



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

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) Board

Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 7, 2016

Lucas State Office Building,
321 E. 12th St., Room 201
Des Moines, IA 50319
2:00 p.m.

Members Present

- Floyd Winter, Chair
- Sal Alaniz
- Ben Jung
- Sherri Soich
- Clair Rudison
- Nathaniel Garrels
- LaSheila Yates (phone)
- Karen Mackey (phone)
- San Wong (ex-officio)
- Senator Jason Schultz (ex-officio) (phone)
- Senator Rita Hart (ex-officio)
- Representative Phyllis Thede (ex-officio)

Members Absent

Elizabeth Coonan
Michelle Ray-Michalec
Anna Brown

DHR Staff Present

- Monica Stone, Deputy Director & Administrator, Division of Community Advocacy & Services
- Bill Brand, Administrator, Division of Community Action Agencies
- Steve Michael, Administrator, Division of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
- Mary Bowser, Budget Analyst
- Sonya Streit, Central Administration

Others Present

- Jeff Reese, ASL Interpreter
- Peggy Chicoine, ASL Interpreter

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Winter called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. The Board welcomed two new members: LaSheila Yates (public member) and Senator Schultz.

2. Action Item: Approve June 7, 2016, Minutes

Soich moved to approve the June 7, 2016, minutes, seconded by Alaniz. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Board Member Updates

a. Commission on the Status of African Americans

Through the last quarter, Rudison worked on a program that the Evelyn Davis Center received from the federal government to build strong African American families. Rudison worked with the local Des Moines area Ministerial Alliance regarding opportunities to obtain contracts through the Department of Transportation. Rudison is working with the City of Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission to address the disparity issue with government officials.

b. Commission of Latino Affairs

Alaniz wasn't able to attend the August 17 meeting of the Commission of Latino Affairs but shared highlights of the meeting minutes. There will be training on legislative advocacy September 28. The Commission will create a Spanish online language resource center. The Commission celebrated its 40th anniversary, and a celebratory event will be held in 2017. The Commission will provide an advocacy track at the Annual Latino Professional Development Institute in October in Iowa City.

Some of the Commissioners met with the University of Iowa Hospitals regarding the hospital's refusal to treat a patient who was undocumented and in need of a liver transplant. The patient died, but the Commissioners continue to have conversations regarding health and education.

Commissioners will have an informational booth at the Latino festivals in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Alaniz is working on getting gift certificates to be given out for educational scholarships.

Alaniz invited the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to participate in a meeting in Mt. Pleasant, offering an opportunity to engage with diverse communities and build relationships.

Alaniz announced an upcoming event on October 15 entitled "Our Heritage, Our Future- An Evening of Storytelling". The keynote speaker is Janet Weaver from the Iowa

Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries. She will present on "Migration is Beautiful"—Iowa's history of immigrants with a focus on Latinos.

Alaniz is the founder of the Center for Cultural Initiatives. He shared issues and initiatives to be addressed beginning in fall 2016.

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

Jung stated that the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs will meet on Saturday, September 10. Jung thanked the legislators for attending the last legislative event of the Commission. A priority for 2016 was civic engagement, and the Commission will explore ways to build on it.

d. Commission on Deaf Services

Garrels reported that the Commission on Deaf Services met in August, and he was elected chairperson. The Commission discussed the LEAD-K program and how it is being implemented in other states. The program's goal is to have children develop visual language by the time they go to kindergarten. Garrels believes on helping the parents and perhaps using mentors to educate parents with establishing communication with their children who have a hearing loss. The Commission will continue to discuss it at their November meeting.

The Commission made a few changes to the Strategic Plan and will represent the community in numerous ways.

e. Criminal and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

See section under Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning on page 5.

f. Commission of Native American Affairs

Mackey was re-elected chair at the June 10 meeting of the Commission. The Commission will meet Friday, September 9 in Davenport. The Commission is working on a couple of major issues. The first issue relates to the Dakota Access Pipeline and its impact on historical sites. The second issue concerns the regional treatment facilities not allowing Native American clients access to religious ceremonies.

g. Public Member

Yates announced a couple of events:

- i. The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission and the Cedar Rapids Public Library, along with other partners, will host a Legacies Series featuring Black Women on September 22 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Library. It is

a story-telling series featuring black women (including Yates) in The Corridor area who will share their talents and passions.

The next series will be November 10, and the feature will be immigrants. It is a “Ted Talk” format and will be simulcast on FlowMedia.

- ii. Veterans Employment Rights Education Presentation for veterans, November 9, 2016, 9:30 – noon, at the Veterans Memorial Building, Cedar Rapids.

4. Department Report

Director Wong recommended that the Board meet again in late October or early November to discuss and approve the budget and Annual Report. There are some items in the budget that have yet to be finalized to present to the Board before the Department’s budget presentation to the Governor. Director Wong gave a preview of the FY2016 DHR Annual Report. The theme will be strengthening the path for vulnerable populations to contribute to and share in Iowa’s success and prosperity. The report will focus on the department’s three core priorities: increasing self-sufficiency, increasing access to government, and improving the justice system.

5. DHR Division Updates

a. Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

Stone: The govdelivery digital platform allows people to subscribe to information that’s useful to them, from DHR, other state agencies, or selected topics. There has been an increase in subscribers and the viewing of information that they receive.

Representative Thede suggested putting the board members’ pictures on the DHR website.

DHR Staff received a couple of awards.

- Kim Cheeks, Program Planner for the Office on the Status of Americans, received a History Maker Award from the African American Museum of Iowa for her work in the African American community.
- Kristen Corey, Program Planner, accepted, on behalf of the Office and the Commission on the Status of Women, a 2016 Achievement Award from the National Association of Commissions for Women. The award recognized their collaborative work during Pay Equity Week in 2016 with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau.

b. Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA)

Brand: As a component of a performance management system, the federal Office of Community Services conducted a survey of customers served by local community action agencies to better understand how well the States (Community Services Block Grant agencies) are delivering services. Results for Iowa showed high marks in terms of customer satisfaction and other areas. The results are used for training and state planning efforts.

The DCAA was recently selected by the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to participate in the Community of Learning on Two-Generation Strategies. The Community of Learning will provide a forum for selected organizations to increase their understanding of how to develop and/or enhance two-generation strategies in their service delivery models. DCAA was selected based on the work of its Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program, and was one of ten sites selected nationally.

c. Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)

Michael: In October 2016, the public access web tool for aggregate criminal justice data will be available for the public to access information from the Justice Data Warehouse. It allows the sharing of information with the public and relieves staff time fulfilling requests for information.

The Department received a federal grant to help the State Public Defender look at the effectiveness of the services that they provide to indigent clients.

DHR is administering the National Youth Transition Database program to survey and track youth in the foster care system around the youths' 17th, 19th, and 21st birthday. The survey will collect demographic and outcome information on financial self-sufficiency, educational attainment, and other areas. The information will be used to improve Iowa's foster care system and transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled late in October or very early November.

8. Adjournment

Chair Winter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Alaniz and seconded by Rudison. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.