

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 @ 9:30AM  
711 S. CAPITOL WAY, SUITE 402  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:** Steve Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner; Vito de la Cruz, Commissioner.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Asst. Director; Laura Skinner, Exec. Asst.; Stacia Hollar, AAG; Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst.

**Guests:** Bob Ferguson, Attorney General; Dave Horn, Chief Deputy; Ellen Austin Hall, Policy Analyst; Darwin Roberts, Deputy Attorney.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:38AM.

**BOB FERGUSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Commissioners, Director Ortiz and staff introduced themselves to AG Ferguson, Chief Deputy Horn, Policy Analyst Austin Hall and Deputy Attorney Roberts.

AG Ferguson and Chief Deputy Horn provided overview of developing a civil rights division within the AG's office; spoke about civil rights and resources; current cases within the AG's office ex. Arlene's Flowers.

Chief Deputy Horn commented on the potential partnering between the AG's office and HRC; discussed consumer protections, English not first language.

Director Ortiz asked about work with the Hispanic Affairs Commission, radio program.

AG Ferguson stated they do have a person who participates in program.

Commissioners and AG Ferguson discussed ideas on how to partner, review of cases and process.

Commissioners and AG Ferguson discussed rights of religious freedom; right to refuse service; right to consumer protection; understanding of movement, not anti religious movement but an anti discrimination movement.

### MINUTES

Commissioner de la Cruz abstains from the January 23, 2014 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve the January 23, 2014 meeting minutes; Commissioner Murinko seconds; motion carried.

### CASE CLOSURES

Asst. Director Strobert informed Commissioners the following cases were pulled from the agenda:

17EAD-0106-13-4    Balsamo v. Kirmac Collision Services  
17ESZ-0911-12-3    Yorks v. Nordstroms  
27ED-0104-13-4    Hughes v. VW International Inc.

The cases were pulled for corrections and clarification.

Commissioner Murinko abstains from Covas-Lugo v. Kokua.

Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve Covas-Lugo v. Kokua; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve remaining cases; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

### ED REPORT

Director Ortiz stated she met with over 50 elected officials, committees and staffers regarding HB1024; the bill never received a vote; next year will try again.

Commissioners, AAG Hollar and Director Ortiz had a discussion about the bill; bring attention to the work over the past 5 years; timing for legislation and meeting with representatives; dialogue for further education; veteran's support and major housing providers support.

Director Ortiz updated the Commissioners regarding the Wenatchee office, Wilma Cartagena has moved to Wenatchee to staff the office; Juanita Soto working on housing grant; translations of 7 languages; Spanish radio going well; budget low due to potential move; handed out charts showing progress with contracts.

Director Ortiz shared that Bill Tamayo conducted an hour training, questions and answers on February 26, 2014.

Policy Analyst Lindstrand provided legislative update on the elect whistleblower bill; timeframe and requirement bill, union reporting requirements; bill on religious accommodation requirements; bill on excusing employees/ children for religious observance; state employment disparity act, hiring persons with disabilities; public records bill, postings and trainings.

AAG Hollar presented to the Commissioners and staff supreme court decision regarding religious employers; provided history of Ockletree v. Franciscan Health; HRC now may be able to investigate religious employers; procedural process, discuss cases individually.

**BREAK AT 10:46AM  
RESUMED AT 11:04AM**

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTING**

Commissioner Henderson provided he secured a location for the March meeting, Tacoma Urban League; plans to attend the upcoming Tacoma African American Leadership community meeting; went with Director Ortiz and met with Legislators; provided update on bracelet idea.

Commissioner Strong extended the invite to all Commissioners to attend the International Gay Lesbian Human Rights event on April 6, 2014, will provided additional information regarding location, time and topics; speak at event as a Commissioner to provide outreach; will be speaking at Cascade High School regarding HRC and jurisdiction.

Commissioner Murinko attended meeting with Director Ortiz regarding HB1024; went to the Governor's office of Disability Rights reception.

Commissioner de la Cruz had nothing to report.

Chair Hunt stated he was in Spokane and visited the office and staff.

### **HOUSING ACADEMY**

Director Ortiz informed Commissioners the housing leadership can be brought to Tacoma in May on the 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>; HRC to partner with other agencies to bring training here.

Commissioners voted not to send one Commissioner to the HUD training academy; all Commissioners can attend if training is brought to Tacoma; will contact Marya Gingrey with the Tacoma Human Rights regarding space to hold conference call Commission business meeting on May 22, 2014.

### **IAOHRA DELEGATE**

Director Ortiz shared she is now interim board appointed delegate to the conference; recommended Commissioner Henderson take over as delegate for IAOHRA.

Commissioners discussed, no objections; Commissioner Henderson agreed to be delegate.

Director Ortiz stated that HUD money is used to attend IAOHRA conferences.

Potential attendees to the IAOHRA conference will be Director Ortiz, Christina Higgins, Specialist, Commissioner Henderson, Asst. Director Strobert; Commissioner Strong expressed interest.

### **FOLLOW UP: STRATEGIC PLANNING – OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

Commissioner Henderson stated he will put together an action plan to move forward and formulate training packets and information; will put on March agenda.

Director Ortiz to send link to Commissioners regarding teaching tolerance from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

### **FOLLOW UP: MAY COMMISSION MEETING**

May Commission meeting may be held in Tacoma coinciding with the fair housing training.

**LUNCH BREAK AT 11:40AM  
RESUMED AT 12:10PM**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission will move into Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i) (g) to evaluate the performance of a public employee. We anticipate the executive session will last approximately 10 minutes.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner  
Commission Clerk