

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014 @ 9:30AM
TACOMA URBAN LEAGUE
2550 YAKIMA AVENUE
TACOMA, WA 98405**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Steve Hunt, Chair; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner.

Absent: Vito de la Cruz, Commissioner

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

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:33AM.

MINUTES

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve February 27, 2014 meeting minutes; Commissioner Strong seconds; motion carried.

CASE CLOSURES

Commissioner Murinko made motion to approve case closures; Commissioner Henderson seconds; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz stated the IAOHRA have begun conference planning; dates have been set for August 10th and 11th in San Diego; on March 6, 2014 Deputy Strobert and I met with an International Women's Group sponsored by the International Visitor Program at the Capitol and informed them about the work of our agency; reported on several other meeting attended; first quarter of the HUD partnership grant, sending out introductory letters to inform communities and housing providers about available training; continuing on with the Spanish radio program along with televised programming; the lease for the Olympia office will be extended for a year, time has run out to find a suitable location since the DSHS building space is too small; EEOC contract doing well; housing cases are

low; for personnel, Idolina Reta back as an Operations Manager, supervising the CRI 2's; staff hosted legislative interns to learn more about our work and agency, Ludmila Barbacar, Laurie Rasmussen and Becky Moore participated; staff conducted several outreach and trainings.

Director Ortiz mentioned the meeting the AAG Hollar, Commissioner Murinko, Toby Olson with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and Emily Cooper with Disability Rights Washington; meeting was about questions surrounding the mental health on the application for the Washington Bar; further research will be done.

Director Ortiz provided budget update and IT priorities for 2014.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Chair Hunt, nothing to report.

Commissioner Henderson, nothing to report.

Commissioner Strong, nothing to report.

Commissioner Murinko stated he attended the Ethnic Commissions Legislative reception with Director Ortiz.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL UPDATE, STACIA HOLLAR

AAG Hollar provided an update regarding O'Reilly Auto Parts and their policy for benefits for same sex partners; AG's office made an inquiry into policy; O'Reilly Auto Parts changing policy to include same sex coverage; done under consumer protection.

AAG Hollar stated the civil rights division team are putting together a civil rights handbook similar to the veteran's handbook; partner with HRC re: language translation, format, internet and accessibility for the blind.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER MURINKO

Commissioner's, AAG Hollar, Director Ortiz and Emily Cooper with DRW discussed the questions on the bar application re: mental illness, possible discrimination; review of the psycho therapy reports by the Character and Fitness Board of potential applicants; proposed rule change to the Supreme Court may be best way; DOJ letters, possible compensation, threat of litigation.

AAG Hollar will provide updates at future meetings as information comes together.

BREAK AT 10:37AM

RESUME AT 10:55AM

FOLLOW UP: STRATEGIC PLANNING; OUTREACH & EDUCATION,
COMMISSIONER HENDERSON

Commissioner Henderson provided outline of the youth outreach action plan; goal is to educate future employers and employees on the WLAD; target audience 9th through 12th grades.

Commissioner's discussed substance of outreach, area schools and action plans; agreed to a test school target date May 2014; resume outreach to schools again in the fall.

Commissioner Strong to contact Cascade High School for the May outreach for youth.

Commissioners discussed different strategies to connect with the youth; formulate outreach packets; will discuss further at the April Commission meeting.

AAG Hollar reminded Commissioners that only two Commissioners can present at a time; everyone agreed.

Commissioners and Director Ortiz agreed to order the bracelets in multi colors for outreach and education.

Director Ortiz and Commissioners discussed the fair housing training on May 22, 2014; have a conference call meeting to approve minutes and case closures; need to set a space at the training facility.

Commissioner Strong asked about rule making, shared concerns about getting this completed.

Director Ortiz stated Policy Analyst Laura Lindstrand has draft rules, need to release them for public comment; will provide copy of rules to Commissioners at April's meeting.

Commissioner Strong asked to speak about the Commissioner attendance policy regarding Commissioner Vito de la Cruz's absences; address the issue; look into the rules.

Commissioner Murinko also commented on Commissioners absences; asked Chair Hunt to address the issue.

Chair Hunt said he would look into the issue and call Commissioner Vito de la Cruz.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. VIDEO

Director Ortiz stated she would like all the Commissioners to view the video; 50th year for civil rights; would like to have event in Olympia and possibly partner with other agencies.

Commissioner Murinko suggested writing a resolution regarding the 50th anniversary of civil rights; Director Ortiz will send electronic outline to Commissioner Murinko.

Commissioner Strong stated she will contact SOCR for potential partnering for a civil rights event in honor of the anniversary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission will move into Executive Session to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f). We anticipate the Executive Session will last 10 minutes and we will reconvene in public session at 12PM.

We are reconvened into public session at 12:02PM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner
Commission Clerk