



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
3218 Pringle Road SE, #270
Salem OR 97302
503.378.2139
Fax 503.373-1427

MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, October 31, 2009

9 – 11 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall Room 112

705 N Killingsworth St.

Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Commissioners: Jennifer Doncan, Carlos Jermaine Richard, Willie Woolfolk,
Mariahm Stephenson
Staff: Joy Howard
Guests: Carl Corley, Honorable Michael Marcus, Honorable Nan Waller,
Peggy C. Ross, DeeAnne Yackley

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:12 a.m.

II. Review of Agenda, Changes if necessary

No changes or additions

III. Approval of September 19, 2009 minutes

Motion: Commissioner Doncan moved to accept the minutes; Commissioner Stephenson seconded, unanimously approved

IV. OCBA Priority updates

- 1) Project Clean Slate: Commissioner Richard
 - a) Commissioner Richard has made numerous attempts to contact Mr. Peters and Mr. Davis to set up a meeting in Marion County, as discussed in the August meeting. Commissioner has not been successful in making contact
 - b) Recommendation: work with a new group of stakeholders (e.g., Oregon Assembly on Black Affairs [OABA] and joint commissions) who may be more ready to collaborate on issues of mutual concern
 - c) **Action:** work with OACO, OABA, and joint commissions to come up with a direction and vision on most important initiatives
- 2) Stimulus Funds
 - a) Early Childhood Education: Mariahm Stephenson
 - i. Commissioner Stephenson stated there has been a lack of public awareness in the availability of Head Start programs

- ii. **Action:** Starting the second week in November, she will be producing a newsletter which will include Head Start information to distribute and post to the OCBA website
 - iii. **Action:** Per information provided by Commissioner Rice, Commissioner Stephenson will be creating a listserv and inviting people to join
 - b) New Hires (older workers): Jennifer Doncan
 - i. [Dr. Art Pearl](#) would like to come to address the Commission and the problems teachers of color are facing in obtaining teacher positions. There have not been strong efforts in creating opportunities for minority teachers.
 - ii. Handouts: [U.S. Census Bureau](#) and [Household Data](#)
 - c) Disparity in funds to minorities (ODOT Report): Willie Woolfolk
 - i. Commissioner Woolfolk has been in continual communication with Angela Ramos, Field & Business Support Manager in the ODOT Civil Rights Division to find out where money is being distributed. Ms. Ramos stated it takes time for ODOT to make decisions on how and where stimulus funds will be sent.
 - ii. Recommendation: Commissioner Richard recommended meeting with OCAA and OCHA who have already met with Michael Cobb (ODOT Civil Rights Manager) to collaborate efforts. Set a meeting with joint commission chairs and Mr. Cobb so everyone gets the same answers (i.e., actual numbers of who's getting money and then break down by ethnic category)
- 3) Police Racial Profiling: Clifford Walker
 - a) No new reports
- 4) Health Care: Phyllis Rand
 - a) Commissioner not present; no new reports

V. Honorable Michael Marcus and Nan Waller, State Circuit Court Judges Sentencing and Racial disparities in the Oregon Justice System

Statistics of Concern

- 2% percent of the Oregon population is Black
- 10% of the Oregon prison population is Black

The top priorities in court right now are juvenile disparity and disproportionality in the juvenile justice system. African-American and Native Americans have the highest rate of disproportionality. There's a correlation between kids who stay in foster system too long and the juvenile justice system.

Casey Family Initiative

Department of Human Services and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families have partnered to create an initiative to safely reduce the rate in foster care while decreasing or maintaining the abuse rate by:

- 1) partnering with community and other organizations

- 2) reducing intake
- 3) preventing removal
- 4) increasing exits
- 5) having the same access to services in child welfare system

Links:

[National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#)

VI. Peggy C. Ross, Director, [Governor's Affirmative Action Office](#) Oregon Affirmative Action Plan, and how the OCBA can assist

One of the main focuses of the Governor's Affirmative Action Office (GAAO) is the recruitment, retention, and promotion of the protected classes. Each agency is assigned an Affirmative Action Representative (AA Rep) as a point of contact for complaints and ways to discover career paths. You can contact Ms. Ross' office to find out who an AA Rep is for an agency.

Youth Art on Loan:

This past spring the [Oregon Youth Authority](#) in partnership with the GAAO, unveiled the "Youth Art on Loan" project. This is a program in which agencies borrow art from the youth facilities and display them within their agencies.

GAAO Goals and Initiatives:

- 1) Cultural Competency training and awareness
- 2) Recruiting (ads in ethnic papers/media)
- 3) Direct Appointments (people of color)
- 4) Statewide agency Exit Interviews
- 5) Outreach and recruitment announcements to diverse communities

The GAAO is designed to:

- 1) Reaffirm the state's policy of nondiscrimination and affirmative action;
- 2) Identify state agencies' goals and action plans for achieving goals for women, racial/ethnic group members, and persons with disabilities;
- 3) Provide program specifics for promoting and assuring equal employment opportunity;
- 4) Communicate the Governor's commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action principles; and
- 5) Demonstrate the continued "good faith" efforts of the State of Oregon.
- 6) Act as a consultant and advisor to agencies to assist them in meeting their goals and action plans.

VII. Guest, Community Comments

Mr. Carl Corley submitted his BOLI case information to OCBA for review. He stated he has had issues with his legal representative and petitioned the commission to assist him in whatever way possible to get his case back in review at BOLI.

VOTE:

Commissioner Woolfolk motioned, Commission Stephenson seconded, unanimously approved that Commissioner Walker will go through Mr. Corley's materials and make a recommendation to OCBA on whether or not to act at the next OCBA meeting.

VIII. Final Thoughts:

- 1) Next meeting suggestions
 - a) November and December meetings will be excused and will reconvene in January
- 2) Agenda suggestions
 - a) January meeting – assign committees (e.g., education, etc.)

IX. Adjournment at 11:48 a.m.