

Joint Forum of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islanders, OCAPIA

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, OCBA

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, OCHA

Oregon Commission for Women, OCFW

Monday, June 24, 2013

1:00pm – 4:00pm

800 NE Oregon St., Room 1A

Portland, OR 97232

NOTES

- Attendees:** Vice Chair Mari Watanabe, Commissioners Jennifer Kleskie and Mahendra Shah (OCAPIA); Chair James I. Manning, Vice Chair James Morris, Commissioner Isaac Dixon (OCBA); Chair Alberto Moreno and Commissioner Gil Carrasco, (OCHA); Chair Stephanie Vardavas and Commissioner Stephanie Swanson
- Guests:** Cheryl Myers Frank Garcia, Rey Goicochea, Governor's Office; Robin Wisdom (LWV), Dr. Doris McEwen, Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB); Commissioner Brad Avakian and Legislative Director Elizabeth Cushwa (Bureau of Labor and Industries)
- Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Welcome and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:07pm. OCFW Chair Vardavas chaired the forum.

II. Review of the agenda

The agenda was accepted by common consent.

III. 2013 Oregon Legislative Session wrap-up

A copy of all legislation for which the OACs submitted testimony was distributed and is attached to these notes.

The Commissioners discussed the legislative session and those bills and partners who were of particular note. Chair Vardavas appreciated knowing about the testimony submitted by the other 3 Advocacy Commissions and felt it was a great opportunity to collaborate. She thanked Commissioner Megan Jacquot for her work on HB 2226 on confidential name change for survivors of domestic violence in collaboration with the Oregon Law Center.

OCHA Chair Moreno noted the importance of HB 3407 (Establishes Traditional Health Workers) which was submitted by Oregon Latino Health Coalition and supported by OCHA.

OCBA Commissioners remarked on HB 3480 (Bias Crimes) which was first introduced in the 2011 Oregon Legislative session. HB 3480 offered civil remedies for hate crimes and died in

committee at the end of the 2013 session. The Hair Care bill (HB 3409) was also a win for the black community. Michael Alexander, Executive Director at the Portland chapter of the Urban League, was also thanked for his considerable efforts.

OCHA Commissioner Carrasco mentioned OCHA/OCBA support for the repeal of the death penalty (HJR 1) and noted that this will be an issue for the coming legislation session. OCHA supported the Tuition Equity Bill (HB 2787) which was signed and enacted into law. SB 833 (Short-Term Driver's License bill) also passed. OCHA was a big supporter of that bill and submitted testimony separately and jointly with the other Commissions.

OCAPIA Vice Chair Watanabe called attention to SB 739 (Oregon history), which mentions the Advocacy Commissions as required consulting for Oregon Department of Education (ODE) when developing history curriculum reflective of Oregon's diverse population and their contributions. ODE has already reached out to the Vice Chair. The Culturally Competent Care bill (HB 2611) included new methods of granular data collection on race and ethnicity which is especially important within Oregon's API community that has 50+ distinct ethnic/cultural groups represented.

IV. Governor's Office Report (10 min)

Frank Garcia, Cheryl Myers, Rey Goicochea

The OAC's Senior Policy Advisor Frank Garcia congratulated the Advocacy Commission for the variety and depth of their legislative advocacy this session and acknowledged the major victories in this legislative session for Diversity & Inclusion. The Governor's Office understands the value each community brings to Oregon and the OACs are helping to support this vision. He noted that the Governor's Office is turning its focus back to developing a pipeline of diversity leadership, sustainability, and mentorship. The state of Oregon is a major employer and their Diversity & Inclusion Affirmative Action Report will be released in the near future.

Cheryl Myers, Director of Economic and Business Equity updated the Commissions on the Governor's Marketplace event going on the road, statewide. MWESB certification is now available online. She noted that the KIVA Oregon micro-lending program rollout is Thursday, with First Lady Cylvia Hayes championing the project. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Nancy will add a link to KIVA to the OAC website (<http://www.kiva.org/team/portland>).

Cheryl added that DAS is undergoing a sheltered market program for certified businesses for 1 year.

The Hispanic Chamber meeting is at the Convention Center tomorrow (June 25, 2013) from 1 – 5pm. www.hmccoregon.com for more info

V. Individual Commission reports

OCAPIA's Vice Chair Mari Watanabe presented a Powerpoint slideshow. Nancy will post it to OCAPIA's website.

OCBA Chair James Manning shared that their Commission just completed a Strategic Planning session on June 22, 2013. They have a new plan including deliverables. They

streamlined their committees to three: Executive, Advocacy and Legislative. Chair Manning also acknowledged its newest Commissioners, Gwendolyn Trice, Kayse Jama and Julie Grey.

OCHA announced its new leadership: Alberto Moreno is Chair and John Haroldson is Vice Chair. Chair Moreno expressed the importance of focusing on advocacy for its community.

OCFW's Chair Stephanie Vardavas highlighted their recently completed Strategic Planning session. The OCFW's focus will be on development, planning and fundraising. They will identify potential candidates in 2013 who have skills that can further the mission of the Commission. Chair Vardavas requested that the sister OACs keep an eye out for potential candidates for the OCFW.

VII. Education Issues in Oregon

A. Education Equity – Educator Investment

Dr. Doris McEwen from Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) presented a slideshow on the OEIB's Equity Lens. The Commissioners engaged her in discussion, asking questions about how the Equity Lens incorporates race, gender and socio-economic status.

The Commissioners thanked Dr. McEwen for her presentation.

B. Granular Data Collection

Joseph Santos-Lyons, Commissioner – Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OCAPIA Commissioner Santos-Lyons discussed the impact of HB 2134B (Health Equity Data Collection), which was signed into law by the Governor, which raises the standard for data collection in the OHA (Oregon Health Authority) and DHS (Department of Human Services) regarding race, ethnicity, language and disability status. This bill creates a more uniform system and includes a requirement to involve stakeholders in the rule-making process. The bill came about because lumping API communities together skews information to reflect only a handful of groups and hiding the challenges faced by small ethnic communities. It is crucial to disaggregate the data and to collect it in the most granular way possible so as to create a more realistic picture for each cultural group.

Commissioner Santos-Lyons is encouraged by the support of DHS and OHA.

C. Mentoring/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

OCFW Chair Stephanie Vardavas, Oregon Commission for Women

Chair Vardavas would like to see a database created, by county, of advocates and mentors available to young women. The OCFW will approach the three cultural commissions about their interest in this project. Ideally a small database will be created by the end of the year. She asked the Commissioners to send any contact information for appropriate mentors and/or advocates to Lucy and Nancy.

Chair Vardavas talked about the OCFW's annual Women of Achievement Awards and requested the cultural commissions send the nominations to her, Lucy and Nancy. Nominations close on November 30th.

D. Education Gaps and Diversity

Johanna Blackford, PSU Ph.D. candidate – Education Policy Briefs

Johanna is the intern participating in a joint partnership between the OCHA, the OEIB and the Portland State University School of Education. As part of the internship she is developing policy briefs on 6 key issues challenging success for students of color. She has produced 2 policy briefs so far: one on English Language Learners and one on disproportionate discipline. She will produce additional policy briefs on teacher & leadership preparation, parent engagement, and graduation rates/college entrance rates.

The policy briefs will be distributed to Commissioners and members of the OEIB.

Johanna's recommendations to date are directed to the teaching system. She thinks the major obstacles are a result of the system and its failure to offer positive learning environments for students of color in Oregon.

Elizabeth Cushwa, Legislative Director for BOLI, said that a two-page brief of this sort is would be useful to legislators who often seek data, but have difficulty finding what they need.

OCFW interested in supporting each of the education issues that have been discussed.

VIII. Legislative update

Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, and legislative director Elizabeth Cushwa, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

Commissioner Avakian thanked OCBA Chair Manning for his testimony regarding Intern protections (HB 2669). This bill gives civil rights protections to interns in the workplace and is the first in the nation to do so. Commissioner Avakian also acknowledged the impressive list of bills for which the Commissions testified and congratulated them on their advocacy.

Commissioner Avakian explained that he is one of five elected offices in Oregon. Those positions are: Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and head of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

BOLI consists of Employer Technical Assistance, Apprenticeship and Training, the state's Wage and Hour Division, and the Civil Rights Division (which encompasses state and federal housing investigations, public accommodations law and employment).

Commissioner Avakian briefly discussed bills that BOLI had proposed and supported. He explained the public accommodation law (HB 2668) as a remedy to an interpretation of the law that translates into protections only in commercial areas. People could be harassed in a

public park and have no protections. The law also added the ability to prosecute under civil rights.

He also discussed SB 498 which returns shop classes to middle schools. He noted that the elimination of shop classes in high school has driven a rise in age of individuals pursuing careers in the Trades. The average age of apprentices is now 28, not 19 as it had once been when high school offered shop classes. This law reestablishes a grant fund to restore shop classes. BOLI will continue to support renewing the grant until all Oregon high schools have shop class again. The loss of the shop classes has hurt women and minority groups the most.

Commissioner Avakian added that one criteria schools must meet when applying for the grant is that the training program be relevant to current and future labor needs. The town of Joseph, Oregon wants to attract manufacturing, so students are learning CAD software used to control robotic manufacturing. In Silverton students are learning how to structurally reconstruct a knee for replacement. He said there is a strong correlation between shop class enrollment and on-time graduation rates.

Last year's budget reductions removed several BOLI Wage & Hour investigators, apprentice division inspectors and Civil Rights investigators. These positions have been restored for the upcoming biennium.

Commissioner Avakian talked about BOLI's study on Pay Equity – they spent 18 months preparing the report. BOLI plans to draft legislation to remove pay inequities. In addition they would like to implement a program to coach women on salary negotiations.

The Commissioners thanked Labor Commissioner Avakian and Elizabeth Cushwa for their report.

IX. Administrator's Report - Lucy Baker, Administrator

Lucy announced that the OACO 2013-15 budget has passed, with the Policy Option Packages included, one for travel and one for a part-time work-study student.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11pm.