



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

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 7, 2016

Lucas State Office Building, Conference Room 320
321 E. 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Members Present: Floyd Winter, Chair; Karen Mackey (phone); Sal Alaniz, Ben Jung; Sherri Soich; Nathaniel Garrels; Anna Brown; Director San Wong (ex-officio).

Members Absent: Elizabeth Coonan, Clair Rudison, Michelle Ray-Michalec, Representative Phyllis Thede (ex-officio); Senator Rita Hart (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Mary Bowser, Budget Analyst; Monica Stone, Division Administrator of Community Advocacy & Services; Bill Brand, Division Administrator of Community Action Agencies; Sonya Streit, Central Administration; Dave Kuker, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning.

Others Present: Jeff Reese and Stephanie Raymie, American Sign Language interpreters; Paul and Dina Saunders, visitors from Mt. Pleasant who were guests of Sal Alaniz.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Action Item: Approve March 3, 2016, Minutes

Brown moved to approve the March 4, 2016, minutes, seconded by Soich. Chair Winter noted that Ben Jung's name was listed twice under the "Members Present" section. The minutes will be corrected to reflect one name. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Board Member Updates

a. Commission of Latino Affairs

Alaniz is serving the remainder of the term for Ramon Rodriguez who resigned from the Commission. Alaniz stated that the Commission of Latino Affairs, with three new Commissioners, will meet on June 16.

Alaniz distributed a 2010-2013 Commission of Latino Affairs Strategic Plan outline to be reviewed with the Commission that will provide a foundation for focus of the work.

Last year, the Commission approved the support of the Latino Professional Development Institute. This year, the 18th Annual Iowa Latino Conference of the institute will be held on October 7 at the University of Iowa. It has been proposed that a commission meeting be conducted at the conference as an opportunity to engage with 150+ attendees. After which, the workshops would be reflective of the commission discussion, such as the three major priority issues.

Alaniz attended a conference in Iowa City entitled *Culturally Responsive Health Care in IOWA 2016*.

b. Commission on Community Action Agencies

Brown stated that the Commission on Community Action Agencies will meet on Tuesday, June 14. The Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA) training conference will be held June 14-16.

c. Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (API)

Jung stated that the API Commission has a couple of new members who attended the commission meeting.

The Asian Heritage Festival (CelebrAsian) event was held May 27-28, 2016, at the Western Gateway Park, downtown Des Moines. Although there was no official number, the attendance was estimated to have been up to 60,000—an increase from last year.

The civic engagement priority was incorporated at the festival. The soapbox provided an opportunity for festival attendees to engage with candidates and elected officials (state and federal). Jung thanked the Department and other organizations for coordinating the events.

d. Commission on Deaf Services

Garrels is the new Chair of Deaf Services Commission, even though he has been on the Commission for 4-5 years. Garrels expressed some challenges and frustration with the direction of the Commission. He feels that the old Strategic Plan has not been working for the deaf community and that the staff from the Office of Deaf Services isn't present at meetings or out in the community.

Stone recalled that there was a new Strategic Plan that was developed last summer, and one of the priorities was to increase the number and availability of interpreters and ADA access for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Stone said that Garrels, as the new chair, can develop leadership within the Commission using the new Strategic Plan. The Office of Deaf Services staff has their time divided up to provide services and training

and also working with the Commission. Stone welcomed the opportunity to work with the Commission and Garrels on the direction of the plan.

Director Wong added that we want to make sure the priorities at the division and department level are in line with the new Strategic Plan and have some synergy with the Commission's focus such as language access and interpreters. Director Wong appreciated Garrels' input.

e. Criminal and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

Soich stated the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council met a couple of weeks ago for several hours. The Council determined priorities for the Council to focus on, one of which pertains to suspension of driver's license privileges for nonpayment of fines-reasons unrelated to driving. The Council continues to discuss the disparities between the penalties for crack cocaine and powder cocaine that result in unequal treatment on minorities' rate of incarceration.

f. Commission of Native American Affairs

The Commission of Native American Affairs has been working on two major issues. One has to do with health care for Native Americans in the Sioux City area. The Winnebago public health hospital lost its ability to receive reimbursement for Medicaid/Medicare. The Commission met in Sioux City and had the vice-chair of the Winnebago Tribal Council come and discuss the ongoing issues at the public health hospital. The second issue involves the pipeline on tribal sites. The Commission wrote a letter to the Core of Engineers addressing their concerns.

4. Department Report

Director Wong stated that the budget is being loaded into the system.

The DHR Board's public member, Jason Glass' term expired. The Governor's Office is looking to fill the position. Chair Winter would like to send Glass a thank you letter from the Board for his service. Theresa Legg finished her term with the Deaf Services Commission and the DHR Board as well. Director Wong expressed appreciation for her service.

5. DHR Division Updates

a. Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

Stone referred to the DHR Division Updates handout. There are some new members for each of the seven CAS commissions.

The Division has four focus areas:

- i. **Civic engagement**—Over 100 people registered to vote at the CelebrAsian festival, but more than 300 have registered since CAS began their civic engagement outreach.
- ii. **Language access**—Two focus groups/task forces have brought government agencies and the deaf community together to identify gaps and needs. There was a lack of access to interpreters with the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and they worked to decrease the waiting period from 40 days to 10 days. The task force also addressed issues in the area of law enforcement.
- iii. **Youth initiatives**—Youth Empowerment Day is planned in July at Grand View University to introduce young people to human rights.
- iv. **Community connections**—CAS is using the GovDelivery system as an electronic way for government to connect with citizens. People can subscribe to newsletters and join listserves. The youth programs Facebook pages are in production.

b. Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA)

- i. **Family Development & Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS)**—The FaDSS program received status quo funding for the coming year by the state legislature. With that funding, the program will be able to serve 3500 families each year. Federal funding is mostly finalized. The feds have authority to withhold one percent of the funding for each program for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Low Income Heating Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) as discretion for urgent needs.

The FaDSS program is implementing a new data collection system, bringing new technology in to measure families' progress to self-sufficiency in an objective manner and measure how families use CSBG dollars. The system will not only be able to measure the impact of the program, but will help agencies make management decisions. The rollout date is July 1, 2016.

- ii. **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**—The DCAA, in partnership with the national Center of Excellence for Organizational Performance Standards at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, has been working over the past two years to develop comprehensive new organizational standards for community action agencies funded through the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The standards are designed to promote strong, high performing and accountable community action agencies in Iowa. Categories for standards include board governance, fiscal operations, human resources, organizational leadership, community engagement, consumer input, customer satisfaction, strategic planning, and data analysis.

Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA), a private organization that represents the 17 local agencies around the state, will hold its annual training

conference June 14-16. A commission meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference. There are two new commissioners. There will be a joint meeting with the Association's Board of Directors and the Commission, which will also include participation by national leaders in the community action program.

c. Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)

Kuker announced that CJJP is hosting an event to address disproportionate minority contact on June 15. Nine metro communities around the state who have the highest percent of colored youth have been invited to participate. The teams include representatives from law enforcement, the courts, juvenile court services, schools, and other key organizations. Chief Justice Mark Cady is the keynote speaker. Research suggests that intervening at the local level is more likely to prevent deeper involvement into the system.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Next Meeting

The third quarter meeting is typically in the fall.

8. Adjournment

Chair Winter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Jung and seconded by Mackey. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.