



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

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR)
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 29, 2021, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

Members in Attendance

- DHR Board Chair Judge Jeffrey Neary, Justice Advisory Board
- Ben Jung, Commission of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
- Caleb Knutson, Commission of Latino Affairs
- Telina McKenna Quintana, Commission of Deaf Services
- Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri, Commission on the Status of African Americans
- San Wong, Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights
- Senator Sarah Trone Garriot, Iowa Senate
- Senator Dennis Guth, Iowa Senate

Members Not in Attendance

- Anna Brown, Commission on Community Action Agencies
- Beth Coonan, Commission on the Status of Women
- Michelle Ray-Michalec, Commission of Persons with Disabilities
- Rep. Amy Nielsen, Iowa House of Representatives
- Rep. Carter Nordman, Iowa House of Representatives

Guests in Attendance

- Tailyn Kaster, ASL Interpreter
- Jeff Reese, ASL Interpreter
- Caroline Barrett, Assistant Attorney General
- Kelly Montijo Fink, Commission of Native American Affairs
- Floyd Winter, Former DHR Board Chair

1. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

DHR staff noted some changes in the DHR Board membership.

- Karen Mackey who was Chair of the Commission of Native American Affairs was not re-appointed after serving two terms on the Commission.
- Public Member LaSheila Yates resigned in October 2021 because she is moving out of state.
- Former Board Chair Floyd Winter resigned in June 2021 due to health reasons.

2. Recognition of Former Board Chair Floyd Winter.

The Department and the Board recognized Winter for his long-time service to the Board and to Iowa communities.

3. Selection of New Board Chair

Director Wong called for nominations for a new Board Chair. Jung nominated Judge Neary, seconded by Dr. Baba-Singhri. No other nominations were made. Motion carried by roll call vote. Chair Judge Neary then called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

Jung moved to approved the February 25, 2021, minutes, seconded by Dr. Baba-Singhri. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Approval of Budget

Director Wong gave an overview of the FY2023 DHR budget. Knutson moved to approve the FY2023 budget, seconded by Jung. Motion carried by voice vote. Dr. Baba-Singhri abstained from voting.

6. Department Update and Overview of FY2021 Annual Report

a. Administrative Rules

- Streit provided an update on the proposed administrative rules. The Department's rules were re-written to reflect the organization and structure, modernize language, and update legal references. A notice of Intended Action was filed which provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed rules. A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held on November 9, 2021, from 3:00-4:00 via Zoom. Streit will schedule a DHR Board meeting to be held after the comment period for the Board to consider the final adoption of the rules.

b. Meeting with Governor

- The Governor's Office met with Director Wong, Monica Stone, and Bill Brand on October 29, 2021, to discuss the department's response to COVID-19, upcoming initiatives, and budget requests.

c. Division of Community Action Agencies

- Brand reported that Congress passed a partial budget through December 3, 2021. Energy costs and utility bills will increase this this winter. Funds will assist

qualifying households and those who face disconnection. The benefit will be doubled from a year ago.

d. Division of Community Advocacy and Services

- Stone reported that in FY2021, the Division established a new program for Data Access as a part of its overall Government Access Initiative, done in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension. Collecting and providing data about underserved populations in one place will help policy makers, and all Iowans, achieve better informed in decision making.
- DHR and other state agencies and organizations helped Shalom Church start a nonprofit, called Shalom Community Impact Center, that will serve refugees and immigrants in the Des Moines area. The center will serve as a resource to help new Iowans navigate government and build self-sufficiency.

e. Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

Michael reported that DHR is implementing an interactive career pathway for a diverse population of youth, by enhancing leadership and civic engagement training.

7. FY2021 Annual Report

- At this point in the meeting, quorum was no longer present to vote on approving the Annual Report. Streit will schedule a Board meeting on November 1, 2021, in order to establish quorum to vote. The deadline to file the Annual Report with the legislature is November 1, 2021.

8. Updates from Board Members

a. Justice Advisory Board

- The Justice Advisory Board developed a three-year criminal and juvenile justice plan that was submitted to the legislature and Governor. The plan included recommendations in the areas of racial justice, mental health, community-based corrections and alternatives to incarceration, and sex offenders.

b. Commission of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

- The Commission met in October and will meet again in November to discuss the Commission's strategic plan.
- The Iowa Asian Alliance organized a clean up of the Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens that Jung took part in earlier this summer.

- The CelebrAsian Festival that is typically held in May 2021 was postponed and held in October 2021 due to COVID-19.

c. Commission on the Status of African Americans

- Dr. Baba-Singhri expressed his frustration with being unable to schedule a Commission meeting with the Governor. He asked the DHR Board to investigate what happened to the meeting request; what the rules are on how the Commission requests a meeting; and what the Commission's responsibilities are and how to work with the Department. Chair Judge Neary will reach out to Dr. Baba-Singhri to discuss.

d. Commission of Deaf Services

- McKenna Quintana noted that the Commission hasn't been able to meet due to lack of quorum.

e. Commission of Native American Affairs

- Kelly Montijo Fink is Vice-Chair of the Commission but has not yet been officially voted by the Commission to represent them on the DHR Board. The Commission is continuing to educate schools and organizations about the use of Native Americans as mascots.
- Montijo Fink was featured in an Iowa Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) segment in October 2021. There is also a segment on Storm Seymour highlighting the Meskwaki Tribe culture and traditions.

9. Public Comment – No members of the public appeared.

10. There being no further business, Chair Judge Neary concluded the meeting.