



## MINUTES

### Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, July 17, 2010

9 AM – 12:30 PM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall Room 112

705 N Killingsworth St.

Portland, OR 97217

#### Attendees

<b>Chair:</b>	Clifford Walker
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Mariahm Stephenson
<b>Commissioners:</b>	Jennifer Doncan, Phyllis Harris-John, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Richard, Lorraine Wilson
<b>Absent:</b>	Representative Lew Frederick, Senator Rod Monroe, Willie Woolfolk
<b>Speakers:</b>	Katherine Ginsburg (OADP), Denny Maison (OADP), Dr. Art Pearl, Ron Steiner (OADP)
<b>Staff:</b>	Joy Howard
<b>Guests:</b>	Lucy Baker

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:15 a.m.

#### **II. Approval of June 19, 2010 minutes**

Vote: Commissioner Rand moved to accept the minutes, Commissioner Doncan seconded, approved unanimously

#### **III. Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP)**

Panelists: Mr. Ron Steiner (Board Chair), Katherine Ginsburg (Criminologist), Denny Maison (Defense Attorney)

Website: <http://www.oadp.org/>

Handouts attached

#### About:

OADP members are criminal justice activists joined in a concerted effort to increase the effectiveness of Oregon's response to violent interpersonal crime. Their members include victims' survivors, attorneys, religious leaders, teachers and other concerned citizens. OADP evolved out of the Oregon Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, which was organized in 1983. OADP is incorporated in the State of Oregon as a non-profit organization with the purpose of research and education on the effectiveness of the death penalty and its alternatives. They have 501(c)3 status and an Education and Outreach Committee and a Correspondents Committee. They also maintain a list of relevant educational materials, support research, provide speakers, find people to correspond with

and visit prisoners on death row, and sponsor events with the aim of raising public awareness.

Ways OCBA can help:

- As a Commission, passing a resolution favoring repeal of Oregon's death penalty. (The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs has done so.)
- Encourage individuals and organizations to join OADP as supporters.
- Spread the word about all the facts surrounding the death penalty. With the facts, most reasonable people will support repeal.
- Lobby legislators to place "repeal" on the ballot for a vote of the people.
- Have a member of your Commission join us on our Advisory Council.

Resolution:

Mr. Steiner gave draft language to Chair Walker and oncoming new OACO Administrator, Lucy Baker, to create and submit in support of OADP

Vote:

Commissioner Doncan moved that OCBA support OADP and allow them to use name on website as a supporter, Vice Chair Stephenson seconded, approved unanimously

#### **IV. Teacher Supplement Act**

Presenter: Dr. Art Pearl

Blog: <http://artpearlagainsttheworld.blogspot.com>

Handout attached

There is an underrepresentation of minorities in teaching. The students of color population are increasing in the U.S. while the teachers of color population are decreasing. Dr. Pearl wants to bring back demonstration teaching programs which were practiced during the 1960's. Lower class people would be put into entry level positions and advance into becoming certified teachers. This was accomplished while they were receiving minimum wage.

This program would accomplish:

- 1) Improved schooling
- 2) Level the playing field – crowded classrooms tend to be in poverty areas
- 3) Relieve the extreme underrepresentation of teachers of color – currently less than 20% of teachers are African American, Hispanic, or Native American whereas 40% of students come from those populations.
- 4) Reduce poverty and bring more economic vitality to impoverished communities. In the 1960s program, persons from poverty communities that advanced up the ladder to teaching positions tended to remain in poverty communities. This was not the case with the traditionally credentialed.

Ways OCBA can help:

- 1) Draft a letter to Supt. Susan Castillo, get together with joint commissions and other organizations because this issue affects all communities. This is OCBA's way to have intervention.
- 2) Invite Dr. Pearl to present at a Joint Commission meeting

Comments:

- 1) Commissioners Harris and Stone would like a hard documented plan which details what Oregon would look like under a Teachers Supplement Act before presenting others.
- 2) Commissioner Wilson is on board with plan because she feels that Oregon cannot afford to stand by and let economic challenges get in the way of obtaining more teachers of color.
- 3) Chair Walker encouraged commissioners to communicate to legislators, elected officials, and other organizations to let them know the important issues OCBA has and are willing to participate on issues of mutual concern.

**V. Good of the Order**

1) Comments

- a. Chair Walker asked that commissioners bring a fact to the commission to help with fact/resource book.
- b. Chair Walker also requested that commissioners bring their ideas and issues to the meetings and ask them to be put on the agenda.
- c. Vice Chair Stephenson would like OCBA to host a workshop on basic constitutional rights and invite specialists to present on topic (e.g., Willamette University professors, lawyers, etc.)

**VI. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 11:40 a.m.**