

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 25, 2019 AT 9:30AM  
711 S CAPITOL WAY, SUITE 402  
OLYMPIA WA 98504-2490**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Deputy Director; Sharon James, Assistant Attorney General; Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst; Jerry Lee Jr., Operations Manager; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Commissioner Sahlstrom chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:35AM.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The June 27, 2019 Minutes were approved. Commissioner Cook motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hackney seconded the motion.

**CASE CLOSURES**

The following cases were pulled for additional review:

Classic, Caprice v Idexcel  
Everidge II, James v Alcoa Intalco Works  
Maciel, Juan v Richland Cemetery Association  
Mills, Laura v. Great Clips  
Ortuno, Maria v. Great Columbia Berry Farms LLC

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 provided an update in regards to the recent audit with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and the housing team was commended for their excellent work. Director Ortiz shared concerns that the agency would not be able to meet the goals of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission contract and what efforts are being put forth in order to meet a revised goal.

Director Ortiz was scheduled to be on the task force for the I-1000, however, now there may be a delay due to I-1000 going to a vote of the people via referendum.

## **COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Commissioner Hackney has been following the news regarding the I-1000. He explained that although the organization of Let the People Vote does not oppose I-1000, they simply want the people to vote on this initiative.

Director Ortiz has also been working with Commissioner Cook on the issue of accessible prescription labeling. Commissioner Cook and Director Ortiz met with a representative in the Governor's office to discuss interests in agency request legislation regarding accessible prescription labeling. They also met with the new executive director for the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE). There was discussion about the relationship between the agency and GCDE, and what needs to be done in order to pursue legislation for prescription labeling.

There will be a meeting with several disability leaders in August in the Clarkston area which Commissioner Cook and Director Ortiz plan to attend.

Commissioner Gamboa met with the coalition for farmworkers to discuss harassment against farmworker women. He also attended the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission training in San Diego where he was able to express his concerns regarding guest workers being hired in Mexico.

Chair Strong attended a PRIDE event at the Mayor's office.

The Commissioners and management staff received training on sexual harassment, which was led by Laura Lindstrand during this meeting.

## **COMMISSION POLICIES**

Commission policies were reviewed. Those that were outdated or no longer applicable were vacated. Commissioners were given updated policies for review and discussion at a later meeting.

Commissioner Sahlstrom will review the commissioner's attendance policy for any updates. Commissioners Hackney and Gamboa will review commissioner's travel policy for any updates.

## **2019 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

August 22, 2019 at 9:30AM:	Via Telephone Conference
September 26, 2019 at 9:30AM:	Via Telephone Conference
October 24, 2019 at 9:30AM:	711 S. Capitol Way, Ste. 402 Olympia, WA
November 21, 2019 at 9:30AM:	Via Telephone Conference
December 19, 2019 at 9:30AM:	Via Telephone Conference
January 23, 2020 at 9:30AM:	711 S. Capitol Way, Ste. 402 Olympia, WA

### **AAG UPDATE**

The case of Human Rights Commission v Benjamin Thomas Jr. has gone through an Administrative Hearing. The complaint alleged the Respondents unlawfully discriminated against a biracial family. A decision from the Office of Administrative Hearings should be forthcoming.

### **COMMISSIONER GOALS**

Commissioners discussed various methods of expanding outreach efforts into the community. It was agreed that work on a strategic plan will take place at the next in-person meeting to discuss the direction of the agency, and the work required in order to achieve those goals.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Gonzales