



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

MINUTES

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women meeting

February 27, 2020

Location: Lucas State Office Building, Room 319

321 E. 12th St, Des Moines, Iowa

Time: 1 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners present (in person or by phone)

Beth Coonan (Chair)
Rachelle Hunt Russian (Vice-Chair)
Sherill Whisenand
Tom Carnahan
Sean Bagniewski
Wendy Musgrave

Commissioners absent

David Gudenkauf

DHR/ICSW staff

Sonya Streit, Legislative Liaison, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Monica Stone, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women (Office)

Members of the public (present for all or part of meeting)

Jennifer Tibbetts (Iowa Task Force for Young Women)

Call to order

Called to order by Chair Beth Coonan at 1:10 p.m.

Approval of Feb. 27, 2020 agenda

Motion to approve February 27, 2020 agenda made by Whisenand; seconded by Hunt Russian.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of Oct. 24, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve October 24, 2019 minutes made by Whisenand; seconded by Hunt Russian.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

DHR Update:

Corey gave an update from the Iowa Department of Human Rights' Office on the Status of Women related to the Iowa Talent Bank, the statewide Hard Won, Not Done committee, and several projects related to the commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Discussion among staff and commissioners centered around:

- Providing help with writing several nominations for National Votes for Women Trail markers, such as for Gertrude Rush Des Moines), Sue M. Wilson Brown (Des Moines), and Amelia Jenks Bloomer (Council Bluffs).
- Connecting with local partners for the National Votes for Women Trail nominations. Hunt Russian and Whisenand offered help with contacts in Des Moines and Council Bluffs.
- The status of marketing and outreach for the Iowa Talent Bank. Commissioners expressed interest in being a part of the marketing and outreach piece of the Iowa Talent Bank.

Stone gave an update for the Department of Human Rights and the Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS). She presented a report to commissioners about trends in the populations the CAS division serves. Topics covered in the report included trends in education, employment, income, etc.

Whisenand asked if Stone could explain the difference in the charts among the unemployment rate and overall workforce participation. Stone stated that the charts refer to those currently in the workforce, plus those actively looking for employment.

Stone also provided greater detail related to marketing and outreach for the Iowa Talent Bank. She stated that the Governor's office would like to do an announcement, but asked the Department if we would plan it. Stone also announced that the Boards and Commissions director for the Governor's office would be leaving and the Department is unsure of who will replace her position.

Stone mentioned that the Department will be asking the Iowa Talent Bank Steering Committee and commissioners for help in planning the announcement, such as inviting in others who would like to be connected and to speak about why diversity and inclusion is important.

Legislative Updates:

Streit gave legislative updates as it relates to women and girls as of February 26, 2020 for commissioners. She mentioned that the first funnel was February 21st and has been looking for a list of bills that survived the first funnel. She added that as soon as the Department has that list, staff would send on to commissioners. She mentioned that the second funnel is March 2nd.

Office and Commission Discussion:

Corey and commissioners discussed how work differs between the office and commission and how commissioners can fill in gaps that fall outside of office duties, which might include speaking engagements, legislative work, or serving on committees.

Corey mentioned that how office staff do their work may change in the future based on a 6 month course all CAS division staff will be required to take and the division may be going through some strategic planning.

Stone provided some information for commissioners on how the CAS division will be going through a 6 month training session through [OneBody3](#) which will focus on how the CAS division does its work and will make sure each staff person knows their "swim lane." Through this training, the team will do a skills audit and focus on purpose-driven goals. Stone mentioned that she would like the division to focus more on data (collection, reports, etc.).

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Committee:

Coonan asked commissioner Musgrave if she would be interested in serving as Chair for the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee for another year. Musgrave agreed to serve as Chair of the committee.

Two additional commissioners agreed to serve: Carnahan, and either Hunt Russian or Whisenand, who will discuss and decide at a later date which will of the two commissioners will serve on the committee.

Hunt Russian asked if Corey could send a postcard with information about how to apply to commissioners. Corey agreed to do that.

Corey added that the ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 22nd at Urbandale High School. This is scheduled to take place the week before school begins at Urbandale High School.

Old/New Business:

Hunt Russian spoke about the Many Shades of Colour conference which will be taking place on Saturday, March 7th. She spoke about the conference and asked if the commission as a whole would be interested in sponsoring the conference or supporting girls who would like to attend. The commission agreed by consensus to be involved next year (not directly this year because of the short turn-around time), and to provide financial support as individual commissioners this year for girls who may want to attend.

Corey agreed to reach out to Valora James about a possible partnership next year, or to learn about ways the commission/DHR could be a part of the conference.

Carnahan mentioned that he thinks the Commission should also consider being involved in some of the anti-human trafficking work going on in the state of Iowa. Stone mentioned that the Commission may also want to consider labor trafficking in addition to a focus on sex trafficking.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Carnahan; seconded by Hunt Russian.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.