



Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies | Division of Community Advocacy and Services | Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Offices of
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs (ICNAA) Minutes of Meeting Friday, January 6, 2012

Department of Public Safety
215 E. 7th St.
1st Floor Conference Room
Des Moines, IA

Present: Judy Allen, Chair; Judy Yellowbank, Vice Chair; Vicky Apala-Cueves; Keith Carpenter; Joe Dan Coulter; Karen Mackey; Larry Lasley; Franklin Phillips

ExOfficio: San Wong, Department of Human Rights Director (DHR);

Staff: Jill Filitano Avery, Danielle Plogmann

Guests: Calvin Harlan, Tribal Historical Preservation Officer for the Omaha Tribe; Judy Morrison, Department of Corrections Liaison; Jake Ketzner, Office of the Governor

Absent: Thomas Cornwell, Theresa Mahoney, Tiffany Lewis

Invocation provided by Chair Allen.

Meeting called to order by Chair Allen at 9:16 a.m. with a quorum.

Chair Allen delivered report on recent meeting with Governor Branstad and Jake Ketzner. Regarding the capitol display issue, there is nothing in the capitol to depict Natives. The Governor instructed Ketzner to assist the commission on this issue. Regarding the implementation of the Native American spirituality policy in prisons, the Governor instructed Ketzner to help set up a meeting with the Department of Corrections. Regarding Community Initiative for Native Children and Families (CINCF) meetings in Sioux City, the Governor said it will be necessary to talk with department directors about re-engaging in these meetings. Yellowbank added that the Governor inquired about why the program isn't statewide. Director Wong explained the Department's responsibility is statewide, so for her and other directors to be involved, the effort needs to be statewide. Chair Allen explained CINCF was intended to be a pilot program. Director Wong explained the Department doesn't have the resources to send two to three staff people to Sioux City four times per year, but could work with the group to make sure the Department is there when critically important. Regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Allen said the Governor would talk to one of the Supreme Court justices to make sure judges are following the ICWA law.

Chair Allen backed up to cover earlier items on the agenda.

Lasley moved to correct the spelling of Calvin Harlan's name on the agenda. Mackey seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Coulter moved to approve the minutes. Apala-Cuevas seconded. In discussion, Apala-Cuevas the minutes be changed to replace the name "Yellowbank" with "Morrison" on page six regarding the meeting with the Attorney General's Office. With that change, the motion carried by voice vote.

Calvin Harlan, Tribal Historical Preservation Officer for the Omaha Tribe, joined the commission and brought greetings from the Chairman of the Omaha Tribe, and delivered a letter from the Chairman. He expressed the Omaha Tribe's desire to open a dialogue and consultation process with the commission. Harlan said the Omaha Tribe has a big population in the Sioux City area. He expressed the need for effective communication with state and local agencies. Chair Allen thanked Harlan and said she would respond to his letter.

Reports:

Governor's Office:

Jake Ketzner from the Governor's Office joined the commission meeting. He explained that following the meeting with representatives of the commission, he is working to set up three meetings:

1. Meeting with Frank LaMere of Four Directions in Sioux City to further discuss the work he is doing.
2. Meeting between Chair Allen, Vice Chair Yellowbank and Jerry Bartruff with the Department of corrections for the week of January 9 to discuss the Native American spirituality policy.
3. Meet with the Department Director and staff regarding placement of flags in the capitol. Ketzner said the Governor was happy to place the commission flag in his office in November. He will work with the departments that manage the complex to help the commission find some display space. Ketzner said he wants to help commissioner Cornwell on this effort.

Phillips asked if the budget was discussed. Ketzner said there is not a lot of new budget news. Last year the legislature passed a two-year budget and this session will be policy-focused.

Lasley asked if the commission is leveraging relations between the commission and tribal governments as well as it should be. There was some discussion among the group about having tribal representatives present when the governor meets with Native American constituents. Lasley said that as an advisor to the governor's office, he believes the governor's office should be proactive and invite chairmen of tribes to meetings. He added it is important to think outside the box when resources are scarce. Look for alternatives. Are those alternatives more or less effective? Who determines that? If we need to do more with less, we might need to ask tribal governments to do more with less to serve people. Coulter added the government to government relationship between the state and sovereign tribal governments be strengthened. Mackey added she agreed with leveraging tribal involvement, but that any Indian should be able to meet on their own – without their tribal leaders – with the governor. Chair Allen asked Lasley to speak in greater detail on the idea of leveraging resources at the next commission meeting.

DHR:

Turning to budget, Chair Allen said this was discussed with the governor, but he said it is up to DHR. He can't change anything at this point. Director Wong explained the governor made his budget recommendation last year, which then goes to the legislature for debate. Our department only received a 50% allocation for this coming year, and Ketzner earlier said 85% of the state's budget is already set. Due to reorganization, what used to be seven divisions are now one, with individual offices. Prior to Director Wong joining the department over the summer, the department had to lay off a couple of employees. The majority of the commission's budget is in-state travel (getting together for commission meetings.) Wong said most other office have had to seek grant money, donations, etc. to fund additional efforts. Most of our state appropriation goes to salaries and in-state travel. Avery explained the budget breakdown for the commission. Out of \$11,388 dollars, \$7,000 is for in-state travel. The rest goes to printing, communications, supplies and outside services. She explained the commission's travel budget is actually larger than some other commissions because the Native American commission has the most members.

Coulter asked about the website. Plogmann explained the website will be changed significantly in the next year, as the department transitions to a new content management system, per an executive order from the governor. In the short term, Plogmann said the group might be able to make some improvements to the current page. She will follow up with the commission on this. Plogmann also addressed a question about social media. At this time, the department is still not using social media such as Facebook and Twitter, under guidance from the Attorney General's office. Plogmann expects a policy to be drafted later this year that will enable the department and commissions to resume social media.

Chair Allen asked if they can go to the board to request funding, for an event, for example. Director Wong answered that the Board has no money and the department has little discretionary money. However, the commission can make a request through Jill Avery, who would pass it to the Director for consideration. There was a question about grants. Wong explained the Department can accept grants.

11:17 a.m. – Break

11:31 – Return from break

Capitol Display Committee:

Cornwell was unable to attend, but sent a report for the capitol display committee. Chair Allen asked that each commissioner be in possession of their tribe's flag so the flags can be displayed as soon as a display is available. Chair Allen said she would purchase a flag pole and stand for the commission flag. Apala-Cuevas said her tribe would prefer an eagle staff, as that is their flag. There was no objection from members.

New Committee:

Mahoney, Yellowbank and Mackey comprise the ICWA committee. The group hasn't met yet. Commissioners expressed interest in holding ICWA training.

Coulter moved to include appropriate ICWA training with representatives from the State Attorney General's office familiar with this issue, at an upcoming meeting. Discussion: Morrison asked the training address individuals who are offenders who need to use ICWA to maintain or recover children. Phillips discussion of expert witness process. **Motion died for lack of a second.**

Noon - Break for lunch

1:27 p.m. - Resume

New Business

Travel Rates: The lodging rate changed. The total is now \$89.60 including taxes and feed for hotel stays for commissioners. Meals are allowed at \$8 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch and \$23 for dinner. Mileage is unchanged.

Grants: The Commission can partner with Iowa Cancer Consortium for health issues. Another option is Seven Feathers nonprofit. The issue will be on the next agenda.

Proclamation: Commissioner Mackey recommended the commission plan ahead to mark December 26, 2012 – 150 years since the hanging of 38 native prisoners following the Dakota Conflict.

Coulter moved to form a committee of three people chaired by Mackey and to include Apala-Cuevas and Yellowbank, for the Dakota Commemoration. Lasley seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. Judy Morrison offered to assist with grant writing.

Old Business

Department of Corrections (DOC) Issues: Judy Morrison gave an update on the DOC. She said intervention from the Governor's Office seems to have motivated DOC to move forward on the Native American spirituality issue. Morrison asked commissioners to talk to their tribal communities, so that she can have people to contact. She said it is easier to assist offenders with issues that come up if she has a contact within the tribes. Morrison encouraged the commission to support inter-state transfers, so that natives could go to the Winnebago treatment center. Morrison said any commissioners are welcome to visit the prisons with her.

Commission Guidelines: Chair Allen noted that no action has taken place on the commission guidelines that were drafted previously. Part of the guidelines deals with electing commission officers. **Coulter moved to keep current officers, subject to administrative rules that may come up. Mackey seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Mascot Issue: "Indian CountryToday" does annual review of things that were successful and unsuccessful. The mascot law was changed in North Dakota and Maine. **Coulter moved to continue to pursue elimination of American Indian/Alaska Native mascots in all athletic programs in the State of Iowa. Apala-Cuevas seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.** Avery will re-send position letter to Iowa Athletics Association asking for a response to the commission's position.

Additional Comments: Avery will work with interested commissioners to get Iowa Department of Transportation identification badges.

Phillips asked permission to use commission letterhead to formally communicate with his tribe. Chair Allen said the communication needs to be approved first.

Coulter moved Karen Mackey be appointed to the Department of Human Rights Board and Vicky Apala-Cuevas serve as alternate. Carpenter seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Coulter asked that the commission take up the topic of health disparities, which he is able to present.

Coulter moved to meet April 6 at the Meskwaki Convention Center at 9 a.m. Yellowbank seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. Lasley will look into room rates and meeting space.

Yellowbank requested the commission meet in Sioux City and Davenport at future meetings. No action was taken.

Coulter thanked commissioners for their attendance and a productive meeting and staff for their hard work.

3:55 p.m. – Mackey moved to adjourn.