



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS**

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, July 15, 2019. Pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations: 1) Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Ave, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, 2) Nevada Department of Business and Industry, 1830 College Pkwy, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706, and 3) Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999, Las Vegas: 702-486-5260, Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chair Rhodes-Ford called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.
- B. Present: Chair Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (person), Vice Chair Williams (person), C. Hasaan Azam (phone), C. Donald Chaney (person), C. Janelle Conine (phone), C. Adleen Stidhum (person), Counsel Gary Mathews, Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer, and Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs.
- B.1. Public Attendance: Mercedes Krause, Amy Emiko Shaw, Kathleen Taylor, Browyn OShea, Shaundell Newsome, Shy Thomas, Victoria Boyd, Fawn Douglas, Barbara Oliver, Leanna Jenkins, Eliana Mulé, Mary House, Maxine Haber, TaChelle Lawson, Feroze, Shaheen, George Krause, Tina Stace, Kylies Fung, Michael Orom, Megan Collins, Tom Mueller, Mary-Frances Alonzo, Sabrina Khater, Erika Hanuscin, Brian Dudley, Jessica Bello, Shahara McGee, Erika Hanuscin, David Eclips, Marquiesha Gillipsie, Karen Jensen, Mercedes D., Rulon Pete, Ray Cuevas, Charles Saba, Bea Soares, H. Tauch (SP), J. Lindo (SP), Maggie Saunders, Monica Coburn, Denette Braud, Deborah Howell, Tiana Flynn, Andre Haynes, Rebecca Fountain, Robb Selander, Abel Shaw
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. Michael Flores

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

none

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION.

- A. Swearing in of new Commissioners – Chair Rhodes-Ford lead the swearing of new Commissioners E. Mercedes Krause, Amy Emiko Shaw, and Kathleen Taylor.
- B. Elections for Chair and Subcommittee Chairs – C. Stidhum nominated C. Chaney for the position of Chair and C. Williams seconded the nomination. C. Chaney accepted the nomination. Motion passed: the Commission voted to elect Commissioner Chaney as the new chair of the Commission. C. Rhodes-Ford explained the Commission structure and subcommittee chair vacancies and yielded the floor to C. Chaney for the rest of the meeting.

C. Taylor nominated herself for the position of Health subcommittee chair, and C. Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed. C. Williams nominated C. Shaw for Economic and Business Development

subcommittee chair and C. Stidhum seconded the motion. Motion passed. C. Chaney yielded the floor to C. Williams.

C. Williams gave an overview of the subcommittee roles: Commissioners are not required to lead a subcommittee and are also not limited to leading just one subcommittee. More than one Commissioner can contribute to one subcommittee. C. Williams asked if any Commissioner would like to vacate their subcommittee chair positions. C. Krause has an interest in co-chairing the Education subcommittee if that is a possibility. C. Williams will verify with C. Flores to see if he wants to remain the Education subcommittee chair and provide an update at the next meeting. C. Chaney will vacate the Housing subcommittee chair so he can support all the subcommittees. C. Williams said if there are no nominations today, then this can be tabled for the next meeting. C. Williams confirmed continuing her position as Legislative subcommittee chair. C. Azam confirmed continuing his position as Community Liaison subcommittee chair. C. Conine confirmed that she will remain on the Health subcommittee. C. Stidhum confirmed continuing her position as Workforce Development subcommittee chair. C. Chaney made a motion that the Commissioners Azam, Stidhum, and Williams will continue chairing their respective subcommittees. C. Stidhum seconded. Motion passed. C. Williams yielded the floor to C. Chaney.

C. Approval of June 17, 2019 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action) – C. Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. C. Stidhum seconded. The motion carried.

D. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action).

1. Education

M. A. Ku gave an update in response to Ms. Margie Gonzales' public comment from last month's meeting, who is head of ACRC, Asian Community Resource Center. She brought up the issue of teachers being brought here by CCSD through the J1 visa and was wondering if there were any other options, such as offering a different visa. M. A. Ku contacted CCSD's HR department. They said that CCSD is not a sponsoring agency, so they are unable to sponsor people for green card permanent status. Their legal department not to pursue any other types of visas at this time. A new HR director that will be starting soon, so those policies could change. C. Stidhum said that perhaps we should dialogue with C. Flores and with C. Krause. It may be an opportunity for them to dialogue and see if there are any other avenues or opportunities. C. Krause said that hearing what these teachers are going through, it is pretty intense and serious. C. Williams suggested taking it back to the subcommittee and formulating a plan of action to the Commission to make a decision.

2. Health

C. Taylor said that she has a background in scientific research, virology, and public health, and believes she can make a contribution given her background. C. Chaney thanked her for her leadership and expertise.

M. A. Ku gave an update on the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition. They are in the very early stages of discussing a leadership certificate on health equity. There is a lot of talk in health policy but not a lot of action. This would address building up leaders and reduce health disparities. They are talking with UNLV to have them help the Coalition build that program. Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson is the Director of the Center for Health Disparities research, so her research specialty is in minority health and is helping with the program. M. A. Ku will share her health contacts with C. Taylor and get her looped in.

3. Housing

C. Chaney said there has been a lot of information concerning housing and he has all the Southern Nevada contacts, but still need to connect with Northern Nevada. They face the same issues as Southern Nevada in regards to a lack of affordable housing, which is a major issue.

M. A. Ku had a site visit at the African Community Center (ACC) and met with the Director, Milan Devetak. He explained the issues they are facing. They are one of two agencies in town that resettle refugees, who come from all over the world and are processing fewer refugees as in the past. ACC is running into a housing problem because refugees only receive \$1,000 from the government for resettlement, which has to cover their housing, transportation, food, etc., and all of that adds up quickly. He asked us to spread the word to convince landlords to work with their agency, because many landlords do not want to rent out to refugees because they cannot run a credit check on them or meet them before renting it out. Landlords who have rented out to refugees really like them because they have a low turnover rate. M. A. Ku raised this with the Nevada Housing Division to brainstorm how to spread the word among landlords.

C. Krause asked if there is any information about the HUD 184 homes, which are available to tribal people. If we are putting out information, it is important to include that piece.

4. Workforce Development

C. Stidhum is continuing to work with the One Stop Career Center and Workforce Development. The intent is to educate the community before the announcements and job fairs come out now that she receives weekly announcements of jobs and careers fairs. She will continue to be more collaborative with the community.

5. Economic & Business Development

C. Shaw said that the McCarran Airport is hosting a vendor fair in September to allow some of the local vendors to come and meet the businesses—shops, restaurants, airlines, other businesses that do business at the airport to be able to sell their product. McCarran hosts workshops on how to do business at the airport and how to prepare construction bids. They are developing more opportunities for local companies to do business. McCarran also partners like MGM, Caesar's, and Station Casinos—and as they do certifications, they make introductions to their purchasing departments.

C. Williams said that C. Williams and C. Chaney attended an event hosted by the African American collective this past Saturday to give business a vehicle to express interest in working the Las Vegas stadium. The build of it is almost done, and next comes the operations. They just named the master operator as AEG. They will make the vendor selections from concessions to supply to professional services. We would like to stay ahead of the curb in the next round of selection to make sure there is involvement from the minority community. There was online vendor registration and assistance as well as an educational session by the Committee Benefits Plan Oversight Committee (CBPOC), which was assigned by SB1 to ensure there was participation at this level. It was very successful and around 60 people attended.

6. Legislative

C. Stidhum applauded the Commission for helping to put forward several bills in the legislative session. We were nervous but united. In the next months, we can work on new bills and build upon it so we are ready for the next legislative cycle. ESB (Emerging Small Business) certification is already in our statutes,

and we should be able to build more teeth to that certification.

C. Williams stated that the Legislative Subcommittee passed two bills and exceeded its goals stated in the Strategic Plan.

M. A. Ku met with several organizations to discuss census outreach. She attended census training in May at the Asian Community Development Center. They went over the different scenarios of addresses, such as military or military overseas, the differences from the last census—this is the first electronic census, so they will mail out postcards around mid-March. They will start dispatching census enumerators to go door to door around mid-April if that household has not filled it out online. Also, this is first time you can select more than one race, where before, you were only confined to check one box. The Complete Count Committee formed by Governor Sisolak met for the first time, and they are looking to fill the Executive Director position. C. Chaney said he has met with many people concerning the census at the national level and many groups are involved with the census. The main issue will be completely filling out the census accurately. That affects funding and other revenues. C. Krause said she has mentioned before about not having accurate count of Native American students, and it is very important because we have our Indian Education programs, Title VI and Johnson O'Malley. Students who should be receiving them are not. We hope to use the information from the census to help get more accurate student count and enrollment information.

Following the March 14 Roundtable discussion on legislative priorities, we had a discussion with Commission on Women and President of the League for Women Voters of Southern Nevada, Sondra Cosgrove. She is going to spearhead a collaboration tool on her website so people can go in and organize themselves around different issues that have failed last session so they can be prepared for the next legislative session.

7. Community Liaison

C. Azam briefly met with a new FBI person and plans to meet with him again to discuss the Commission. C. Azam asked if he could request law enforcement officials to provide a brief update to the Commission. C. Chaney does not see a problem with gathering information. C. Stidhum and C. Williams both agreed. C. Williams said that we have to be cognizant of the mission to collect and disseminate data and connect like-minded individuals. As long as there is no expectation of a formal action as a result, she would support it. M. A. Ku added that past Commissions did invite guest speakers to give presentations during their meetings. C. Williams said that she gave a presentation to the Commission several years back and was allotted 15 minutes. It was specifically for information purposes.

E. Management Analyst update (for discussion and possible action)

1. Upcoming events –

- a. La Oportunidad Expo is August 3 from 10-3pm at the Boulevard Mall. The Commission in conjunction with Business and Industry had a table at this event last year and will have a table again this year. It is a well-attended community expo with free immunizations, back to school giveaways, and attracts many Spanish speakers.
- b. Nevada State Business Center on July 24 at 8:30 am – Our Consumer Affairs Division has a Fight Fraud Task Force that meets quarterly. They share the latest consumer scams and how can consumers protect themselves. Multiple agencies attend and work together on this.
- c. Clark County Department of Aviation and RTC of Southern Nevada on July 26 at 10 am at McCarran Airport- they are holding a stakeholder meeting and announcing their new DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) goals for fiscal year 2020-2022.

2. Budget – M. A. Ku will work with the Chair to develop a budget. This fiscal year the Commission has \$35,117, which a portion of that are fixed costs. We do have a substantial amount for travel.
3. Donation of Surface tablet – Did not hear back from the potential donor.
4. Volunteer worker's compensation memorandum of understanding – This form needs to be completed by all Commissioners, and this coverage is provided by the State.

4. NEW BUSINESS

C. Williams reminded Commissioners that each Commissioner should be submitting a monthly report on their activities. We should all do a mid-year check to make sure we are meeting the goals in our Strategic Plan.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcel Schaerer (Deputy Director, Department of Business and Industry) congratulated the Commissioners on the new elections and assignments. Director Schaerer explained the Consumer Help portion of the Business and Industry website, which has links to Consumer Affairs, the Commission on Minority Affairs, and the Ombudsman of Consumer Affairs for Minorities--to advocate for and provide a voice for minorities. He reinforced the mission of the Commission, to advocate and provide a voice for minorities. There are 11 divisions at Business and Industry, and it might be a great opportunity to meet with the administrators.

Megan Collins (National Association of Women in Construction) – Evelyn Pacheco is starting a group called Nevada Women in Trades. They give scholarships out each year for women in construction.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, August 19, 2019 at 9:30 am

