

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2015 @ 10AM  
2215 PACIFIC AVENUE  
TACOMA, WA 98402**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:** Steve Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Lenore Three Stars, Commissioner.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Stacia Hollar, AAG; Laura Skinner, Commission Clerk; Andreta Armstrong, Investigator.

**Guests:** Lauren Walker, FHCW; Jerry Lee; Susan Kas, DRW; David Carlson, DRW; Seth Kirby, OASIS.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Three Stars made motion to adopt January 26, 2015 meeting minutes; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

**CASE CLOSURES**

Director Ortiz went over revisions made to findings which do not change the outcome of the cases.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve cases; Commissioner Three Stars seconds; motion carried.

**ED REPORT**

Director Ortiz discussed the Governor's that reflects a 5% cut for HRC; HRC has been cut 41%; affecting our ability to fulfill our mission; HRC has become by vote a special project this session by The People of Color Caucus which is from both houses; HRC is not pursuing service animal legislation this session.

Director Ortiz informed Commissioner's HUD grant is complete; 71 trainings conducted in Central Washington by investigator, Wilma Cartagena and Juanita Soto; entered into a work sharing agreement with HUD to investigate 25 cases in their backlog.

Director Ortiz discussed litigation re: Wittrock v. Eberhardt; AAG discovered that RCW 49.60 may provide for an exemption for the Respondent's housing structure; litigation will not be pursued in this case based on AAG recommendation.

Director Ortiz informed Commissioner's of personnel updates; numerous outreach activities; provided Commissioner's with a copy of the Biennium report.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTING**

Commissioner Henderson stated he went to conference regarding Ferguson issue; attended the MLK event in Tacoma; in the process of completing the youth presentation program; facing unit change at work, may affect Thursday meetings.

Commissioner Strong was part of a diversity panel at the AG's office, educational training.

Commissioner Three Stars had nothing to report.

Chair Hunt had nothing to report.

### **AAG UPDATES**

AAG Hollar provided update re: Arlene's flowers case, once business enters into commercial realm it cannot discriminate based on owners personal religious beliefs.

Director Ortiz gave kudos to Debbie Thompson who pulled over 60 cases for AG office regarding sexual orientation.

**Break @ 10:41AM**  
**Resume @ 10:46AM**

### **DRW – REPORT RE: EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS IN WASHINGTON**

Susan Kas and David Carlson with Disability Rights Washington provided overview of DRW; provided presentation on employment support in Washington; conduct training to vendor's who participate in programs.

Commissioners, Director Ortiz, Susan Kas and David Carlson discussed how they could partner in trainings.

Susan Kas to provide a referral list of contacts.

**RULE MAKING**

Director Ortiz informed Commissioner's the rule making regarding sexual orientation will not proceed in March, did not make it to the Code Reviser's in time; hopefully in April HRC can proceed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**OASIS TOUR**

Seth Kirby, Director for OASIS provided a tour for Commissioner's.

Commissioner's and Director Ortiz decided on a conference call for March Commission meeting; Chair Hunt will be out of town.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner  
Commission Clerk