



**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, February 13, 2023. Pursuant to public notice, the meeting was conducted in person and telephone conference.

1. OPENING (Call to order & roll call)

- A. This meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 9:31am

Commissioners in attendance: Kathleen Taylor, Angelica Villarta, Jose Melendrez, Gabriela Wyett, Nic Steele, Jon Lau, Amy Shaw.

Commissioners not in attendance: Yerania De Luca, Mercedes Krause.

Public in Attendance: Erika Hernandez, Public Utilities Commission, Marcel Schaerer, Department of Business & Industry

- B. Silent meditation and pledge of allegiance by Kathleen Taylor
- C. Land acknowledgements by Angelica Villarta

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (1st PERIOD)

None

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

- A. Approval of January 23, meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)
Commissioner Steele moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wyett second, the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Connecting with the New Governor as it relates to the Commission (for possible action and discussion)
The MA will connect with the Southern Nevada Outreach Coordinator
- C. Taylor went over the Governor's Transition Team so Commissioners can connect with them for outreach purposes.
- C. Wyett will be meeting with Sarah Johnson, Director of the Office of Small Business,



Advocacy, and will reach out to the Chair of Economic Development.

Commissioners voted all in favor to connect with the Governor's Office for outreach purposes.

C. Recruitment and onboarding of possible new Commissioner members for FY2024 (for possible action and discussion)

C. Taylor reminded the Commission that by June 30th there will be four Commissioner vacancies and asked commissioners to promote and advertise, and encourage applicants to go to the Commission's website to check the By-Law, mission, and purpose of the Commission.

C. Wyatt asked if there was a specific protocol for the application process.

C. Tylor responded that for right now applicants can go through the website

C. Malendrez reach out to a colleague with Social Work background who is interested in applying.

MA Rojas shared with commissioners that the application on the website is updated with the vacancies available and instructions on how to apply.

Commissioners voted all in favor to start recruitment for commissioner vacancies.

D. NCMA Community Academy (for possible action and discussion)

C. Taylor gave a brief intro of what would the NCMA Academy would be.

C. Villarta asked for an explanation of how each sub-committee would be responsible for their portion or contribution.

C. Taylor responded, working smarter vs. harder. Ideally, each subcommittee to look at their strategic plan goals, and objectives and incorporate those activities and their approach with the academy.

Other Commissioners and the MA where involved in discussion regarding logistics, quorum, topics, efforts, and funding for the Academy.

Commissioners voted all in favor to approve the launching of the NCMA Community Academy.

E. Review and Approval of reports worked by the Commission before submission (for possible action and discussion)

MA explained that after the passage of SB222 the Commission in collaboration with ONA and NOHME is now responsible of submitting an annual report to LCB and the Governor's Office. She asked if the Commission wanted to review and approve the report



before submission to LCB and the Governor's Office.
Commissioners voted all in favor for the Commission to review and approve any report submitted by the Commission before submission.

F. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)

a. Legislative – Commissioner Taylor

C. Taylor provided an updated on amendments that were done to the disparity studies bill draft, and informed the Commission that due to some missteps taken in the submitting process to LCB, the Commission missed the deadline to present the BDRs. A representative from LCB will be invited to present guidelines on the proper procedure that the Commission should be following to present BDRs to LCB during legislative session.

C. Taylor also proposed as a matter of strategy to research various BDRs that are in alignment with the Commission's mission. This recommendation was made by vice-chair Villarta.

C. Melendrez forwarded to chair, vice-chair and staff BDR's on workforce that are out from community health workers to license.

C. Villarta moved to have Commissioners submit potential BDRs for review and vote on during the next meeting, Commissioner Melendrez second. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Lau provided information on a webinar called Navigating Employment Discrimination in AI and Automated Systems through the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

b. Housing – Commissioner Taylor

C. Taylor provided update on information provided by the MA on forums that the Silver State Fair Housing Council is conducting on the housing rights for people with disabilities and impact on housing.

C. Taylor provided a training for the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program on February 7th. The topic was resources for starting a business. As a result of the training, she was invited to present as a community partner during the board meeting on March 16th.

c. Community Liaison – Commissioner Villarta

C. Villarta provided information on a meeting she had with the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on the launching of their See Something, Say Something Campaign.



C. Villarta asked for a motion to have the Commission's logo on the campaign, C. Wyatt asked for the opportunity to see what the brochures look like. C. Villarta referred Commissioner Wyatt to go to the campaign website to look at the brochures as she didn't have one with her.

C. Taylor moved to have the logo for the See Something, Say Something campaign, C. Melendrez second. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Villarta reported that concerns about domestic extremists continues to be an issue so she encourage everybody to be diligent and conscious if you are aware of any strange activity. She provided additional information on other areas of concerns across communities.

C. Villarta provided information on activities and services offered by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

She provided updated information on mental health concerns across the state from suicide, and mass violence. C. Villarta presented a proposal to chair and staff detailing an opportunity that the Commission can use to launch the NCMA academy.

d. Workforce Development – Commissioner Villarta

C. Villarta provided an update on data gathered from DETR and the state of Nevada's workforce. The document was uploaded to the Commissions share drive.

C. Melendrez went over the BDRs he presented for the Commission to track. "A lot of these bills are concentrated on a diverse workforce".

e. Economic/Business Development – Commissioners Steele

C. Wyatt introduced Las Vegas HEALS which stands for health, education, advocacy and leadership.

C. Wyatt went over the events she attended and provided a few details on each.

C. Steele provided information on a roundtable discussion with the vic-chair of the Federal Reserve System who visited Southern Nevada. C. Steele also met with the Regional Director of the Economic Development Administration who also visited Southern Nevada and discussed the programming that is coming into the State from the federal government and how that is being allocated.

C. Steele went over several programs offered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.



“Nevada Grow which is managed by the College of Southern Nevada is accepting applications again for their in venture fund. They provide a number of technical assistance, and additional services”.

Other topics discussed included; a meeting with the director of the economic Development Administration regarding programing that’s is coming into the state from the federal government, and how is being allocated, a disparity study discussion in January at the Transportation Commission, Battle Born Growth Microloan program, Nevada Grow managed by the College of Southern Nevada.

C. Wyatt gave update on financial institutions supporting the Bank On Coalition.

C. Lau provided information on the State of the economy event hosted in Northern Nevada.

f. Healthcare – Commissioner Melendrez

Topics discussed:

White House ending COVID-19, by May funding for certain programs will end.
Impact Summit in November 2022

Partnership between UNLV School of Public Health and Defensive Line Program –
intervention and tools for suicide prevention and awareness

Healthcare reform bills – extension of Medicaid Services

Mental Health Town-Hall

g. Education – Commissioner Melendrez

Topics discussed by C. Lau:

Attempts to connect with Center of cultural Diversity

Unity Graduation event in December

Lunar New Year Celebration in February

Connected with Washoe County Schools –

Joining the Pack, will help middle and high students in Washoe County.

Equity Taskforce

C. Taylor, referred commissioners to review the education report submitted by C. Krause which is uploaded to the Commission’s share drive.

G. Management Analyst Update (for discussion and possible action)

b. Upcoming Events

UNLV is hosting the 2nd annual Minority Serving Institution Week (MSI) and the MA is looking to connect with UNLV to attend the event on behlf of the Commission.

The State’s Affordable Housing Advocate invited the Commission to participate in the



efforts of the [Make Home Possible Coalition](#) the initiative goes for African Americans to close the gap of homeownership. There will be an event on April in celebration of Fair Housing National Month, and the MA will update the Commission as more details come her way.

c. Annual Report submission update

The Commission's annual report was submitted to the Gov's Office and LCB at the beginning of January.

C. Taylor asked to post the Annual Report on the Commissions website, MA will posted and will let the Commission know when the report has been uploaded.

4. NEW BUSINESS (for discussion only)

C. Taylor informed the Commission that B&I's fiscal unit requested a justification for the budget enhancement presented by former chair and vice-chair of the Commission. C. Taylor proposed that the budget enhancement was for outreach to the State's rural areas.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (2ND PERIOD)

Deputy Director, Marcel Schaerer reminded the Commission that March 5th through March 11 is National Consumer Protection Week The Nevada Consumer Affairs Unit is going to be scheduling a couple of events, one in the South and one in the North. Deputy Director pointed the importance of directing people to the Commission's website to the data and resources hub regarding minorities information.

Deputy Director thanked all Commissioners and staff for their continued advocacy and support to minorities

6. NEXT MEETING

March 20, 2023. Location TBD

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Steele moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wyett second. The meeting adjourned at 11:17am