

**Kate Brown
Governor**



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM
Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman St.,
White Library Room 120, Portland, OR 97211

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James Morris
Vice Chair: Robin Morris Collin (phone)
Commissioners: James I Manning, Jr., Musse Olol, Gwen Trice (phone), Senator Monroe
Absent: Mariotta Gary-Smith, Kayse Jama, Rep Frederick
Guests: Andre Bealer, National Association of Minority Contractors Oregon (NAMCO); Steve Simms, BOLI; Michele Malick, ODOC
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Meeting Called to Order - Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Manning/Monroe): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA October 2016 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Monroe/Collin): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. OCBA Commissioner recruitment update – James Manning spoke briefly about Clarence Williams, who has submitted an Interest Form to Executive Appointments for the OCBA. He lives in Harrisburg and wishes to contribute to the OCBA's overall mission. The OCBA supports his appointment and will let Executive Appointments and Serena Stoudemire Wesley know. Governor Brown's process for appointment to the OAC's includes a meeting with Serena, the OAC's policy advisor in the Governor's Office, prior to moving an appointment forward.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Letter to Governor Brown re: appointing District Attorneys

The OCBA continues to monitor the significant connection between District Attorneys, implicit bias, sentencing severity, and overrepresentation of the Black and African American community in Oregon's prisons. Chair Morris met with Benton County D.A. John Haroldson (a former

OCHA Commissioner) to discuss these issues and at the October OCBA meeting American Civil Liberties Union Oregon chapter Executive Director David Rogers provided detailed material on these subjects. Vice Chair Robin proposed a letter be written to Governor Brown regarding her appointments of DA's into vacant positions. After discussion, OCBA wishes to express in its letter the importance of selecting candidates for DA unfilled position appointments who possess specific qualifications, such as demonstrated sensitivity to racial bias and cultural understanding, given the vital role of prosecutors in criminal justice reform. The criteria/list could be taken to from the letter written by Vice Chair Collin on behalf of the OCBA to the Oregon State Bar regarding a Washington County DA's stereotyping poste don her Facebook account.

MOTION (Collin/Monroe): Write a letter to the Governor asking her to add considerations around racial bias and record of seeking maximum sentences when appointing DA's into unfilled positions. CARRIED.

Vice Chair Collin will draft a letter and send it to Lucy for her review and suggestions before circulating it to the OCBA for their review.

B. Public Policy research internships update

1. Pre-Apprenticeship investment in Oregon joint policy research with BOLI and OCBA – Steve Simms, Director, Apprenticeship Training Division

Steve presented findings about people of color and women in the Highway Construction Trades. The supportive services that the Apprenticeship Division offers are effective in keeping apprentices employed. Support services include buying tools required for the Trades; paying for gas, as Apprentices are often sent far afield for their first assignments and cannot afford to take these jobs without financial assistance. The availability and cost of child care is also obstacle for completion rates for Apprentices.

A major challenge for people of color and women in the Highway trades is discrimination by race and gender. As was indicated by the data, those most impacted are women of color. Vice Chair Robin voiced concern about workplace discrimination and harassment, and about the civil rights of Apprentices. Each contractor has a project manager, who is supposed to ensure that civil rights are not violated, but this is not what happens. The suggestion was made to share these findings with contractors used by ODOT and ask them what they can do to eliminate harassment and discrimination at the worksite.

The Commission looks forward to taking next steps with Mr. Simms to recruit the next joint policy intern between OCBA and BOLI's Apprenticeship Office which will compile data on best practice and success for pre-apprenticeship programs. This joint policy internship has already begun with 3 discussions with Sen. Frederick, Sen. Dembrow, Chair Morris, Project Hope and Mr. Simms during the fall. Next is recruitment of a research student is for spring, 2017. The project scope of work will be developed and posted with schools in February.

2. Immigrant re-credentialing internship – Musse Olol

Commissioner Olol attended the recent re-credentialing stakeholders discussion in October. The attendees were a diverse mix of immigrant and refugee organizations, immigrant community leaders, the Governor's Office, OCBA, OCAPIA, Sen. Dembrow and policy makers in state government. There were three breakout groups who brainstormed which professions are predominately not working in their credentialed fields. The field of healthcare, including mental health and nursing, were most prominent.

Chair Morris also contributed to the work by meeting with Mari Watanabe, OCAPIA Chair and champion for this policy research to review a new policy related to credentialing at the Dental Board. They have developed a process whereby an immigrant Oregonian who is credentialed in dentistry in their home country can teach dentistry in the U.S., and have those hours count towards the 3500 hour requirement needed for a dental license in Oregon. The Dental Board's attorney has formalized the process, which can serve as a template for other licensing boards and commissions. By credentialing immigrant dentists, the community benefits by having a dentist who looks like them, knows the culture and knows the language. This also saves on translation services. OCAPIA's next step in the joint policy research project it is conducting will invite health related boards to share best practice and support policy recommendations on immigrant credentialing in Oregon.

It was noted that a number of Somali nurses here went to Minnesota to receive their nursing credential then returned to Oregon and are able to work here as nurses.

The research intern for this project, Ennada Lagouti, is a Fulbright Scholar from Morocco studying for her Master's degree at the OSU Graduate School of Public Policy. She has made excellent progress, focusing on interviewing immigrants who have pursued their Oregon licenses in health related fields, especially pharmacy.

3. Future Racial and Equity Disparities report research project with Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

The CJC has been compiling data and studies at the Governor's request, on disparity among over-representation of prison inmates of color. They will be posting these analyses on a dashboard at their website. Lucy will schedule a meeting with Schmidt and the OCBA. Commissioner Trice would like to stay informed on meeting Mike Schmidt and the work going forward.

In the spring, OCBA would like to organize a small workgroup to craft a Master or 3L student Public Policy Research internship on Racial and Equity Disparities and partner with the CJC.

The OCBA is also concerned that expungement for possession of marijuana and that these expungements are not happening or not happening quickly. Chair Morris noted that Jেসে Horton, a minority advocate for the marijuana business community, wishes to pursue policy that would set a number of expungements that would be implemented each quarter so that the effort can measure its progress. He also noted that Jeff Rhoades, the Governor's marijuana advisor, says there are currently no inmates being held on possession of marijuana charges.

C. Legislative discussion

1. Planning for December 6th, OAC joint legislative meeting

Ty reviewed the current agenda for the OAC's Joint Meeting on Legislation that will be held on Tuesday. The Joint meeting will include:

- A number of Governor's Policy Advisors are either presenting in person or to the Joint OAC leadership including Jeremy Vandehey, the Governor's Policy Advisor on Healthcare, and Heidi Mowad, policy advisor on public safety.
- Over lunch, the Oregon Women's Foundation Executive Director, Emily EVANS, will present on issues affecting women and girls of color across Oregon.

- Legislative overviews on 5 strategic priorities of the OAC's by state partners from DOJ, ODE, HECC, DHS, OHA, and Community Partners: APANO, CIO, OHEA, AAUW and others.
- Breakout sessions for each Commission to review and brainstorm key words for Ty to use in searching for bills of interest during legislative session. Commissions will be asked to prioritize their subject areas so there will be Tier 1 and Tier 2 bills.

2. Legislative reports from commissioners and legislators –

- Senator Monroe offered a word of caution regarding the Governor's budget. It is based on new revenue, 60% vote required in Senate and House - bipartisan report. Conservative voice is not supporting new revenue. Oregon MUST have a balanced budget and cannot do deficit spending. Proposed revenues are for increasing alcohol and cigarette taxes, and possibly corporate taxes and transportation. \$1.7 billion shortfall currently and without new revenue this shortfall will need to be made by cuts.
- He noted that transit is a huge issue for the transportation packages, statewide. Improving air quality and the environment was also mentioned in each city Senator Monroe visited as part of the special Transportation Committee. A better investment is needed for transit. There is also an issue of the Clean Fuels Program and wanting that repealed if the Transportation package passes.
- There may be another greenhouse gas bill proposed or part of a larger package. The revenues were earmarked last session for communities of color. That part of the bill will remain intact.
- Senator Edwards stepped down. He was Chair of the Transportation Committee, and this position will need to be filled.
- Senator Frederick is interested in clean air legislation among other topics.
- The Oregon Justice Resource Center has been looking at the death penalty and the cost of death penalty trial. Cost is \$1M per trial because of the specialized prosecution team. Governor has moratorium on death penalty. OJRC interested in reducing these hidden costs.
- City of Portland will have a hearing next week and asks that all community partners that supported the state policy on inclusive zoning also support the city policy

MOTION (Manning/Trice): That OCBA support Portland's work on inclusive zoning with a letter or other timely support as it schedules hearings on the subject. Carried.

The Commission asks for Ty's assistance in tracking when such a letter would be helpful and to assist them with talking points for such a letter.

Ty noted that the bill that passed removed the statewide ban on inclusive zoning and left it up to local governments. Now local governments are working on the details. The work taking place in Portland will serve as a template for other Oregon cities that are tackling this as well.

- D. Erious Johnson, Civil Rights Unit, Department of Justice – Commissioners' concerns
Mr. Johnson was not available to attend, but wishes to report at a future meeting.

VII. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Trice reported that she applied to the Smithsonian for a grant on natural

history interpretation. She was successful, but as a result will be in South Carolina during the OCBA's February mtg.

VIII. Administrator's Report

- A. OACO budget update and October financial projections -
Lucy reviewed the October budget projection, noting that there will be unexpended General Funds that can be used for purposes that further the statutory work of the OAC's. She will discuss with the OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs how to expend what remains in the GF and is recommending that they consider adding Project Management training for Nancy, and an increase of 4 hours weekly to Ty's time making him .6 FTE through the end of the biennium on June 30th.

The October financial report was accepted by common consent.

- B. Commission interest in adding additional 4 hours per week for Ty Schwoeffermann through June 2017. The Commission agreed with Lucy's recommendation on increasing the Policy Analyst's time if there are sufficient General Funds projected as available in the current budget.
- C. OCBA Biennial Report to the Governor and Legislature review of subjects and writing. -
Lucy reviewed the list of 20 bills the OCBA supported in the 2015-16 sessions that will become part of the OCBA's biennial report to the legislature. She also reviewed the draft statements sent earlier to the OCBA on its Mission, Principles and Values, and Goals and Actions; and the potential topics for the report.

After reviewing the statements, the Commission asked that "African American and Black communities" be used to describe the OCBA's constituent communities in the mission, and values statements. This change will be made.

The OCBA biennial report will be ready in draft early in the legislative session and will be presented by the Chairs or Vice Chairs of each Commission as they present the OAC's budget before the Joint Ways and Means' General Government Committee. The date of that presentation will be set after session begins. Also, there will be a professionally formatted and printed summary of each Commission's biennial report this year for the first time.

Vice Chair Morris Collin thanked Lucy for compiling all this information and keeping the reports moving forward. She noted that the OACs have become a model for how to get work done collaboratively and that the Governor's Policy Advisor, Heidi Moawad was interested in sharing the model with others.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

1. Black History Month Proclamation signing Thursday, Feb2 @3pm. Chair Morris will work with Nancy and the OCBA to select speakers for the event.
2. Next OCBA meeting: Saturday, 2/18/17, Concordia U Campus, 9am-12pm (White Library, Room 120)

X. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 11:44am.