



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

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 28, 2019 1:00 p.m.

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

Attendance

Members Present

- Floyd Winter, Chair, Public Member
- LaSheila Yates, Public Member (phone)
- Jeannette Brown, Commission of Latino Affairs (phone)
- Anna Brown, Commission on Community Action Agencies
- Elizabeth Coonan, Commission on the Status of Women
- Ben Jung, Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs
- Karen Mackey, Commission of Native American Affairs
- Michelle Ray-Michalec, Commission of Persons with Disabilities
- Judge Jeff Neary, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council
- Senator Zach Whiting (ex-officio)
- San Wong, DHR Director (ex-officio)

Members Absent

- Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri, Commission on the Status of African Americans
- Nate Garrels, Commission of Deaf Services
- Rep. Holly Brink, Iowa House of Representatives

DHR Executive Team Present

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

Others Present

- Kristen Corey, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Office on the Status of Women
- Rachele Hunt Russian, Commission on the Status of Women
- Caroline Barrett, Assistant Attorney General
- Claire Yocom, Americorps—Iowa Youth Congress Coordinator
- Anna Breese, Americorps—State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council Coordinator
- Isabel Hansen, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council Member
- Jace Baker, Iowa Youth Congress Member
- Xiangheng Li, Iowa Youth Congress Member

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Action Items:

Ray-Michalec moved to approve the September 20, 2018, minutes; seconded by Mackey. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Department Update

Director Wong and Chair Winter thanked the staff, commissioners, and others for participating in the DHR Day on the Hill event that was held earlier in the day, February 28, 2019. Various commissions met that morning. A number of youth also attended, including members of the Department's Human Rights Youth Chapters, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, and Iowa Youth Congress. Additionally, the Department hosted a "lunch and learn" with a presentation about the history and myths of poverty by Lana Shope, Executive Director of the Iowa Community Action Association.

4. Board Member Updates

a. Commission on the Status of Women

Coonan:

- The Commission on the Status of Women met on the morning of February 28, 2019.
- The Talent Bank project is moving forward. The Commission hopes to launch it in the fall with a beta site to unveil at Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in August 2019.
- Working on 19th Amendment Centennial commemoration ceremony which will take place on February 14, 2020.
- Developing curriculum on sexual violence training module, bringing modules into workplaces.
- Discussed constitutional amendment to make references in the Iowa constitution be gender neutral now that Iowa has female governor.

b. Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs

Jung:

- The Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs met on the morning of February 28, 2019. A guest speaker gave a presentation about different types of healthcare, Medicare, and enrollment. The Commission is helping the Asian/Pacific Islander community with challenges related to language and access to quality health care.

- In partnership with the Des Moines Area Community College, the Commission is hosting EducAsian workshops which will be held on Saturday mornings from April through May. The goal of these sessions is to better equip Asian/Pacific Islander high school youth in the Des Moines area with education and career options after graduation.
- The Commission worked with Iowa AARP on a healthcare issue. The CARE Act is pending state legislation that would require hospitals to give discharge instructions, such as wound care and injections, to a family caregiver upon the release of the patient. The Commission's participation and advocacy on the issue showed that there was diversity and broader concern across all demographics.
- Jung received the Community Leadership Award from the Iowa Chinese Association, which was presented during a Lunar New Year celebration.

c. Commission of Persons with Disabilities

Ray-Michalec:

- The Commission of Persons with Disabilities met on the morning of February 28, 2019. Topics of their discussion included:
 - Setting many new goals for the future.
 - Definitions of service animals and emotional support animals.
 - Handicap accessibility in the entertainment and hotel industry. Some of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities is that needs are not met by the accommodations provided such as bathroom fixtures, height of bed and peepholes.
 - Accessible playgrounds for children. The Commission is speaking with employment industry on how to design playgrounds for special needs.
 - Spreading the word about the "Best Buddies" program.
 - Keeping people safe during the severe winter weather; calling people to offer help with needs.
 - Resume writing.

d. Commission of Native American Affairs

Mackey:

- The Commission of Native American Affairs will meet in a couple weeks.
- They are addressing the following issues:
 - Access to Native American ceremonies for incarcerated individuals.
 - Access to medical care.
 - Implications of a Texas court case which held that the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was unconstitutional as a race-based law.
 - Educating organizations, including theater groups, regarding the depiction of Native Americans.

5. DHR Division Updates

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

Michael:

- DHR is recruiting participants for its youth programs that promote leadership and civic engagement.
- Michael presented CJJP's budget to the Justice Systems Appropriations Subcommittee at the legislature.
- Bills of interest:
 - CJJP proposed a bill to merge three of its councils (Sex Offender Research Council, Public Safety Advisory Board, and Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council) into one Justice Advisory Board. The merger is aimed at increasing efficiency and will still address the respective policy areas.
 - Public Safety Advisory Board recommended an antiracial, anti-profiling bill.
 - Public Safety Advisory Board recommended the restoration of voting rights for felons who have completed their sentence, and Governor is proposing to amend the Iowa Constitution to that effect.
 - Governor proposed a Children's Mental Health bill.
- CJJP completes correctional, racial impact statements on bills related to criminal justice at the legislature's request each year. So far, there have been more than 100 requests, an increase from the usual number at this time of year.
- The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act was reauthorized by Congress. A new requirement is that a Native American person must serve on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council.

b. Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA)

Brand:

- The Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program (FaDSS) serves families who experience barriers to self-sufficiency such as mental health issues, low education, substance abuse, and substandard housing. FaDSS serves only families who receive benefits from the Family Investment Program (FIP); participation in FaDSS is optional. Pilot projects were initiated at local community action agencies in northwest Iowa and northeast Iowa to implement strategies using the FaDSS model to serve families who do not receive FIP assistance. The goal is to demonstrate the increased benefits of FaDSS and to increase support of the program to serve more families.
- The FaDSS program, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Iowa State University are collaborating to evaluate intergenerational components of substance/opioid abuse. Funds to conduct the study were awarded to the Department of Public Health through a grant from Congress. The goal is to provide policy and practice recommendations to better serve families.

- Approximately 73,000 households were approved for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) from October 1, 2018 – February 15, 2019. Households will receive an average of a \$450 one-time payment towards their energy bill directly paid to their utility company.
- With the extreme winter weather, there has been a high demand for energy services like furnace repair and emergency services.

c. Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

Stone:

- Data Report is moving forward. Researchers are talking with lowans to assess community needs.
- Stone served on the Children’s System State Board that was charged with developing a strategic plan and recommendations to address children’s mental health and well-being. Legislation was introduced that outlines services to be provided. The bill also proposed a \$3 million investment by the state.
- The Youth Leadership Academy will recruit a cohort of 24 youth each year. Youth will develop leadership skills, learn about human rights issues and how to address them. CAS will hire a contractor to develop the curriculum.
- CAS partnered with Iowa College Student Aid Commission and other organizations to establish the Latino College Access Network Coalition. The goal of the coalition is to resolve the Latino post-secondary education gap.
- The Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs facilitated opportunities for apprenticeship in the construction trade for refugees. The Office worked with Lutheran Social Services of Iowa and the Associated General Contractors of Iowa to build an apprenticeship program to target the refugee population. Currently five Congolese refugees are working through the apprenticeship program.
- Work continues on the Talent Bank project. The platform will match individuals with opportunities to serve on boards and commissions.

6. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

7. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be scheduled at a later time, most likely in June.

8. Adjournment – Ray-Michalec moved to adjourn, seconded by Judge Neary. The motion carried by voice vote.