



**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, March 18, 2019 at 9:35 am. 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 9:35 am.
- B. Present: Chair Berna Rhodes-Ford Esq. (person), Vice Chair Williams (phone), C. Donald Chaney (phone), C. Janelle Conine (phone), C. Hasaan Azam (phone), C. Yolanda Flores (phone), C. Adleen Stidhum (phone), Counsel Gary Mathews, Secretary Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs (person).
- B.1. Public Attendance: Kathleen Taylor, Maggie Saunders, Rosa Alejandre, Sandal Kelly
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. Michael Flores

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

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

- A. Approval of February 25, 2019 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action) – C. Williams moved approval of the minutes for the February 25, 2019 meeting. C. Y. Flores seconded. The motion carried.
- B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action).

1. Education

No update

2. Health

C. Y. Flores mentioned that the UNLV School of Medicine student medical association is hosting an event called Minorities in Medicine Mixer on March 30 from 3-6pm. They are trying to match medical students with physician mentors. C. Y. Flores said that even though the focus is on minority students, they reach out to anyone and everyone who is interested in medicine. The mixer is only for medical professionals so C. Y. Flores asked for Commissioners to share it with medical professionals in their networks. She will update the Commission about their next event that is open to the general public.

M. A. Ku announced that the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition was granted a subgrant under Southern Nevada Health District's REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) grant,

which is awarded by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). The REACH grant award is close to \$800,000 per year, renewable for up to 5 years, to help with health equity in tobacco prevention, physical activity, and nutrition. This is a great grant for our community. As part of the Health and Equity Coalition grant, M. A. Ku will be helping with giving feedback on the health impact assessment that we are conducting with the City of Las Vegas. They are proposing to focus on the area near the medical district, specifically widening the sidewalks on Charleston between Rancho and MLK Jr Blvd and making that area more walkable. Right now, the sidewalks are narrow and disabled people have an especially tough time using the sidewalks because the streetlights come out of the sidewalk and block access. C. Rhodes-Ford asked if community groups could apply for the grant. M.A. Ku clarified that the grant has already been awarded to SNHD and already have partners to help with that grant. Only about 30 metro areas in the US were awarded the grant, and Las Vegas was one of them.

3. Housing

No update

4. Workforce Development

C. Stidhum is still on the trails trying to get ahead of the many different organizations that are hosting different opportunities as it relates to workforce development. She is in contact with Irene Bustamante Adams at Workforce Connections. C. Stidhum plans to go to one of the local libraries so she can truly understand how the process works when she walks in there, so she can communicate more effectively with the community. C. Stidhum is now receiving a lot of information and events from Workforce Connections. She has made copies of several different career opportunities and placed them in the communities such as churches and community centers, so that information gets out there prior to the event. For example, Commissioner Gibson has one scheduled for the Henderson area on Tuesday, March 26th. If there is anybody among the Commission that they think there is a place that they feel we need to hit, please let C. Stidhum, or contact her if you would like to receive the information and help disseminate it as well.

5. Economic Development

M. A. Ku attended the African Chamber ribbon cutting. It was a very good turnout and approximately 80 people showed up for the event. M. A. Ku met the leadership and will keep in touch as they get settled in. She also listened in on the RTC Washoe/Reno Airport call on March 1 but the conference call was very difficult to understand. They find it challenging to get small businesses certified through the DBE program.

6. Legislative

C. Rhodes-Ford: C. Rhodes-Ford, C. M. Flores, and M. A. Ku testified on March 4th for Senate Bill 211, which increases funding for the Commission on Minority Affairs. C. M. Flores was in Carson and C. Rhodes-Ford and M. A. Ku were present in Grant Sawyer. One question we did not know was why the funding structured the way it was structured, and the Senator who sponsored the bill was not able to attend the hearing. The Governor's office reached out and we are working to give them a more detailed breakdown of our budget request. They may change the language of the bill, and we are hopeful we will get more funding for our commission. C. Rhodes-Ford learned that the Commission on Minority Affairs was set up differently than other commissions and not actually through the governor's office. The Legislative Counsel Bureau and the sponsoring member have to work out the details. The reason we need more funding because the management analyst attends many events, and this is our first full time staff member that we have ever had. She does many outreach events to the community and uses the

budget for good reason. Because of her significant activity, the commissioners do not have travel funds left. We bought some new marketing materials with our new logo but not enough for up North. We need some extra funding for travel to at least have one meeting together a year. We would also like some travel funds to travel up to Carson City during the legislative years so the legislators know who we are. We need just a little more funding to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Commission. No matter what the structure looks like, we hope to get that increased funding.

M. A. Ku mentioned that we have two BDRs pending, 585 and 586. We lost our sponsor of those BDRs, and today is the last day to introduce them into session. She has not heard back from the Legislative Counsel Bureau on either of those, and she believes it is the Senate Democratic leadership that helps decide who will be the new sponsors. C. Rhodes-Ford will look into seeing if we can get sponsors for the two BDRs.

M. A. Ku attended the Advancing Justice conference in Atlanta from March 11-13th. There were different seminars on health equity, income equality, Census 2020 – how to talk to your communities on the citizenship question, voter suppression, etc. Stacey Abrams was the keynote speaker, and she gave a very inspiring speech on staying vigilant in our communities, and spoke about the voter suppression in Georgia during the election. Even though some issues may not be as prevalent in our state, it is good to be aware of issues happening in other states to make sure it does not happen in our state. It was also interesting to hear that Georgia is going to be a majority minority state in the next decade.

7. Community Liaison

No updates.

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

The Department of Business and Industry had a Fraud Prevention Fair on March 8th at the Nevada State Business Center. We had a good crowd attending the panel on how to protect yourself from scams. The panel included our Chief Investigator of Consumer Affairs, Cris Carmona, and several others such as the Secretary of State, Contractor's Board, the Attorney General's Office. We had around 20 different agencies participate in the fair, where you could get information from different agencies, like the IRS, Immigration, Mortgage Lending, on the latest scams. Most of our B&I divisions were represented.

Our roundtable discussion event with the Commission on Women went really well. We had 35 people across six different cities – Las Vegas, Henderson, Carson City, Reno, and Winnemucca. We had a small glitch in Henderson where they could not hear us, but we did a conference call with them and that worked out fine. It was amazing to get so many cities together in one videoconference. We had nine presenters: AAUW (American Association of University Women), AARP, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Children's Advocacy Alliance, Girl Scouts, League of Women Voters, Mi Familia Vota, and the NAACP. We had some very positive feedback and were very excited about the event. They have not had this opportunity before to collaborate in one room. With the nine presenters, only 3 of the bills they were tracking overlapped. Everyone is really working on different bills, and they have different priorities. We got different community organizations together to discuss the different bills they were tracking and supporting, so we could see what everyone was doing and possibly form synergies if groups were supporting similar bills. They still want to meet, especially during the interim when it is not as busy to get the discussion going. We are hoping another community group can spearhead the effort because we kept the event strictly non-partisan.

1. Upcoming events –

- a. Minority Health Day – Carson: April 11 from 11-3pm, Reno: April 12 from 11-3pm. This is still in the planning stages. April 11th will be at the legislative building and will have a panel seminar on implicit bias in the health industry followed by a lunch reception. April 12th will be in Reno. In the morning, we will be conducting a focus group on the diversification of clinical trials in conjunction with AB241 passed in 2017, which tasks the Office of Minority Health to help with the diversification of clinical trials. It will be followed by a reception at the Reno City Hall. M. A. Ku is helping to organize the event and will be up North those days.
 - b. Closing the Achievement Gap Among Students of Color – April 12, 9am NSHE office on Maryland (tentative). Commissioner Flores mentioned last time that NSHE is holding a seminar on Closing the Achievement Gap Among Students of Color.
 - c. Community Health Sciences Fair – April 15 from 12-4pm at UNLV. M.A. Ku plans to attend.
- D. Resignation on Commissioner Patel-Ghai – C. Rhodes-Ford is sad to announce the resignation of Commissioner Jetoan Patel-Ghai.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosa Alejandre with Nevada Health Link said she wanted to let anybody know that they are the official state health exchange for the state of Nevada. Those who do not have health insurance through Medicaid, Medicare, or their employer, we are the resource. We just want to let people know, if someone needs assistance and are looking for health insurance, let them know. We have a lot a literature in both English and Spanish, and it will tell them the income guidelines or household guidelines. She would like to reach out to Commissioner Flores or Stidhum, if they need any resources, we are always in the community for the underserved and underemployed. We are always willing to serve. We have all of our literature on nevadahealthlink.com.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:30 am