

Kate Brown
Governor



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

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, December 5, 2015, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Portland Community College Cascade Campus
Terrell Hall, Room 202
Portland, OR 97217

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James I. Manning, Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin (phone), Musse Olol, Gwendolyn Trice (phone),
Representative Lew Frederick, Senator Rod Monroe
Absent: Kayse Jama
Guests: Maggie Tallmadge, and Solamon Ibe, Coalition of Communities of Color;
Mary Moller, Director of Executive Appointments; Robert Otero, DAS
Budget Analyst for OACO; Nafisa Fai and Tia Henderson, Upstream
Public Health; Lawanda Manning
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Meeting Called to Order and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am. Chair Manning and the Commission welcomed Ty Schwoeffermann, the OAC's new .5 FTE Policy Analyst to the meeting. Ty's background includes lobbying and organizing work with the Urban League. He looks forward to supporting the statutory work of the OACs. There is strong interest in seeing this position grow to full-time in the next biennium.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Monroe/Olol): To accept the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA October 2015 Meeting minutes

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

IV. Public Comment – Robert Otero, the OACO's new CFO Budget Analyst, introduced himself. He understands the importance of the Policy Analyst position becoming full-time, given the breadth and depth of work of the OACs.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Report from December Joint meeting of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions –
Collaborative Action areas

Chair Manning reviewed the policy areas each of the 4 Advocacy Commissions are most interested in: education issues and healthcare. The list is appended to these minutes. Healthcare equity for all is a growing policy issue, and after some discussion it was proposed that forming a joint OAC healthcare committee be on the agenda for the next joint meeting of the OAC's. They briefly touched on the Mend the Gap campaign, which is focusing on the Basic Health Plan, Cover All Kids, Reproductive Health coverage for all Oregonians and ensuring certain Pacific Islander immigrants are not excluded from access to healthcare.

The Commissioners agreed that mental health issues are of particular interest to them and an emerging issue. The Black community is consistently overrepresented in prisons, and often people with mental health issues are incarcerated rather than treated for their mental health. The federal government recently passed a reconciliation package of \$750 million new dollars that states may use for mental health services for the next 2 years. A presentation at an upcoming OCBA meeting on Oregon's share of these funds should be planned.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Governor's Office report – Mary Moller, Director of Executive Appointments

Mary introduced herself to the Commissioners. She oversees recruitment for new members for Oregon's 250+ boards and commissions as well as Task Forces created by the legislature and its committees. She noted that the OAC's new Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office is Serena Stoudamire, who plans to attend the OCBA meeting in February. She and Serena are committed to increasing equity and diversity on the boards and commissions with help from the Advocacy Commissions. Representative Frederick suggested connecting with the OCAPIA's Chair, Mari Watanabe, who runs the Say Hey! program which welcomes professionals of color to Portland. OCBA Commissioner Trice volunteered to serve as resource to recruit candidates from eastern Oregon.

Mary provided an update on staffing changes in the Governor's Office: Kristen Leonard is the Governor's new Chief of Staff replacing Brian Shipley. Ivo Trummer is the new Legislative Director, replacing Dmitri Palmateer. The OAC Chairs have met with the Legislative Director in the past prior to the big session and will plan to do so again for 2016 and will share their Commissions' legislative slates with Mr. Trummer and Serena for discussion prior to the Session.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is creating a mandatory training for all new commission and board appointees that will include cultural competency. The OACs offered their support to review materials in advance and provide input. The suggestion was made to include screening for cultural competency as part of the application process.

The Commissioners thanked Mary for her time and her considerable efforts.

B. Maggie Tallmadge, Environmental Justice Manager, and Solamon Ibe, Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) – possible opportunities for collaboration

Chair Manning welcomed Maggie and Solamon to the meeting. The CCC formed over 10 years ago due to significant demographic increase among communities of color in Oregon, and to address the socioeconomic disparities and inequity of services that became more pronounced. Their presentation focused on environmental justice and the proposed Healthy

Climate Bill, which would prevent harm and provide benefit to historically underserved communities.

The bill they are proposing and is being sponsored by Senator Edwards is based on California's success in establishing a process for allocating revenues from greenhouse gas reduction, also known as "Cap and Trade". After listening to the presentation and reviewing the materials, Commissioner Morris Collin expressed concern about unintended negative outcomes of California's process. Commissioner Collin and Representative Frederick expressed concerns about the broad statements in the presentation about California success around Cap and Trade and asked Maggie about her data. Commissioner Collin noted that California's approach to cap and trade has had notable areas of ineffectiveness. Ms. Tallmadge offered to send the OCBA the background study and data on which she was basing these statements. .

The Commission thanked Maggie and Solamon for their presentation and look forward to her follow up.

C. Executive Summary on Youth and Tobacco Use: Nafisa Fai and Tia Henderson, Upstream Public Health

The Commission welcomed Ms. Fai and Ms. Henderson who reported on youth tobacco smoking and Upstream Health's study of youth cigarette smoking. The tobacco industry targets specific products to youth of color that look like candies or other colorful products and, unlike cigarettes that must be sold in packs, sells these colorful products individually at a low cost. Nafisa provided examples of these products for the Commissioners to see and examine. In Oregon, there are a number of small shops and vendors that are part of communities of color that sell these products to their local youth as an important way to bring customers into their stores. The vendors themselves may not know the laws associated with selling tobacco to minors.

Upstream Health developed several policy recommendations for the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners to address these issues by establishing retail licensing, training and enforcement which were accepted in late 2015. OHEA (Oregon Health Equity Alliance) asked for retailer training and strong enforcement. An e-cigarette bill to require licensing to sell such products is in the works for the 2016 or 2017 Legislative session. Discussion followed.

The Commission thanked Nafisa and Tia for their excellent presentation and wish to continue following this issue with Upstream Health and other community partners.

D. Legislative Report –

Ty Schwoeffermann, Policy Analyst, reported on issues in strategic areas of importance to the OCBA in the 2016 legislative session

1. Advocacy update: Ty briefly outlined key dates for legislative short session which will move quickly. Ty will keep Commissioners abreast of movement on bills of interest to OCBA, as well as keeping the OCBA legislators informed about OCBA's priorities.
 - a. Representative Frederick reported on several of his bills of OCBA's interest: Create a fund for teacher in-service learning regarding cultural competency. Ensure existing effective programs remain available to teachers as well.

- b. Relating to court fees attached to incarcerated individuals. A conviction often results in fines for incarcerated individuals. During their incarceration interest accrues on the debt and the high level of debt can become overwhelming for the individual when they return to society. This bill proposes to use community service programs to pay off debt.

Commissioners noted that they appreciate the level of staff support Ty is providing and will make themselves available to testify on these and other bills of interest as needed.

2. Policy research – The other part of Ty’s position is maintaining and developing public policy research projects. OCBA’s current internships include disparities in disproportionate discipline and the low graduation rates of apprentices of color to journeyman status. OCBA’s upcoming research projects may include: research and analysis of municipal court fines; best practice around 2nd looks for youth serving mandatory sentences of 5 years.

E. 2016 Black History Month proclamation and proclamation signing

The Commissioners approved Nancy to request a proclamation signing ceremony with the Governor for Black History month on their behalf. She will submit the request and also distribute the 2015 proclamation to help solicit further suggestions of statements for the Governor to include in the 2016 proclamation.

- F. OCBA Commissioner recruitment – This issue was tabled for discussion at a later date. Ty will prepare a list of potential candidates for consideration. Commissioners were encouraged to send names of possible candidates to Lucy and Nancy. OCBA noted it would like to have a commissioner with experience in health and also in education. OCBA will reach out to Serena Stoudamire as well.

VII. Commissioners’ Comments

Chair Manning recognized Commissioner Trice for being named a 2015 honoree by OCFW for their Women of Achievement Awards. Everyone congratulated Commissioner Trice!

Commissioner Morris Collin attended an EJTF meeting all-day on 12/4/15 and shared topics of specific interest to OCBA:

1. Oregon’s natural resource agencies have adopted cultural competency standards. OCBA could recommend cultural competency be part of position descriptions and performance reviews.
2. The proposed clean-up of Portland Harbor will create big employment opportunities. Commissioners were asked to share this information with their networks.
3. Cap & Trade – this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.
4. Develop legislation that prevents corporations with violations be barred from receiving state contracts or payments.
5. High level strategic planning for the EJTF: The EJTF statutorily cannot do legislative work, but the OACs can. The OACs already have a link to the community but the EJTF does not. It has already been shown that if the EJTF were added to the OACO significant additional fiscal support would be required.

Representative Frederick will run for a seat in the Senate in November 2016. Commissioners wished him well and noted his huge contributions to the OCBA.

VIII. Administrator's Report

- A. Appointment of Governor's Office Director of Equity and Community Engagement - Serena Stoudamire was appointed. She will come to a future OCBA meeting. She's met with Ty and Lucy. OAC's offered to support her in her work on increasing equity and engaging communities statewide.
- B. Lucy reported on the progress of the DAS Manager Class and Compensation Study. The OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs have reviewed the new classification for the OACO Administrator. OACO will be part of a new classification focused on equity within state government and the Chairs are pleased about this new classification. However, they are concerned that the OACO Administrator position within the classification is considered to be the lowest level of the managers for this classification. That level manager position does not work with policy or on legislation and is considered to supervise "paraprofessionals." The OAC leaders are concerned that this is not the right level of expertise for the OACO Administrator who works at high levels on policy with the Governor's office and legislators. They have written to Mark Rasmussen in DAS Human Resources to request to meet and review this level of OACO manager. Serena Stoudamire, OACO's Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor's office, is also supportive of this and has scheduled a meeting with DAS leadership to discuss the need for a higher level manager level for the OACO.
- C. OACO Financial update: At the start of this biennium in June, a \$30K shortfall was projected for June 2017 falling primarily in the staffing portion of the budget. Lucy now feels hopeful that this amount in Personnel Services will be covered by an infusion of funds that the legislature has set aside for rebalancing staffing budget in the 2016 February session.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

Chair Manning thanked everyone for attending, for their efforts, for their hard work and wished them a happy holiday season.

Next mtg 2/20/15, PCC Cascade Campus, 9am-12pm (bldg./rm to be determined)

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Joint OACs Interest and Collaborative Action Areas (from 10/29/15 Joint mtg)

OCAPIA (Kathleen, Mari):

1. Healthcare – undocumented children
2. Education
 - a. Support of childcare
 - b. Civics classes to teach accurate history

OCBA (James Manning, Gwen):

1. Measure 88, driver card. Signed into law, but overturned. Safety issue
2. Education opportunities – support free childcare for students
3. How we understand mental health issues within criminal justice.

OCHA (Andrea, Diego):

1. Education - Who is setting the price of higher education? Increase revenue for education.
2. Women's reproductive health
3. Special needs children
4. Mental health issues and justice milieu

OCFW (Doris, Barbara):

1. Issue of achievement gap with pre-Kindergarten children and kids of color. Invest in early childhood education.
2. Oregon has highest childcare costs in the country.
3. Mend the Gap
4. 21st Century Universal Women's Healthcare bill. Consider long-term and short-term goals for women's health.
5. Profiling

Healthcare and education are top issues for all OACs. Currently each Commission has an education champion, and are interested in identifying a champion for health issues.