

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JULY 28, 2022 9:30AM
CONFERENCE CALL**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Deborah Cook, Guadalupe Gamboa, Jeff Sbaih and Han Tran.

Staff: Cheryl Strobert, Interim Executive Director; Kristin Lamson, Assistant Attorney General; Jerry Lee, Operations Manager; Selene Garcia, Customer Service Specialist 2; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

The June 23, 2022 and July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Sbaih motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gamboa seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

CASE CLOSURES

The following cases were pulled prior to the meeting:

Brenden Williams v. Skord

Corrections were made for the following cases, but were not pulled from the agenda:

Callan, Ryan v. T.W. Clark Construction
Erika Yost v. PJ Northwest I, LLC

Commissioner Sbaih requested clarification regarding three cases that were successfully conciliated by the Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division. Interim Director Strobert explained the findings were provided as an update to the Commissioners but would submit the consent decrees for the following meeting. Chair Cook clarified that their vote would not affect the agreement since the matter has already been resolved by the Attorney General's Office.

Commissioner Gamboa motioned to approve the cases for closure. Commissioner Sbaih seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Interim Director Strobert attended a Deputy Director's meeting where matters regarding possible additional vaccinations requirements were discussed. She and Operations Manager Jerry Lee attended the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Fair Employment Practice

meeting and obtained information regarding their new computer system and the activities of other FEPAs. She gave an update on case closures under the federal contracts with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD). EEOC's contract ends at the end of the federal fiscal year in September 2022 and estimates the agency will need about 65 cases to meet its contractual obligations. HUD's case closure contract ended at the end of the state fiscal year in June 2022, and around 153 cases were closed this year. HUD will be conducting a Performance Annual Review (PAR) and staff are currently gathering the requested information for the reports and preparing for their interviews.

Interim Director Strobert provided the State Auditor's Report that was conducted this year to the Commissioners for their review. She also met with Commissioner Tran to discuss the functions of the agency and their role as a commissioner.

Chair Cook updated the Commissioners regarding Commissioner Mohr's appointment which expired in June 2022. He will not be reappointed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Chair Cook provided updates on the recruitment for the agency's Executive Director. There were three additional applications the agency received, and the information was previously distributed to the Commissioners for review. Chair Cook recommended that if the Commissioners were interested in interviewing any of the applicants, to submit their motion.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to hold an Executive Session before submitting a motion to invite any applicant for an interview.

AAG UPDATE

AAG Lamson provided updates for the Civil Rights Division. The case of Olympus Spa v. Ortiz, Sharon has been briefed and they submitted a Motion to Dismiss. The judge did not schedule time to hear any oral arguments. They anticipate a decision will be made soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission moved into Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications applicants for public employment for the Executive Director position pursuant to RCW 42.30.1101(g). It was anticipated that the session would last until 10:10AM, and the meeting would reconvene to describe the outcome of the Executive Session.

Executive Session started at 10:00AM and ended at 10:10AM.

Commissioner Gamboa motioned to invite Eric Gutierrez to interview for the Executive Director position. Commissioner Sbaih seconded the motion, and it was carried.

2022 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Cook requested that the Commission Meeting for August be moved from the 25th to the 18th. All Commissioners agreed to move the meeting.

August 18, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
September 22, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
October 27, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
November 2022:	TBD
December 2022:	TBD

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deborah Gonzales