

African American Advisory Council Minutes

Tracy Marshall, Chairperson
Keith Smith, Vice- Chairperson
January 25, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Robin Albritton
James Bracey
Tanya Carriere
Fayette Coleman-Gill
Renee Heard
Tracy Marshall
Veronica Mattison

Phone Participants

Michelle Carter
Carole Freeman
Jere Murry
Lori Welcher-Evans

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairperson, Tracy Marshall at 12:13pm. The meeting was held at the Harvey Field Office.

ORDER OF MEETING:

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The minutes for December's meeting were reviewed and approved. There were two abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

Tracy Marshall gave the Chairperson's report and stated the following:

- The bonding event scheduled to take place at Robin's house was cancelled due to the weather.
- The bonding event is rescheduled for February 22, 2019. The AAAC meeting will take place at the Harvey Field Office.
- The council had elections today. The results are as follow: Tracy was nominated as Chairperson for the council. Nominations for Vice-Chairperson was tabled due to Keith being absent from the meeting today. Lori was nominated for recording secretary and

accepted. Tanya was nominated for correspondence secretary and accepted.

- There is no movement on the change in Governor. The AAAC does not have a liaison. Shirley Barsh is interested in being the liaison for the AAAC.
- Juanita constructed the letter that was discussed during the Joint Council Meeting in January in which Tracy read the letter aloud to council members.

NEWSLETTER:

There is no report. Tracey King joined this committee as a member. This committee will follow-up with Tracy as it relates to an idea that she has regarding an article for the next newsletter.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICES:

The council is still in need of a liaison and has been without one since Rochelle retired from the Department. Shirley Davis-Barsh remains interested in the position of AAAC Chief of Services.

TRAINING COMMITTEE:

James conducted a training for new hires last week for 15 workers. The workers are classified as Deferred Assigned Investigators. James reported that the class is currently made up 80% African Americans and most of them were already aware of the AAAC. James left information for them to review.

STATUS REPORT-HOST FAMILIES/CARE PACKAGES:

Carole reached out to the student that we support. The student tried reaching out to Shirley, however was unsuccessful. The student was encouraged to complete the application for a potential scholarship, as the deadline is approaching and is 2-11-19. The scholarship is coming from the National Association of University Women. The student has not completed the application as of today. The student continues to work at Starbucks.

MEMBERSHIP:

Robin reported that committee member Cheryl retired from the Department. Quincy agreed to join the committee. The committee is still in the process of updating the bylaws and has only two pages left. The bylaws have not been updated since 2011. There was one inquiry from Northern region, however, there has not been any follow-up. Tracy opened for discussion/input as it relates to POS being able to join the council. The council acknowledges that there are some things that need to be dealt with internally first. Jere reported that it would be great if POS

could have full participation with the council. Ex-officio membership was also discussed. The direction that the Department is currently going in is that there will be a partnership/relationship between the Department and POS.

LEGISLATIVE:

Jere reported that she did not have a written report today and will have a report next month. Jere forwarded her report from last month's meeting today.

REAL TALK:

The council will be partnering with the Youth Advisory Boards in both the Central and Cook regions. Carole received an email that Lynda Swan-McClendon is expected to retire effective 2-23-19. Both keynote speakers have been identified for both events. Carole reported that the youth advisory boards must vote and agree regarding partnering with the council. Fayette suggested that Carole reach out to Kevin Walsh. Tracy has been trying to get Reggie onboard, and suggested that partnering with the Southern region be tabled until next year. Relunda may be returning to the council from Southern region. It was suggested that the council recruit another central region council member.

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT:

James discussed trainee positions and the possibility of having to do a Rutan interview, as this process is still not very clear. There has been a lot of turnover in the Department. The Hispanics have requested clarification of intern positions. James has not received the final draft of the protocol.

CONFERENCE:

Tracy reported that she reached out to the University's as it relates to the conference. UIC is planning to give \$1,500, NIU is planning to give \$1,300 and SIUE is planning to give \$2,000 toward conference planning fees. This amounts to about \$2,200 less than what the council usually receives. The council is hoping to receive money from AFSCME. If anyone knows of a speaker, please send an email to Robin, Tracy and Fayette. Council members should begin talking with coworkers, as the council is seeking presenters to conduct workshops. Catering options for the conference was discussed. The date of the conference is May 30, 2019 at South Suburban College. Tracy reported that Mike Burns is working with Paul Kreiter to secure Steve Pemberton as the keynote speaker for the conference. There will not be a reception this year after the conference.

BUSINESS UPDATES:

NEW BUSINESS:

- James gave an overview of the simulation room and how he has been trying to get the Department to fund him to make the simulation rooms more presentable. James is challenging the council to assist in making the rooms present more homely and friendly for parents and children to be able to bond and form attachments during visits. Carole reported that State Farm remodeled the rooms downstate.
- The Black History Month Program will take place at the Emerald office on 2-21-19 from 12:00pm until 2:00pm. The cost is \$20 for the luncheon.
- Council members please inform Veronica if you will be attending the after-Christmas/bonding event at Robin's house. A head count is needed for the caterer.
- Council members are being requested to take pictures of any black history month programs you may be attending and forward for the newsletter.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 2:07pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on February 22, 2019 at the Harvey office at 12:00pm.

Submitted by:

Lori Welcher-Evans, Recording Secretary