



MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, October 16, 2010

9 – 11 AM

PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 112

705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair:	Clifford Walker
Vice Chair:	Mariahm Stephenson (<i>phone</i>)
Commissioners:	Representative Lew Frederick, Phyllis Harris-John, Senator Rod Monroe, Samaura Stone, Lorraine Wilson (<i>phone</i>), Willie Woolfolk (<i>phone</i>)
Absent:	Jennifer Doncan, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Jermaine Richard
Speakers:	Ron Herndon (Albina Head Start, Inc.)
Guests:	Ralph Nuhee (citizen)
Staff:	Lucy Baker, Joy Howard

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:10 a.m.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Discussion: Stone, Wilson, and Walker are on the agenda committee. All commissioners are welcome to add items to the agenda within the permitted times.

Motion (Monroe/Woolfolk): To approve agenda as written. – **Carried.**

III. Approval of September 18, 2010 minutes

Discussion:

- 1) Walker stated the minutes of the last meeting were hindered by lack of tapes to record, as well as unavailability of staff.
- 2) Rep. Frederick suggested trying a digital recorder which has ample storage space and great quality.

Motion (Stone/Frederick): To approve the minutes as presented. – **Carried.**

IV. Review/Discussion of OACO Funding Appeal and Strategies

Lucy reported that on October 7th, commissioners went to Salem to appeal zeroing out of OACO funds. Representatives for each commission presented very well and did an excellent job of relaying their stance of continued funding for OACO.

Discussion:

- 1) Walker – Feels that the commissioners received the support members at the appeal, but not sure what the next steps are.

- 2) Wilson – Concerned that Danny Santos is the one who has an ear with the Governor, but he says he has no power to sway decisions. She would like a better understanding of what role the Governor’s Office has with the commissions.
 - a. Walker responded that Danny said he would create a letter of support on behalf of OACO. He then asked Lucy to follow-up on the status of the letter. He also commended Wilson on her initiative to contact the Governor’s Office and encouraged other commissioners to do the same.
 - b. Sen. Monroe – The continued funding of OACO is a difficult situation because of the outgoing governor. The OACO budget would go to subcommittee for approval which consists of the co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee.
 - c. Rep. Frederick – Danny is a staff for the Governor. He advises him, but the Governor makes the final decision. The fact that Rep. Komp and Sen. Monroe are on the Ways and Means Committee shows that we are at the table and the fights not over. He encouraged commissioners to continue to pressure and get people on board.
 - d. Lucy reported that OACO will be submitting talking points to Budget and Management and will also be sending a letter to the Governor signed by legislators on the commissions in support of OACO.
- 3) What’s Next?
 - a. Sen. Monroe – At this point it will be determined after the next governor is in office and the committees and other legislative leaders are appointed.
 - b. Rep. Frederick – Commissioners – let your local legislators know who you are, and know who they are

V. OACO Updates

- 1) State Library listserv training
 - a. The State Library has a automated secure way to manage email lists. We have created listservs for each commission. The goal is to have a link on commission websites so people can sign up for listservs.
 - b. On November 10th, OACO will host a training at the office with library staff on listservs and databases. All commissioners are welcome to attend.
- 2) Policy Committee
 - a. Members from each commission are coming together to create a policy committee. Stephenson has volunteered to serve on behalf of OCBA and is excited to be a part. The committee will take on Personnel Policies first. The Commissions have long wanted to host work study students and Interns, but to be comfortable doing it we must have overall policies in place for everyone’s protection and clarity. We currently contract with DAS to provide OACO’s HR services, so Vicki Jorgensen of DAS HR is joining us on the committee as we craft the personnel policies.

VI. Outreach

- 1) Walker – The Chair encouraged each commissioner to get at least one media contact and establish a friendly relationship.
- 2) Harris-John – Is affiliated with the Portland Observer and still has strong ties to it. Would like to get items regarding OCBA into the newspaper at least once a month.
 - a. **Action:** Harris-John will create an article to be placed in paper and send to commissioners for review. She would also like to include quotes from other commissioners in article.

- 3) Stephenson and Harris-John – have revamped OCBA Facebook page and moved it from 20 people, to 200 people.

VII. Mr. Ron Herndon, Albina Head Start, Inc.

Mr. Herndon gave a detailed history of the Head Start programs both nationally and locally. Albina Head Start has served Portland’s low-income families and children since 1965. It was funded as a Community Action Agency Head Start program in 1965. In 1976, Head Start moved to a new grantee, Albina Ministerial Alliance; a community organization. Albina Head Start, Inc. became a single purpose Head Start grantee with a community based Board of Directors in 1993. Albina Early Head Start began serving infants, toddlers, prenatal mothers and families in 2000.

Albina Head Start continually focus on developing highly trained, caring, and adequately compensated staff. They prioritize hiring from the communities they serve. They are committed to strengthening staff skills and encouraging their professional development. They are proud that 36% of their staff has more than five years of service. Twenty-six staff have worked with the program from 5-9 years, eighteen from 10-14 years, eighteen from 15-19 years, eight from 20-24 years, two from 25-29 years, three 30-34 years, one from 35-39 years and one with 40 plus years of service.

Questions:

Q: Can any attend the policy council meetings?

A: Yes, anyone can attend those meetings

Q: Is there a long waiting list for kids to get into program?

A: Yes, there is a big waiting list and it will continue to increase because of poverty increase.

Q: How can OCBA help?

A: Get commissioners involved in the political transition teams. Read Edward Zigler’s book “The Hidden History of Head Start” for a more in-depth look at its history.

Comments:

- 1) Chair Walker thanked Mr. Herndon for his presentation and pledged the OCBA’s partnership support to his program.
- 2) Senator Monroe extended his appreciation to Mr. Herndon for his knowledge on the history of Head Start. He also opened his door to Mr. Herndon on matters of early childhood education.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:05 a.m.