

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 26, 2022 9:30AM
CONFERENCE CALL**

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Cheryl Strobert, Interim Executive Director; Kristin Lamson, Assistant Attorney General; Jerry Lee, Operations Manager; John Morris, Data Consultant; Rebecca Moore, Investigator; Christina Higgins, Specialist; Keith Smith, Investigator; Wilma Cartagena, Investigator; Ana Sepulveda, Investigator; Kenia Rios, Investigator; Selene Garcia, Customer Service Specialist 2; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

Public: Timothy Lee Hanna

Interviewee: RaShelle Davis (10:10AM)

OPENING AND WELCOME

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

MEETING MINUTES

The April 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

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

CASE CLOSURES

The following cases were pulled prior to the meeting:

Cecilia Espinoza v. Capstone Logistics

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

Blanca Flores v WenSpok Resources LLC, dba Wendy's Restaurant
Aigner Wilson v. Safeplace

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Interim Director Strobert attended several meetings, including the Governor's Committee on Disability in Employment and the Deputy Director's meeting. There have also been meetings and trainings conducted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which

staff were encouraged to attend. June is Pride Month and with the ease of restrictions due to the pandemic, the agency is planning to participate in the outreach events.

The agency has been working with the State's Auditor's Office for several months conducting the routine audit. An exit meeting is currently scheduled for the end of May 2022, and the agency will be advised of any potential deficiencies.

Progress on case closures under the federal contracts with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) was provided. EEOC's contract ends at the end of the federal fiscal year in September 2022. HUD's case closure contract ends at the end of the state fiscal year in June 2022.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Chair Cook provided updates on the recruitment for the agency's Executive Director. The agency continues to work with the external recruiter for marketing assistance, and two new applications were received. They will be discussed during Executive Session.

A second interview with RaShelle Davis for this position will take place today with staff in attendance.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Chair Cook met with the Governor's Director of Boards and Commissions and was given an update on the recruitment for the agency's vacancy for their fifth commissioner. A potential candidate is currently under consideration, and additional information will be provided later. Chair Cook also announced that she will not be renewing her term to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Gamboa also met with the Governor's Director of Boards and Commissions and expressed the challenges the agency faces without having adequate financial support.

AAG UPDATE

HRC v Reliable Enterprises and Reliable Project is a housing discrimination case. The Complainant was being harassed and threatened by the tenants on the Respondent's property because of their developmental disability. Both the Complainant and his mother asked for the Respondent to take action to stop the harassment, and no action was taken and the harassment continued. The Respondent tried to evict the Complainant due to another situation with another tenant, and no action was not taken against the other tenant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Timothy Hanna has an open case with the Commission. Mr. Hanna began to discuss details of his case involving allegations on the destruction of evidence by Respondent. Chair Cook reminded Mr. Hanna there could be no case discussion. Mr. Hanna rephrased his question and then directed it to the AAG. The AAG was not able to respond to his question as it directly relates to his case. AAG recommended and offered resources for Mr. Hanna to reach out to his private counsel for further advisement.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 9:55AM until 10:10AM.

--BREAK--

The meeting was reconvened at 10:11AM to conduct the second interview for RaShelle Davis. The interview questions were prepared by the agency's staff. At the end of the interview, Chair Cook requested staff to email their comments regarding the interview to Interim Director Strobert by Friday, May 27th. Interim Director Strobert would then forward them to the Commissioners for review.

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 11:30AM and then the general meeting would reconvene.

Executive Session started at 11:00AM and ended at 11:35AM. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting did not reconvene until 11:42AM.

During Executive Session, there was discussion regarding the two new applicants and the two candidates who have had second interviews with the Commission. Interviews for the new applicants will not be scheduled at this time and will wait on further discussing today's interview until the comments from staff are received.

Chair Cook recommended that a Special Meeting be called for June 6, 2022 at 9:00AM to further discuss the applicants in Executive Session and to determine the next step in the process.

2022 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

June 23, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
July 28, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
August 25, 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

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:46AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deborah Gonzales