



## MINUTES

### **Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**

**Saturday, June 19, 2010**

**9 – 11 AM**

**Concordia University**

**George R. White Library, Community Room**

**2811 NE Holman St., Portland, OR 97211**

#### Attendees

**Chair:** Clifford Walker

**Vice Chair:** Mariahm Stephenson

**Commissioners:** Jennifer Doncan, Representative Lew Frederick, Phyllis Harris-John, Senator Rod Monroe, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Richard, Lorraine Wilson, Willie Woolfolk (tried to call-in but teleconference not set-up)

**Absent:** Samaura Stone

**Staff:** Joy Howard

**Guests:** GM Garcia (community member), Linda Hamilton (Blacks in Govt.), Anselmo Villanueva (community member)

#### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:14 a.m.

#### **II. Approval of May 15, 2010 minutes**

- 1) Revision: section VIII, a., i. – "Make A Difference"
- 2) Vote: Commissioner Doncan moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Representative Frederick seconded, approved unanimously

#### **III. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

- 1) Nominees from May 4 meeting:
  - a. Chair – Clifford Walker
  - b. Vice Chair – Mariahm Stephenson
- 2) Discussion
  - a. Commissioner Richard asked Chair Walker if he plans to stay on the Commission past his term expiration date of September 30, 2010
    - i. Chair Walker responded that yes, he does plan to continue if the commissioners will allow him to
- 3) Ballot Results:
  - a. Chair – Clifford Walker
  - b. Vice Chair – Mariahm Stephenson

#### **IV. Legislative Concept paper (Stephenson)**

There are issues regarding people not knowing their rights and what the criteria is for training mandatory reporters. Commissioner Stephenson would like to write a statute that

penalizes individuals who make false child abuse/neglect reports and sets a procedure to expunge cases that are unfounded, so as to not further penalize victims of false reporting.

1) Action Items:

- a. Commissioner Stephenson will draft concept and present to commissioners at next meeting for review

**V. Dr. Cal Henry, Oregon Assembly on Black Affairs (OABA)**

Website: [www.oaba.us](http://www.oaba.us)

See attached handout

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) is a statewide Organization that was founded on April 9, 1977. The purpose of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs is to improve the political, educational, social, legal, and economic status of Blacks in Oregon. It is a nonpartisan organization and a statewide nonprofit corporation committed to improving the status of Blacks in Oregon, placing major emphasis on building a better Oregon for the Black Community.

The Purpose of SB 818 was to correct the difficulties that some Black Oregonians as well as other Oregonians have in obtaining effective legal representation in Oregon, regardless of their ability to pay or their status in society. OABA has received evidence that some attorneys licensed by the State of Oregon were not providing effective legal representation for Black Oregonians as well as other people. SB 818 was introduced and sponsored, in the 2009 Oregon Legislature, at the request of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA), and its main purpose was to amend ORS 9.460 to read that “An attorney shall ‘provide unbiased and effective representation for all clients’.”

Action Items:

- 1) Chair Walker and Dr. Henry agreed to work together in the future to build partnerships and collaborate efforts
- 2) Commissioners would like more information from Dr. Henry on how to effectively measure the outcomes the bill

**VI. OACO Updates**

1) Best Practices Surveys

- a. Commissioners were asked to complete the Commissioner and OACO Best Practice evaluation surveys. Survey results will be implemented into the Annual Performance Progress Report and used as a resource in developing strategies for success.

2) Recruitment for full time Administrator

- a. Candidates have been selected and will be interviewed on June 23<sup>rd</sup>

3) Office Lease

- a. The Office is in the final stages of finalizing the Lease Agreement and plan to be at new PSU location by July 1<sup>st</sup>

**VII. Good of the Order**

1) Comments

- a. Chair Walker stated he would like to work to establish a 501c3 with OCBA for the purpose of supporting activities/funds of the commission.

- b. Chair Walker also applauded Vice Chair Stephenson for all her work and thanked her for her dedication to the Commission
- 2) Next meeting agenda suggestions
  - a. July 17 meeting will be a public meeting from 9-11 AM and closed work session from 11 AM – 12:30 PM
  - b. Work session agenda:
    - 1. Review and Edit OCBA Bylaws
    - 2. OCBA Task List

**VIII. Adjournment at 11:24 a.m.**