs to OACO for Accounting, HR, Risk Management, Payroll, IT, Data Management, and other assessments to the State Library, SOS, Government Ethics Commission. The 2017-19 budget will be submitted at the end of July before which time the OCBA will also see and approve the Policy Option Packages which will include adding .5 FTE Policy Analyst to Ty's position, .3 FTE Office Assistant that Nancy would supervise, and additional Commissioner travel.

The Commission thanked her for her report.

X. For the Good of the Order:

Next mtg 8/20/16, currently at PCC Cascade Campus, 9am–12pm (bldg. rm to be determined). The Commission expressed their interest in exploring moving the OCBA meetings to the Concordia Library, which Nancy will explore for the 8/20 mtg.

XI. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm by common consent.