



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs Strategic Planning Session

June 22, 2013, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Oregon Justice Center, Room 213, Willamette University
790 Winter St. SE Salem OR 97301

Attendees:

Chair: James I. Manning

Vice Chair: James Morris

Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin, Isaac Dixon, Julie Grey, Kayse Jama, Representative
Lew Frederick

Guests: Lawanda Manning, Serena Stoudamire Wesley

Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

1. Introductions and overview of the day (Commissioners and facilitator)

The Strategic planning session was convened at 11:10 am. Administrator Baker introduced the facilitator, Serena Stoudamire Wesley, and ground rules were set. The Commissioners introduced themselves.

The Commissioners discussed their objectives for the strategic planning session. They wanted to revisit the mission of the OCBA, and then align the goals and objectives with the mission. They agreed that by the end of the planning session they would like to have clear deliverables and a sense of shared priorities. They are interested in working collaboratively.

2. OCBA: What we do and how we do it: (Commissioner Leadership, facilitator and group discussion)

The OCBA mission as per the Oregon Revised Statute 185.410:

To work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for Blacks in Oregon.

The Commissioners considered the relevancy of the statute given that the OCBA was created decades ago. Commissioner Collin commented that "race" is a constructed reality and culture is real. An updated version of the wording emerged from the discussion:

To work for the equal treatment of all Oregonians and the elimination of all inequities inherited by Black Oregonians in:

- Economics
- Education

- Healthcare/Research
- Environmental justice
- Housing

The standing committees of the Commission were discussed. The Commissioners agreed to channel their efforts to three committees:

- Executive Committee
 - Consists of the Current Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair
- Legislative Committee
 - Chair Robin Morris Collin, Chair Manning, and Commissioners Collymore and Dixon. Representative Frederick and Senator Monroe will served as the OCBA's legislative connection
 - Objectives:
 - Tracking bills during session
 - Legislation recommendations
 - Recommendations for testimony
- Advocacy/Civic Engagement Committee (healthcare, education, housing)
 - Chair Kayse Jama, Commissioners Grey, Morris and Trice
 - Objectives:
 - Strategic priorities
 - Facilitation
 - Community engagement

Lucy Baker noted that the Legislative Committee and the Advocacy Committee are subject to Public Record law and Public Meeting Law because they are Standing Committees called out in the OCBA Bylaws. This means a public meeting notice will be sent naming where the meeting will be and that notes need to be kept of that meeting.

Serena Stoudamire Wesley encouraged Commissioners to think outside the box and consider each committee members skills. She also suggested each committee set goals and outcomes for each quarter.

There was a breakout session for the Legislative Committee and the Advocacy/Civic Engagement Committee. These Committees will meet every other month, during the months there are no regular OCBA meetings. Commissioners were tasked with determining when and where to meet, and by when a committee member would send meeting notes after each committee meeting to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office.

Legislative Committee report back:

The Committee identified specific issues of concern for the September 2013 legislative session:

- Privacy issues around:
 - DNA testing with arrest, not conviction
 - School discipline
 - School performance
- Contracting opportunities for environmental clean-up
- Teacher selection and training
- Racial impact statement – Dem & Rep together can make a request regarding pending legislation, regarding disproportionate impact.

The first meeting will be July 19th, 2013. Nancy will receive the meeting notes 3 to 5 days after each meeting.

Advocacy Committee report back:

The Committee prioritized its areas of focus:

- Economics – support of minority-owned small businesses
- Higher education
- Healthcare equity

The Commissioners agreed that the first project would be to connect minority entrepreneurs in rural communities to services, introducing small business owners to resources like Brooks Staffing, or coordinating OAME (Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs) workshops. Another idea was to arrange community meetings outside of the OCBA's regular meetings:

1. A meeting with community based organizations (CBO) such as PAALF, to determine what the community needs
2. A community forum to hear from the public about what is most important to them

The Committee also brainstormed ideas about higher education, possible contacts in the community and working in consort with Governor Kitzhaber's goals.

The first meeting of the Advocacy Committee will tentatively be a Tuesday afternoon in early July from 4pm – 5:30pm.

The Committee also agreed to have 2 speakers from the community at each meeting, and would like to hold a semi-annual event for the community, with sponsors.

The OCBA Committee work plan created by past Chair Dixon will be sent to each Committee Chair. The Committee Chairs will review the materials and use them as a starting point.

Nancy will send the OCBA Minutes template to Commissioner Collin.

The Commissioners expressed interest in working with existing and potential future partners. The partners could supply relevant statistics and research to support proposed legislation and the Commission, working with its appointed legislators, would ensure Oregon's Senators and Representatives receive the information. Representative Frederick noted that facts and figures are very important to legislators when they are deciding whether or not to support a bill. Commissioners with expertise in certain areas are an untapped resource.

Partners for statistics and research:

- PAALF
- Urban League Portland
- CIO
- Africa House
- Coalition for Communities of Color
- Portland State University

Connecting with communities of color outside of Portland, to track rural issues, was identified as a need. There was interest in a long-term goal of meeting with communities across the country, to learn what their concerns are, and for the Commission to be a connection to the legislature.

3. Conclusion (Commissioners and facilitator)

Chair Manning concluded the retreat by acknowledging that the Commission is moving forward in service to the community, rather than for personal agendas. The Commission thanked Serena Stoudamire Wesley for her facilitation. It was agreed by all that the session was successful.

The Commission committed to working through conflicts and speaking with one voice. Chair Manning wants people to know the OCBA is doing great things for Oregon.

The location of the next OCBA meeting is undecided.

The session concluded at 2:00pm.