



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

Department of Human Rights (DHR) Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 25, 2019, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Location: Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th St., Room 201, Des Moines, IA 50319

Members Present

- Floyd Winter, Chair, Public Member
- Ben Jung, Commission of Asian and Pacific Islanders
- Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri, Commission on the Status of African Americans
- Beth Coonan, Commission on the Status of Women
- Anna Brown, Commission on Community Action Agencies
- Karen Mackey, Commission of Native Americans (phone)
- LaSheila Yates, Public Member (phone)
- Michelle Ray-Michalec, Commission of Persons with Disabilities (phone)
- Rep. Holly Brink, Iowa House of Representatives
- San Wong, DHR Director

Members Absent

- Jeannette Brown, Commission of Latino Affairs
- Judge Jeffrey Neary, Public Safety Advisory Board, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council
- Senator Zach Whiting, Iowa Senate
- Senator Zach Wahls, Iowa Senate
- Rep. Phyllis Thede, Iowa House of Representatives

DHR Executive Team Present

- Monica Stone, Administrator, Division of Community Advocacy & Services
- Steve Michael, Administrator, Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
- Sonya Streit, Executive Officer
- Jim Mezera, Fiscal Officer

Others Present

- Meaghan O'Brien, Governor's Office
- Caroline Barrett, Assistant Attorney General
- Andy Warren, Associated General Contractors of Iowa
- Dianne Siasoco, Lutheran Services in Iowa
- Nicholas Wertz, Lutheran Services in Iowa
- Austin Senske, guest of Anna Brown

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Winter called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

2. Action Item

Ray-Michalec moved to approve the February 28, 2019, meeting; seconded by Mackey. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. DHR Division Updates

a. Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

Stone introduced guests from Associated General Contractors of Iowa (Andy Warren) and Lutheran Services in Iowa (Dianne Siasoco and Nicholas Wertz) who partnered with CAS to provide opportunities for apprenticeships and career pathways for refugees and immigrants. The guests highlighted career potential and future growth in the highway construction industry. They developed a pilot program in the area of construction where a cohort of refugees learned about the trade and toured job sites. Lutheran Services also has other Career Pathways programs, including ones for health care and high-set skills. They hope to form partnerships to bring the program to other areas of the state.

b. Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)

Michael:

- A legislative bill was passed that merged the Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, Public Safety Advisory Board, and the Sex Offender Research Council into one Justice Advisory Board. Membership is being finalized.
- CJJP is convening a legislative interim study work group to plan and make recommendations to shift funds for juvenile justice community-based services, group foster care services, and detention fund. Currently, the funds are appropriated to DHS. The workgroup will determine the feasibility of the appropriations to be moved to the Judicial Branch, State Court Administrator's Office.
- The legislature appropriated to CJJP \$140,000 to provide a grant to a city with a population greater than 80,000, that has a higher than average juvenile crime rate. Four cities meet the criteria – Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, and Sioux City. The grant may be used for studying, planning, programming, and capital that is committed to deterring juvenile delinquency through early intervention in the criminal justice system by providing a comprehensive, multifaceted delivery of social services. Bids are due by July 2, 2019.
- The federal reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) has restricted the use of adult jails for youth under 18 who are being prosecuted in adult court. CJJP will be developing a bill to change state law to conform with federal law.

4. Department Update

Director Wong:

The state has an initiative to integrate data systems across agencies to allow sharing of information. Sharing data will assist with decision-making and serve as a tool to evaluate programs and services. Currently, the Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program (FaDSS) and Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) are embarking on integrated data systems. The state is interested in looking at CJJP's criminal justice data system as a model for data sharing.

5. Board Member Updates

a. Commission on the Status of Women

Coonan:

- The Commission on the Status of Women met on June 28, 2019. They selected names to be inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held at Urbandale High School on August 24, 2019.
- The Iowa Talent Bank module will be presented at the July conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women in Chicago.
- The Commission continues to consider proposing an amendment to make the Iowa constitution gender neutral.
- Kristen Corey, DHR Office on the Status of Women, is working on 19th amendment centennial commemoration ceremony that will be held February 14, 2020.

b. Commission on Community Action Agencies

Anna Brown:

- The Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA) Training Conference will be held in July at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. Director Wong added that at the conference, executive directors of local agencies will also meet with the Commission on Community Action Agencies.

c. Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs

Jung:

- The Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs partnered with Des Moines Area Community College, Des Moines Public Schools and Iowa State University, and put on a six-week EducAsian workshop. The program helped students explore future goals and career pathways. More than 40 high school students participated. Some scholarships were awarded.

d. Commission of Native American Affairs

Mackey:

- The Commission of Native American Affairs continues to provide education on the use of images of Native American as mascots.

- The Commission is making progress in having a Native American display at the state capitol.
- The Commission continues to address Issues related inmates' access to Native American rituals and goods.

e. Commission of Persons with Disabilities

Ray-Michalec:

- The Commission on Persons with Disabilities met on June 21, 2019.
- They continue to address accessibility issues, communicating with employers on how to improve the employment rate, helping veterans, assisting with resume writing, and being involved in the Best Buddies program.
- Their future meetings will be September 27 and December 6, 10:00 am -1:00 pm.

f. Commission on Status of African Americans

Dr. Baba-Singhri

- The Commission is holding listening sessions in various cities to determine the needs of communities. The Commission will then have a Speaker Series to discuss how best to address those needs.
- The Commission is identifying barriers to employment such as language, education, and criminal history. The Commission would like the community to connect in with the Future Ready Iowa program.

6. Public comment – No public comment.

7. Next meeting – Sonya Streit will send a poll to schedule the September meeting.

8. Adjourn – Coonan moved to adjourn, seconded by Anna Brown. Motion carried by voice vote.