



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

Iowa Department of Human Rights Board Meeting

September 19, 2019 10:30-noon

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

Members present

- Floyd Winter, Chair, Public Member
- Jeannette Brown, Commission of Latino Affairs
- Elizabeth Coonan, Commission on the Status of Women (phone)
- Ben Jung, Iowa Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs
- Karen Mackey, Commission of Native American Affairs (phone)
- Judge Jeffrey Neary, Justice Advisory Board (phone)
- Michelle Ray-Michalec, Commission of persons with Disabilities (phone)
- LaSheila Yates, Public Member (phone)
- Senator Zach Whiting, Iowa Senate (ex-officio) (phone)
- San Wong, Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights (ex-officio)

Members Absent

- Dr. Ahmadu Baba-Singhri, Commission on the Status of African Americans
- Anna Brown, Commission on Community Action Agencies
- Rep. Holly Brink, Iowa House of Representatives (ex-officio)
- Rep. Phyllis Thede, Iowa House of Representatives (ex-officio)
- Senator Zach Wahls, Iowa Senate (ex-officio)

DHR Staff Present

- Monica Stone, Deputy Director and Administrator, Division of Community Advocacy and Services
- Bill Brand, Administrator, Division of Community Action Agencies
- Jim Mezera, Fiscal Officer
- Sonya Streit, Executive Officer
- Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Ray-Michalec moved to approve the June 25, 2019, meeting; seconded by Mackey. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Department Report

Director Wong:

The DHR Day on the Hill will be held on February 27, 2020. The DHR Board will meet, as well as other commissions. More details will follow.

4. Approval of FY2019 DHR Annual Report

Director Wong provided highlights the FY2019 DHR Annual Report that will be filed with the legislature by November 1, 2019. The report shows the Department's activities and impact on helping lowans get on a path to upward mobility. The Department's core priorities are increasing self-sufficiency, increasing access, and improving the criminal and juvenile justice system.

Following the summary of the report by DHR leadership, Coonan moved to approve the draft FY2019 DHR Annual Report, seconded by Ray-Michalec. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. DHR Division Updates

a. Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA)

Brand:

- The new federal fiscal year begins October 1 in administering the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). DCAA is in the midst of finalizing contracts and policies with local agencies. Congress has not released the federal funding levels yet for the programs.
- Local CSBG grantees/agencies participated in the American Customer Satisfaction Index Survey that measured various factors of the state DCAA office. The data is used to better understand how well the state is delivering services to local entities and to make improvements where appropriate in developing the State Plan. Some of the scores for Iowa were as follows:

	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>National</u>	
Overall satisfaction	95	74	(out of 100)
Confidence in state agency	96	76	
Trust in state agency	96	75	

DCAA's lowest score was in the area of developing partnerships, which scored in the low 80's but above the national average. DCAA will review its strategies in this area.

- There has been some interest and requests for DCAA staff to speak at national conferences and share about how Iowa helps families get on a path to self-sufficiency with the Family Development and Two-Generation strategies.

b. Division of Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

Stone:

- As highlighted in the DHR Annual Report, the Division of Community Advocacy and Services focused on four goals: civic engagement; language and communication access; youth engagement; and community connections.
- CAS received the first draft of the data report. The report is intended to examine how Iowans are connected to their community and their path to prosperity and success. Researchers interviewed stakeholders, community leaders, Commissioners, and Iowans. The initial report identifies areas of strengths and opportunities within underserved communities across the state. The finalized report will be shared with the Board at a later time.
- Kristen Corey from the DHR Office on the Status of Women, gave a demonstration of the Iowa Talent Bank online tool. The Talent Bank will connect individuals with boards and commissions. It will also include a mentorship matching component. The site is in the testing phase and is expected to go live later this year. An outreach plan will also be developed.

6. Board Updates

a. Justice Advisory Board

Judge Neary:

The Justice Advisory Board was created through legislation by merging three former justice boards and councils into one. Judge Neary is the new Chairperson. The Justice Advisory Board is in the process of filling board positions. The Board will meet on November 6.

b. Commission of Latino Affairs

Jeannette Brown:

- The Commission's Annual Report highlights initiatives that include the Association of Iowa Latinx Professionals (PILA), Latino Day on the Hill, Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition, and bringing together organizations to assist Iowans in the sponsorship process of migrant children.
- The Latino Hall of Fame event will be held at the Des Moines Art Center on October 20, 2019.

c. Commission of Asian/Pacific Islander Affairs

Jung:

- The Commission will prioritize goals and initiatives for 2020 at the next meeting. Civic engagement will continue to be a priority. The EducAsian program was successful and will return in 2021.
- The Commission is engaged in census activities. The initial focus will be outreach in the Sioux City area.

d. Public Member

Yates:

Yates is no longer working at the City of Cedar Rapids. She has established the Multicultural Small Business Institute. She is working with various organizations to develop programs for 2020.

e. Commission of Native American Affairs

Mackey:

- The Commission will meet on September 26 in Iowa City. The Commission continues to address issues related to incarcerated individuals, mascots and Native American culture.
- The Commission is planning a ceremony to install a Native American display at the State Capitol.

f. Commission on the Status of Women

Coonan:

- Some Commission members attended the National Association of Commissions for Women in July. They gave a presentation on gender balance and the Iowa Talent Bank.
- The Iowa Women's Hall of Fame inducted five women at a ceremony in August.
- The Commission will meet in the fall. They will discuss legislative strategy with regard to making language in Iowa's Constitution gender neutral.

g. Commission of Persons with Disabilities

Ray-Michalec:

The Commission will meet on September 27, 2019, at 10:00. They continue to address issues related to service animals, veterans, workplace accessibility, and employment.

h. Senate

Senator Whiting:

- Senator Whiting met with Director Wong and staff to get an overview of the agency.
- Senator Whiting is working to engage young people across the state.

7. Public comment – none.

8. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

9. Jung moved to adjourned, seconded by Mackey. The motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned.