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STATE OF NEVADA

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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, April 18, 2022. Pursuant to public notice, this meeting was conducted by a Webex videoconference call.

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

B. Commissioners Present: Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice-Chair Myisha Boyce, C. Hasaan Azam, C. Kathleen Taylor, C. Amy Shaw, C. Jose Melendrez, C. E. Mercedes Krause

C. Commissioners Not in Attendance: C. Yerania De Luca, C. Angelica Villarta

C. Staff Present: Carrie Foley, Program Officer for the Department of Business & Industry

D. Public Attendance: Marcel Schaerer, Deputy Director, Department of Business & Industry, Nicholas Dunkle, Janet Serial, Riley Franco, Jeannette Belz, Lea Case

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

**A. Approval of March 21, 2022, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)**

Commissioner Krause moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Taylor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)**

**1. Community Liaison**

Commissioner Melendrez said there are two groups that have been formed, one under the Governor's Office for the Office of New Americans and there is a statewide effort around how to support the different refugees coming to America. Commissioner Melendrez said the CDC gave out a

grant to bring more diversity into the public health fields and there are some initiatives coming out of that.

## 2. Legislative

Commissioner Boyce said that the commission put in a request to the Department of Business & Industry for consideration regarding the budget, and travel for the new year.

## 3. Economic and Business Development

Commissioner Shaw provided information on events she attended. She said the number of passengers through the airport has increased, and with upcoming events she is hoping it will help local businesses. Commissioner Shaw briefly discussed certification.

Commissioner Shaw said the airport businesses are dealing with the same issues as other businesses with long lead time when equipment fails. She said it is the same with employment, companies at the airport are having a hard time hiring and retaining employees. Commissioner Shaw said it is likely that the airport will host an employment fair.

## 4. Workforce Development

Commissioner Taylor discussed the LVGEA 2022 Southern Nevada Regional Development Workforce Blueprint. She said the report highlighted the top 10 in demand jobs in southern Nevada, specifically in the expanding roles of information community technologies and those targeted industries. Commissioner Taylor provided additional information on the top 10 fields.

## 5. Housing

Commissioner Krause said she does not have anything to report for housing. Commissioner Taylor discussed the \$250 million in funding for federal aid dollars to build, preserve and develop affordable housing in Nevada. She said the lawmakers want more oversight of the funds. The U.S. Treasury will oversee the spending for any entity that receives \$750,000 or more from the program, and those entities will be subject to an audit to ensure they comply.

## 6. Health

Commissioner Melendrez said he will submit his four-page report, and briefly mentioned COVID numbers. He discussed a partnership with local stores for a healthy food program, which is taking place in Washoe County. Commissioner Melendrez said there is a statewide initiative to increase the diversity of folks being brought into the workforce of public health.

## 7. Education

Commissioner Krause discussed the violence that is happening in our local schools. She said that fights are not being described with detail. Commissioner Krause suggested that fights be given a level of how intense the violence is so we can get a true understanding of what is happening in

schools. Commissioner Krause discussed restorative justice. She said we have not seen restorative justice practices. Commissioner Krause said there is a \$4,000.00 bonus for educators who come to Nevada and stay in the state for a three-year agreement. Commissioner Krause said the Dads in Schools program is moving forward. She said Washoe County is looking for a new superintendent.

**C. Commission election process approval (for possible action)**

Commissioner Chaney said he thinks it would be good if commissioners could provide notification of which subcommittees they are interested in, in writing before the May meeting so there is a smoother transition when it comes time for chair and vice-chair elections.

Commissioner Boyce agreed it would be good to start with subcommittee elections. She said if they can put together a list of where people are interested in serving it will help serve the commission better. Commissioner Boyce said the process for the election of chair and vice-chair should remain the same as it has been in the past where you can nominate yourself or nominate someone else.

Commissioner Azam said he will be available for all the commissioners at any time after his term expires in June 2022. Commissioner Chaney said he and Commissioner Boyce would like to do a soft pass and not leave commissioners hanging.

There was additional commission discussion on the nomination process, the possibility of co-chairs, the ability to still apply to become a commissioner and questions on designated appointments based on north, south or rural areas. Commissioner Boyce said the commission operates according to bylaws and according to the bylaws the commission has an executive secretary which is the Management Analyst, a chairperson, and a vice-chairperson. Commissioner Boyce said to change the structure of the commission it would have to go to a formal vote and the bylaws would have to be changed. She said demographic location is not a consideration within the bylaws or precedent. Commissioner Boyce said when commissioners are selected demographic location does matter so there is representation across the commission, but not by position.

There was additional commission discussion on the various subcommittees and preferences and the processes.

There was commission discussion on when to cut off the application period for new commissioners. Deputy Director Schaerer said he will look into this and get back with Commissioner Chaney and Commissioner Boyce.

**D. Approve FY22 budget items (for possible action)**

Commissioner Boyce said there is approximately \$10,000.00 remaining in unused funds that needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year. She suggested possibly using the remaining dollars to highlight the commission's activities during COVID and intentions going into the next fiscal year, by utilizing the remaining funds for general marketing of commission activities. Commissioner Boyce said there is a possibility of putting in a request with the budget office with the Department of Business & Industry for an extension of unused funds.

Commissioner Boyce discussed possibly doing a general marketing campaign with video highlights of the commission's activities, whether it's interviews or a short video focusing on what the commission is and does and various initiatives.

There was commission discussion on how marketing funds were previously used, potential uses for funding for this fiscal year, discussion on creating videos and the costs associated with that, supplies the commission may need for returning to in person meetings, being more active on social media and what an extension or rollover would look like if approved by the budget office. Deputy Director Schaerer said he will look into additional details about a potential rollover and get back with Commissioner Chaney and Commissioner Boyce.

Commissioner Chaney said the motion is how we will spend down the remaining funds and the commission can work out the specific details later. Commissioner Boyce made a motion to suggest making a broad recommendation to finance to use the remainder of the commission's budget to support marketing. This would allow the commission to continue the conversation and work through the details later. Commissioner Melendrez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. BDR selection (for possible action)**

Commissioner Boyce said the committee needs to vote on a direction for the BDRs. She said that she has received a set of recommendations from Commissioner Taylor and asked the other commissioners to provide comments.

Commissioner Taylor brought up the issue of childcare and how to support the transition for people who may be going from working remotely, or those re-entering the workforce and childcare needs.

Commissioner Krause discussed the Indian Tuition Waiver and asked for support from the commission if possible.

Commissioner Boyce said she would like to try and vote on direction today so she can start to draft the language as it has to go through approvals. Commissioner Boyce addressed items brought up by both Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Krause. There was additional commission discussion on the suggested items.

Commissioner Boyce said the commission has two BDRs and for one of those she would like to suggest the commission vote to take on legislation that would enhance their ability to bring on more staff given the number of legislative responsibilities from the last legislative session.

Commissioner Boyce said the commission is able to carry the legislation, but we want to seek additional support from legislators to strengthen the argument. There was commission discussion on the responsibilities for the next person who takes on the legislative committee work, and the time commitment involved. Commissioner Boyce said the person who takes on the role on the legislative subcommittee is responsible for carrying two bills on behalf of the commission in the legislative session. She said it is a significant ask. There was additional commission discussion on this topic.

Commissioner Taylor agreed with the suggestion made by Commissioner Boyce for additional staff for the commission and to take that into consideration as a BDR moving forward.

Commissioner Boyce said based on today's discussion there may still need to be discussion around how the 2<sup>nd</sup> BDR is used, but she would like to take a vote on at least the most pressing BDR. She said she feels the request for additional staff to help the next wave of commissioners to do the job properly is highly recommended. Commissioner Boyce said that if they don't start moving on the process it will be very difficult for the next set of commissioners.

Commissioner Chaney said he thinks the commission should seek approval for both BDRs, identifying the one in the motion. There was additional commission discussion on how to proceed with the BDRs.

Commissioner Boyce said the suggestion she was going to make for the 2<sup>nd</sup> BDR if there were no other suggestions, was to follow-up on the commissions initiative to get a statewide disparity study. Commissioner Boyce said the language is already drafted and at this point it would just mean getting support from outside entities.

Commissioner Shaw said the airport is doing a disparity study statewide hopefully beginning in July. She said it will be sponsored by the airport and RTC southern Nevada. Commissioner Shaw said they will be doing the study over the course of July 2022-June 2023.

Commissioner Boyce said she thinks what the commission could help address through legislation, is the option to decline to participate. She said knowing what disparities lie within the state are important.

Commissioner Chaney asked for a motion. Commissioner Taylor said she moved for the approval of the recommendations for BDRS for the addition of staff support for the Commission on Minority Affairs and for the BDR specifically looking at a statewide disparity study. Commissioner Shaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. New Business**

Commissioner Chaney said he would like to have the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in person. Commissioner Chaney asked for agreement from the commissioners to move the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to June 13<sup>th</sup>. All commissioners agreed to move the June meeting to June 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Boyce would like to use commission funds to fly Commissioner Azam to Las Vegas for the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Chaney agreed that it's a good idea. Commissioner Chaney encouraged commissioners to provide subcommittee interest by the May meeting.

Carrie Foley reminded commissioners to submit their reports monthly.

#### **5. Public Comment**

Janet Serial said her question in the chat about BDRs has been answered. Janet Serial said there are

several activities for minority health month through the Office of Minority Health & Equity. The NAACP African American Health and Environmental Climate Justice Symposium has been postponed until the fall. Janet Serial discussed the theme and purpose of this event.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16, 2022, at 9:30 am in person.

#### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.