

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 28, 2019 AT 9:30AM  
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:** Charlene Strong, Skylee Sahlstrom, Guadalupe Gamboa and Deborah Cook.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Deputy Director; Sharon James, Assistant Attorney General; Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

**Public:** Rebecca Stith

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Strong chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The February 28, 2019 Minutes were approved. Commissioner Sahlstrom motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion.

**CASE CLOSURES**

Director Ortiz made corrections to the following cases before the meeting:

Hills v. Martin Terrace  
Lewis v. Catholic Health

Commissioner Gamboa made a motion to approve the cases for closure; Commissioner Cook seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Director Ortiz and Commissioner Gamboa are planning to meet with the Attorney General's Office regarding H2A workers, and possible discrimination when they are being recruited out of Mexico.

She has also been reviewing policies regarding public records with Sharon James and Laura Lindstrand. Rulemaking needs to be done in order for the agency to be allowed to charge for public records.

**COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Chair Strong had her confirmation hearing this month.

Commissioner Sahlstrom also had her confirmation hearing.

Commissioner Gamboa attended the Latino Legislative Day held in Olympia that was attended by other various agencies. He was interviewed by a radio station that is run by the former counsel of Mexico, and did a report on the commission in regards to the agency's work.

It was brought to his attention by other agencies that the recruitment of H2A workers had grown exponentially from 2,000 to a projected 30,000, and it appears the hiring entities are discriminating against female workers. Commissioner Gamboa attended a public meeting that was being held on the steps of the Capitol, where he approached an attorney from the Attorney General's Office and requested to further discuss the issue. He also attended his confirmation hearing.

### **2019 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

April 25, 2019:	Walla Walla at 9:30AM
May 23, 2019:	Seattle, WA at 9:30AM
June 27, 2019:	Via Conference Call at 9:30AM

Logistics regarding the commission meeting and public forum in April were discussed. Commissioner Gamboa is to give a presentation regarding his life's story in civil rights. Commissioner Cook is to discuss accessible prescription labeling.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rebecca Stith had previously served as chair in the Tacoma Human Rights Commission. She expressed interest in the vacant commissioner position with the Washington State Human Rights Commission.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:02AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Gonzales