

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



TERRY REYNOLDS
Director

**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, September 21, 2020. Pursuant to public notice and the Governor's suspension of the statute that requires public meetings to have a physical location, this meeting was conducted by a Webex videoconference call.

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

B. Commissioners Present (phone): Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice Chair Myisha Williams, C. Hasaan Azam, C. Melendrez, C. Amy Shaw, and C. Kathleen Taylor.

C. Commissioners Absent: C. E. Mercedes Krause

D. Staff Present: Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs

E. Public Attendance: Yerania De Luca, Angelica Villarta, Taemee Feuer, Evan Louie, Toby De Luca, Nicholas Dunkie, Jassmin Martel Perez, Mary Grear, Jennifer Otto, Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicholas Dunkie, from High Sierra AHEC (Area Health Education Center)– They are working with UNLV on a COVID focus group grant. He wanted to reach out on anyone on the call would like to partner on the grant. He is looking for partners in the community to help them out with their population. Each grantee has been given a population to work with and to establish advocacy and resources for it due to COVID-19. High Sierra AHEC is focusing on the African American population, so if anyone in the group would like to send some focus group participants our way or if we could reach out to you and look into some participants for these focus groups going forward, we would very much like to do so. We are very equity focused and hope to get out into the community.

3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS: Chair Donald Chaney; Vice Chair Myisha Y. Williams; C. Hasaan Azam; C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Jose Melendrez, C. Amy Emiko Shaw, C. Kathleen Taylor

A. Approval of August 17, 2020 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)

C. Williams moved to approve the minutes. C. Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously

B. Swearing-in of new Commissioners Yette De Luca and Angelica Villarta

Yette De Luca and Angelica Villarta were sworn into the Commission on Minority Affairs by Chair Chaney.

Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer gave welcoming remarks. On behalf of Business and Industry and Director Reynolds, he welcomed Angelica Villarta and Yette De Luca. He said that we embrace participation. The Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs is all about engaging with the community, and the Commissioners are representing the seven pillars from education to economic development, a lot of that is empowerment. You are also contributing to the legislation, especially as we move into 2021. You are joining a superb group of individuals. Please always remember to keep in mind access to information and resources through your website minorityaffairs.nv.gov. Welcome again to this group.

(Introductions were tabled to the end of the meeting)

C. Yerania de Luca, who goes by Yette, was born and raised in Mexico, and moved to the U.S. when she was 12. She first person in her family to serve in US Air Force, graduated college and became an auditor. In her work, she continuously saw the need to bridge the gap between underrepresented students and industry needs, so her passion is to represent the recent high school graduates. Perhaps at the high school level, they did not fit into an academic pathway to set them up for success. How do we connect their skills to industries? She is very grateful to serve under the Workforce Development subcommittee because we have a huge opportunity to connect those dots and provide greater opportunities for both young adults and industries.

C. Angelica Villarta has lived in Las Vegas for almost 30 years, attended high school here, then attended UNLV. The early part of her career was mostly in the entertainment industry. Later on, she worked for community organizations as a consultant and event planner for different companies. Her focus turned into event management, community fundraising, advocacy and outreach, civic engagement, and getting involved in the community. She is now in the financial and insurance industry, and her main area is developing high-level strategies for companies and organizations. She is very involved in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and helped to disaggregate data for the NHPI organizations.

C. Subcommittee chair elections (for discussion and possible action)

C. Williams explained the subcommittee chair selections in an effort for the process to be more visible. As of today, all subcommittee chairs have been vacated, and we will vote on the new leads for each of the subcommittees. Those requests were sent to the chair in advance of today's meeting, and we were able to place everybody in the areas in which they requested. She made a motion to make the following appointments: C. Mercedes Krause for Education Subcommittee Co-Chair with a focus on K-12 education as well as Co-Chair for Housing Subcommittee, C. Jose Melendrez for Health Subcommittee Chair and Education Subcommittee Co-Chair with a focus on higher education, C. Kathleen Taylor for Workforce Development Subcommittee Co-Chair with a focus on Southern Nevada as well as the Housing Subcommittee Co-Chair, C. Yette De Luca as Workforce Development

Subcommittee Co-Chair with a focus on Northern Nevada. C. Angelica Villarta for Economic Development Co-Chair, C. Amy Shaw for Economic Development Co-Chair, C. Myisha Williams for Legislative Subcommittee Chair, C. Hazaan Azam for Community Liaison Subcommittee Chair. C. Melendrez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

1. Education

C. Krause sent a written report read by M. A. Ku. At the last school board meeting, there were two bill draft requests that will be submitted on behalf of CCSD (Clark County School District). One is on the internet connectivity for students, to provide funding for all of Nevada's K-12 schools and colleges. The second one is prioritizing staff efficiency. It is legislation seeking to eliminate unfunded mandates, duplicate reports and other requirements that take away from the classroom. The Board of Trustees directed the staff to form partnerships in pursuing fundraising opportunities to increase mental health programs. The Board of Trustees also received an update on the progress of the 2024's Priority Areas on parent and community support. They've surpassed many of their goals and are looking to add new community mentors trained to support the students. The Department of Education is putting together some programs to support digital learning and supporting students both social-emotionally and academically. More information about this is on their Nevada Digital Learning website. Also, on September 10th, the CCSD School Board voted to rescind the name of Kit Carson Elementary School. Trustee Young proposed to rename to school because Kit Carson has a conflicted legacy. He was responsible for the cruel treatment of Navajo Indians, most notably in the 1864 deportation of the Navajo people, known as the "Long Walk of the Navajo". That passed in accordance to CCSD Policy 7223. The last two notes – Superintendent Jara said that as of September 10th, 25,371 students have not participated in the roll call. They are still trying to reach out to those students but at the same time, 98.73% of enrolled students have been accounted for. Lastly, Washoe County is doing in-person learning and there have been COVID-19 cases in 20 schools now.

C. Chaney said there is a concerted effort to reach those on the roll call. This pandemic has really caused a lot of chaos when it comes to the education system. C. Villarta asked if there's any way we can find out with these BDRs if they are also going to put aside money for translation services? We do have a lot of kids, probably have a reason why they aren't being involved with roll call is that they don't understand what is happening, and a lot of the times they are minority students are the ones translating for their parents. If they don't have those translation services, then that could be an issue. She also said that our special needs students are having a hard time accessing resources and getting the right information, so maybe there could be some support with that too. M. A. Ku will follow up with C. Krause.

C. Williams attended the last Housing Authority Board meeting, and they have an upcoming meeting with our Superintendent. There was some awareness brought that our last meeting, there is a huge issue with lack of attendance and the welfare of the students on the Historic West Side and North Las Vegas. The conversation started around the initiation of wellness checks through existing processes in place on how the housing units are being monitored and maybe adding that additional piece as part of that check. C. Williams said there was progress made from our last meeting about the legislative side that overlaps here with education. C. Krause had brought up a concern around the lack of representation of Native American students' data being reported in some of the state outputs. C. Williams thanks M. A. Ku for following up on that request. Sometimes it starts off as a legislative conversation, but a simple request to some of the departments, and folks that are

responsible for reporting can solve issues without legislative intervention. M. A. Ku, the Nevada Department of Education said in the past, the Native American student population was too small, so they did not include test scores in their report to the legislature. After we corresponded, moving forward, they will make sure that data is included in the reports. C. Williams said that was a good win for the Commission, just drawing awareness to a disparity issue.

2. Health

C. Melendrez said that the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition received a grant from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to raise awareness around messaging on vaccination. There's a lot of information flowing out there, so our area of the grant is to raise the level of education through social media and other formats, to inform the general public, especially the vulnerable populations – Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, Native American, LGBTQIA, deaf and blind community. Nicolas and his organization is one of the ones who received a grant from the Coalition. We will be running to focus groups to make sure the messaging is culturally competent and inclusive of those communities, so when the messaging does come out, it's appropriate and in alignment with what our community partners are telling us. We know some people aren't responding to the contact tracing process. We received another grant to put 200 individual contract tracers to follow this thing and collecting the right information to continue to educate folks about COVID-19. We're about to hit a million deaths across the world.

C. Taylor said that in reference to the statistics related to COVID-19, Nevada has a total of 75,724 cases and 1,528 deaths. In the United States, we 6.79 million cases and 199,000 deaths. Worldwide, there's a total of 30.9 million cases and 958,000 deaths in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. Late last month, she attended the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition general meeting with Commissioner Melendrez. Senator Cortez Masto was the guest speaker in addition to UNLV representative who spoke about Black Lives Matter. There were various committee updates as well, programming, public policy, strategic relations, strategic planning, and communications.

C. Chaney said there's great concern in our communities about this vaccine, so we need to be on top of it and ensure adequate, precise information to try to eliminate the nervousness of what is getting ready to transpire. With regards to clinical trials, our communities get a little nervous. Education will be a major factor.

3. Housing

C. Taylor said on September 4th, the CDC issued guidance ordering a halt on residential evictions to further prevent the spread of COVID. The United States Department of Agriculture Deputy Undersecretary for rural development announced a grant through December 31 for tenants meeting certain criteria and USDA multi-family housing. In reference to landlords that are experiencing financial hardship as well, due to COVID-10 and tenant inability to pay, USDA still allows for deferment of payments. Also Governor Sisolak extended the Nevada moratorium with a 45 day extension so the new deadline is October 14th. Earlier last month on August 12th, she attended a virtual webinar on the Nevada Housing Coalition. The focus was on how non-profits can be resilient as a result of the COVID-19 impact. The panel included Kyle Rahn, CEO and President of United Way of Southern Nevada, Suzanne McCormick, President of United Way Worldwide, Erica Mosca, Executive Director of Leaders in Training, Lucy Arellano, CSO and Senior VP of Low income

Investment Fund, Michael Brazier, President and CEO and United Way of Northern Nevada, Jocelynn Cousins with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and Matt Sinclair, President and CEO of Discovery Children's museum.

4. Workforce Development

C. Taylor said August 21st, the SBA (Small Business Administration) transitioned from an in-person format to a virtual format in collaboration with the Nevada Women's Business Center, the Armed Forces Chamber of Commerce, Christian Chamber of Commerce, to launch a virtual platform on a faith-based community initiative. The entails bringing together faith leaders, business leaders, to try to provide resources and open up a dialogue to facilitate economic, workforce, and small business development with faith-based groups. That launched back in October as an in-person format. It was well received and had a dynamic panel of experts from various faith-based groups. That initiative will occur the third Friday each month at 11 am.

5. Economic & Business Development

C. Shaw sent a written update read by M. A. Ku. On August 25th, she attended an Asian Chamber event called "Hearing all Voices", a small business listening workshop with the IRS. Darren Guillot, the Deputy Commissioner for Small Business and Self-Employed. He talked about taxes for small businesses, and provided an overview on employment taxes, taxpayer rights, and encouraged all companies to get an PIN number from the IRS to secure access on their account. On September 15th, she attended the Urban Chamber event called "Ducks in a Row - Make the Most out of Your Forgivable PPP Loan". That was a discussion on PPP loans and clarified that at least 65% of funds must be used on payroll with the remainder used for business-related expenses. They explained the types of documentation required so the loan is forgiven. Businesses should stay in touch with the lenders who are best equipped to provide assistance. Also, it appears that the SBA has not given complete information on forgiveness while payments are coming due. Some lenders are processing documents and taking a wait and see approach if the SBA will ease some of the requirements. Other lenders are providing deferrals until they get more clarity from the SBA. The biggest impact to small businesses is whether they can stay in business once they do start making loan payments and taking the time to assess how long the business can continue to be viable and shifting how companies can do business. Also there is a grant program by American Express to give out \$5,000 grants to a randomly selected group of 280 Black business owners. Unfortunately that grant is due today. The website is called <http://webackblackbusinesses.com>. On September 18th, the Vegas Chamber held a ribbon cutting grand opening for the new EmployNV Business Hub. That hub is designed to help business reboot, regrow, and recover and provide critical resources for them. There is also going to be one at the Sahara West library. They will have staff the hubs with ambassadors, and businesses can go to these two sites, which serves as a resource site for employers and will also help them staff their business. Also, an update on minority business certification. There's a group called the Nevada Certification Program that consists of several different authorities that do the certifications. They said that 79 firms have received minority or women-owned business enterprise certifications from January through August. We consider that to be good news as firms are positioning themselves during this time to get certified and prepared as the economy stabilizes.

M. A. Ku said that CSN (College of Southern Nevada) won a grant from the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency for \$271,000. It will help the Nevada GROW program, which provides free counseling to small businesses. With the new funding, they will now be able to help 50 businesses a week instead of 25. Also, the Clark County reopened its application

for the Small Business Stabilization grant and the Protective Retrofit Grant. That is open through September 29th. The City of Henderson and the State of Nevada will be rolling out similar programs soon.

C. Williams attended Las Vegas Stadium Authority Board the last meeting on the 17th. They're providing timely updates in terms of community involvement on the types of amounts and business opportunities have been doled out in the construction of the stadium. They are moving now into the operations and maintenance. The next meeting is on November 12 and held virtually. They provide updates on what's going on in the community and how the community is being involved. Part of the Stadium Authority Board SB1 bill required the creation of the Community Benefit Plans and there's been an oversight committee formed in response to that. C. Williams attend the meeting on September 10th, and there is another one coming up on October 22nd. There is where the master operator and master concessionaire provide regular reports to the community. They are being held to a standard to make sure that they are including targeted groups in economic development as well as workforce development, that's where the accountability measures takes place. C. Williams attended a two-day national forum titled "Stop the Bleeding on Black Business". It was specific to how the pandemic has impacted businesses of color. It was an ongoing conversation and folks were able to make strategic connections with one another to continue to brainstorm ideas on how to ensure that more of the businesses are able to make it through the pandemic.

6. Legislative

C. Williams attended the LVGEA (Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance) and Vegas Chamber Virtual Fly-In, where they organized a large group of representatives from all over to come talk to us about the state of Nevada and ask where their legislative priorities lie. One of the panelists that will be helpful to the Commission is the woman who leads the SBA Office of Advocacy based in Washington, DC. They are actually independent of the SBA, and they provide research and data specifically for small business. That will be particularly helpful as we need to pull data. We were one of the few minorities representing Nevada, so it was particularly important that we had presence there. It also helps us position us with Vegas Chamber and LVGEA that would be willing to work with us to ensure some of our legislative initiatives move forward. She also attended a roundtable hosted by Small Business for America's Future with Congressman Stephen Horsford. She posed a question in regards to how minority businesses can plan to come out of this pandemic. We are being issued EIDL and PPP funds to keep doors open but what are the legislative and strategic plans to help us pay those off, where are we going to see those opportunities so we can stay open in the long term. On August 28th, C. Williams attended a webinar series hosted by the Urban Chamber, LVGEA, and Vegas Chamber called "Creating Equitable Communities – A Conversation Connecting Social Justice with Economic Development". It is a particularly good series because our largest and most influential folks in town are talking about inequities and committing to helping to find solutions.

7. Community Liaison

No report

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

- a. M. A. Ku said the Las Vegas Urban League is having a workshop on Investment Opportunities for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners on September 23rd from 11-12:30pm.
- b. Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition webinar on COVID-19 in the Native American community on October 6th (time TBD).

- c. C. Krause was recently featured on KNPR's Race and Racism series. It is a 5 part series that covers 4 different minority populations, and the last one is a wrap up. She was on the show on September 17th talking about the Native American community.
- d. Census is a month early on September 30th. They have deployed census enumerators into the community.
- e. The Office for New Americans has a new Director, Charina De Asis. M. A. Ku has met with her and hopes to work closer together moving forward.

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Taemee Feuer wanted to talk that there are barriers in higher education involving civil rights, specifically against Asian Americans at the start of COVID. It seems that the office of equity within the higher education system, particularly at CSN (College of Southern Nevada), may be impartial to their investigations on discrimination within the school system. The only outlet other than the Office for Civil rights in Washington, DC seems to be NERC (Nevada Equal Rights Commission), but they are not responding to these allegations. She feels like there needs to be some resource for Asian Americans so that these issues are not continuously being swept under the rug.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 9:30 am