



**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Friday, October 12, 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 (phone), Djimet Dogo, Musse Olol, Representative Janelle Bynum (phone)  
**Absent:** Kayse Jama, Mariotta Gary-Smith (excused), Senator Monroe  
**Guests:** Dr. Marvin Lynn, Dean, Graduate School of Education, PSU  
Glasper West, PSU  
Hannah Holloway and Jackie Yerby, Urban League of Portland  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 11:40AM. A quorum was established.

A. Introductions and roll call

**II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes**

A. Review and approval of OCBA August Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION (Bynum/Olol): To approve the August regular minutes as written. CARRIED.

B. Review and approval of OCBA August Strategic Plan Meetings Notes

MOTION (Manning/Dogo): To approve the Strategic Planning Notes as written. CARRIED.

**III. Public Comment –**

Hannah Holloway and Jackie Yerby from Urban League of Portland. They both work in policy areas including workforce, education, and housing. They would like to explore opportunities to collaborate with OCBA and share legislative slates. Urban League has long been interested in renter protections and will welcome coalition building with the Commission around these and other areas of joint interest. Lobby Days at the legislature are scheduled and will be shared with OCBA. Perhaps we can have a joint lobby day? The State of Black Oregon is being updated and re-published in 2020 and UL would like to work with OCBA to complete and launch it. It will be very helpful to assure there is representation and stories from across the state and OCBA has helped with this in the past. Also, 2019 is UL's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commissioners are invited to serve on the planning committee. Hannah noted that she has been working to create a voter guide and will be planning voting parties. Marijuana expungement is also an issue – OCBA already met with Karanja Crews and wrote

a letter of support.

OCBA has partnered with the Urban League's Lobby Day in the past. Lobby Days will be February and April, and the Chair will reach out along with OCBA staff to make arrangements for a joint lobby day.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recap of OCBA Strategic Planning session – Jamal
- B. Color PAC presentation – Ana del Rocio, State Director of Color PAC reported. Color Pac's goal has always been to support candidates of color, but are now looking to build grassroots support and awareness. After the November elections, they will offer support to new electeds and work with them around particular goals including public policy focus areas. Color PAC has network of current training programs which benefit from word of mouth outreach.

Current policy focus within Color PAC criminal justice reform, the goals of the Minority Teacher Act, reproductive rights, economic justice, and equity for LGBTQ. In December Color PAC plans to host a Power Academy for newly elected people of color. They also are interested in the issues of students of color getting into college but difficulty remaining enrolled.

Chair Fox thanked Ms. Del Rocio for her presentation and looks forward to future collaborations.

- C. Critical Race Theory discussion  
Dr. Marvin Lynn, Dean, Graduate School of Education, PSU, presented on the social sciences concept of Critical Race Theory and how it affects community and institutions. Critical race theory examines social structures, society, and culture in relation to categorizations of race, law, and power. It holds that white supremacy and racial power are persistent over decades and affect the constructs of law in such a way as to continue it. Change in the relationship between law and other institutions, and racial subordination is now part of many law school courses as well as education and other fields as a lens with which to examine key parts of society.

Dr. Lynn began with an overview of the Derrick Bell book that defines the Theory and related discussions on free speech vs. hate speech. It was determined that hate speech is not Free speech. Critical Race Theory is based on a commitment to social justice and uses a moral and ethical framework. One of its basic tenets is interruption of racist patterns and processes, including relation to poverty. He noted that racism impedes people's access to capital and schools, government, and banking propagate that. Rent increases have stopped people from being able to afford food. Middle income Black and African families are still vulnerable in multiple ways that are much less pressing in middle income white communities. Costs are higher for Black and African students – different response than White students and it begins pre-K. There are differences in linguistic style, clothing style, and cultural expression that drives, in teachers' minds, much of the disproportionate discipline for black students. Successful school districts have taken these issues off the list of disciplinary action. Only instances of threat are allowed a discipline issue. Cultural responsibility is a big issue in schools

and society at large. It is important to understand and appreciate the assets of diverse populations of students. Dominant culture teachers may believe that black kids will cause trouble and then make sure they appear to be doing so. This is about social control. Expectations of dominant culture are always a serious issue.

Potential teachers are not asked during interview process if they are fearful of black students. Fear still of talking about race in direct ways. It is difficult to recruit and retain black teachers for a number of reasons, but primary among them are negative interactions with white faculty and principals.

Chair Fox thanked Dr. Lynn for his presentation and discussion.

D. Legislative discussion (10 min)

1. Oregon Voting Rights Act (OVRA) Legislative Concept update

Vice Chair Manning reported that this LC has been submitted by Senator Manning and they are now waiting to receive the draft from Legislative Counsel. It passed it will even the representation from individual communities among local elected bodies across Oregon. Representative Bynum has it on her radar as well. Woodburn community contacted her – need to understand how it will impact certain areas.

2. Pathways to re-credentialing for immigrants with professional credentials LC

Lucy reported that OCAPIA has championed this issue over three years, with community stakeholder meetings, public policy research, and now, associated Legislative Concepts (LCs). Senator Dembrow, OCAPIA Commissioner, has submitted 2 LC's related to re-credentialing. One is Pathways into licensed professions. OCAPIA Chair Sinlapasai, OCHA Chair Castillo, and Sen. Dembrow have begun discussion with health licensing boards to establish a clear, explicit pathway for immigrants with professional licenses be re-credentialed on each licensing board website. The second LC will develop a hub within government as a one stop shop resource where immigrants and refugees can easily reach business, licensing boards, education and other stakeholders. Would be a multistream of funding with Higher Education, HECC, business, licensing boards, resettlement agencies, and state partners all having a role in coordinating resources through the hub.

E. Future OCBA meetings:

Chair Fox asked the Commissioners to re-consider the OCBA meeting times. Friday in Tigard has not worked well for some members. Discussion followed. The Commission agreed that it will try returning to weekend meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, in the morning, for two hours. This will begin at the February meeting of the OCBA. Nancy will work with the Chair to send the announcement in early January.

F. OCBA Bylaws Review Committee

Chair Fox will request volunteers among commissioners to serve with him as the OCBA bylaws committee. Watch for that in later October. He would like to complete the review and have recommendations for helpful amendments by the December meeting of the OCBA.

## VI. Commissioners' Reports

Chair Fox – participatory budgeting. Still working with Jim Labbe.

Chair Fox has reached out to Kali Ladd, KairosPDX, and she is interested in our Summer Melt progress. Chair Fox will be following up with Kali to keep her in the loop followed by a tour of her facility. She is asking for increase in funds earmarked for the Student Success Program. Chair Fox and Lucy met with the United Negro Fund to discuss Summer Melt, which describes the challenge of HS graduates of color to complete and submit their college loan and grant requests quick enough to move forward with college in the fall. Many students and their parents don't know about the FAFSA form and the timing of it for governmental grants and loans. In best practice models addressing this, some schools host FAFSA nights in their gyms and cafeterias where families and students can meet with professionals and volunteers to complete and submit the forms on the spot.

## **VII. Administrator's Report**

- A. OACO 2019 – 2021 Agency Request Budget appeal  
Lucy and the Commissioners discussed the process of the OACO budget as it is considered for inclusion in the Governor's Budget to the legislature. The Commissioners all expressed their desire to help by speaking to legislators, the CFO, with the Governor, or working in collaboration to support the added staff requests in the OACO budget.
- B. OCBA Biennial Report 2017-19  
Lucy plans to work with the OCBA and its leadership to build the content of OCBA's 2017-19 biennial report to the Governor and the Legislature during January, and have it completed in time for the presentation before Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee at OACO's budget hearing. That typically is scheduled in February or March.
- C. Annual OACs Joint Meeting  
Lucy and the Chairs are working on the agenda for the Annual Joint Meeting of the Advocacy Commissions in December. Originally, December 7<sup>th</sup> was chosen as a good date, but that may not be the case. Lucy will circulate a Doodle Poll among all 44 OAC Commission members to see if December 14<sup>th</sup> would be better. The agenda will cover discussion of 2019 legislative slates, with community and state partners presenting in the morning. The afternoon will be focused on the OACs engagement in all aspects of the Policy Arc, intersectionality, rural and urban analysis, research, LCs and partnerships.

## **VIII. For the Good of the Order:**

- A. The next meeting of the OCBA may be held at the Joint meeting of the OAC's location in Salem on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **IX. Adjourn**