

African American Advisory Council Minutes

Tracy Marshall, Chairperson
Keith Smith, Vice-Chairperson

April 18, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Robin Albritton
Shirley Barsh
Renee Heard
Jacque Johnson
Tracy Marshall
Keith D. Smith
Lori Welcher-Evans

Phone Participants

James Bracey
Tanya Carriere
Carole Freeman
Fayette Coleman-Gill
Veronica Mattison
Jere Murry
Kilonzo Musau
Reginald Riddle-Young

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairperson, Tracy Marshall at 10:09am. The meeting was held at 1921 S. Indiana.

ORDER OF MEETING:

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The motion was made by Shirley to accept the minutes with both corrections and was second by Robin. There were two abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

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

- Tracy reached out to Michelle Davis as it relates to a Liaison for the Council. Maggie Poteau is the Statewide Advisory Board Council Liaison.
- Mike put in an order for t-shirts for new council members-James, Quincy, Reginald and Tanya
- Council members are needed to be on a subcommittee for a project in which the council had discussed proposing a position paper to present a plan as it relates to when placements disrupt,

and youth are at the office, and how this can be better managed. The issue is the lack of resources. Tracy proposed that a volunteer from each region to be a part of the committee. Placement workers are needed on the committee. Volunteers from the council are as follow: James, Lori, Jacque, Fayette, Carole, Reginald and Tanya. Tracy will reach out to a council member in the Northern Region to become part of the committee. Lori agreed to take the lead to coordinate the meeting date and time.

- Tracy needs a council member to take on the role of the Open Meetings Act. Shirley agreed to take on this role.
- Tracy reported that Lori is doing a good job in keeping a binder with the minutes and attendance is being kept as well.
- Tracy has located the write-ups from the last African American Advisory Council Institute Day.

NEWSLETTER:

Tracy reached out to Bremen Campbell who agreed to help assist with the newsletter. Bremen is going to reach out to JR who is also a former member of the newsletter committee. Rhonda and Fayette were promoted and are expected to be highlighted in the next edition of the newsletter. Ashley Deckert was also promoted. The first African American Female Mayor will be mentioned. The committee has enough information to get started. Reginald volunteered to become a part of the newsletter committee.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SERVICES:

Tracy reported that she spoke with Danielle Fitzgerald who stated that the position of the Liaison for the council is currently on hold. Tracy reported that she reiterated how important it is to have someone in this role from the council.

TRAINING COMMITTEE:

James acknowledged finding information that Tracy sent to him. James and Rhonda are still in the process of updating the FACT sheet. James conducted a presentation to a class on March 29th. Tracy needs a council member to volunteer to oversee the group shared drive. Tracy approached Kilonzo about taking on this role. The shared drive will be amended and updated.

STATUS REPORT-HOST FAMILIES/CARE PACKAGES:

Shirley related that she did not have a report. Shirley further related that the student's number is disconnected. Tracy and Fayette are expected

to submit their April donations. Lori and Tracey are expected to submit their donations for May next month.

ELECTIONS:

Robin resumed elections for the Vice-Chair that was previously tabled. Mr. Keith Smith was nominated as Vice-Chair. Keith apologized to the council for his absence and explained that he has been TA'ing as a supervisor in Northern Region as well as carrying a caseload. A discussion was held and there was a motion made to propose a vote for Keith to remain as Vice-Chair. There was a unanimous vote for Keith to remain as Vice-Chair.

MEMBERSHIP:

Robin received a couple of inquiries, however, no one has followed-up yet in terms of submitting a letter of interest. Robin commended James Bracey for actively recruiting members for the council. In terms of the by-laws, this issue is being tabled.

LEGISLATIVE:

Jere made mention of SB 1909 "**SB 1909** removes "infant exposed to controlled substance at birth" out of the definition of "neglect" in BOTH ANCRA as well as the Juvenile Court Act." This effectively means DCFS would no longer investigate cases originating from a baby being exposed to illegal drugs at birth and the SAO would no longer have that ground to file petitions under. This matter is going to hearing in the Senate Tuesday. As of April 11, 2019, this passed in the Senate. Those in the medical community could possibly weigh in on the impact this will have on infant and family health. An amendment to the bill also adds a requirement for parental consent to toxicology testing at birth for controlled substances. If this bill is passed in the House, then it will go into effect January 2021. Robin mentioned that HB 1482, filed by Representative Tony McCombie is a bill that is currently being reviewed regarding protection for DCFS workers against violence while in the field.

REAL TALK:

The council is not expected to take part in doing Real Talk in either Northern or Southern Region Summits. The council does not have a speaker for the Northern Region. Lori printed down flyers for both Southern and Northern Region Youth Summits. Carole will send an email to Nutashia Baynes in Northern Region to inform her that the council is declining to participate in the Northern Region Youth Summit this year and will plan to participate next year. Central Region's Youth Summit will take place at Illinois State University on June 14, 2019. Cook Region's Youth Summit will take place at Northeastern Illinois University on June 20, 2019.

The Real Talk committee had a meeting to discuss giveaways and a collection from council members to purchase gas cards for the presenters. Cheryl agreed to take on the task of gathering giveaways for downstate and Carole is proposing a council member in the Cook Region to take on this task for giveaways. Carole inquired if bookbags should be given to youth or if there should be another giveaway. Carole will follow-up with the speaker to see if he has any giveaways, as he stated he had some giveaways. A total of 6 giveaways are needed for the youth for Cook County.

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT:

Jere attended the last meeting. Jere reported that the Racially Equity Subcommittee was held Tuesday in Bloomington and was led by Bob Blackwell. The committee is working with Jennifer Florent in Communications, disproportionately and disparity interviews were done with committee members. All staff are expected to receive training on anti-racism, which is still in draft. The curriculum remains in draft form as well. The training has been broken down into several weeks and is comprised of 10 weeks. The Training Division will be sought out to see how it can permeate through our system. They are working on securing more data from action teams. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Bloomington on July 17, 2019 from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

CONFERENCE:

The 27th Annual African American Conference will take place May 30, 2019 from 9:00am until 4:00pm at South Suburban College. Robin reported that the conference planning committee has been meeting a lot and registration for the conference has been delayed. The theme of this year's conference is "Permanency Is the Ultimate Goal #Family First." The Keynote speaker is Steve Pemberton. The committee is currently working developing the workshops for the conference. The Mega Workshop will be facilitated by Laurie Children's Hospital. Robin gave the assignments to all council members for the conference. The planning committee is working very hard and registration will go out soon. The Universities continue to work with the council. Council members should encourage co-workers to nominate someone to receive an award. Council members are encouraged to keep May 29th open, the day prior to the Institute Day to prepare. Keith will propose a donation from the local union in the Northern Region.

Veronica reported that letters went out to the vendors and emails were sent out as well. Follow-up will be done within the next couple of weeks.

JR will be the photographer. Mike is currently working on getting a videographer. Someone will be present to beat the drums.

BUSINESS UPDATES:

NEW BUSINESS:

- African Dance Group will begin the conference.
- Food for the conference remains in progress.
- This will probably be the last year that the Institute Day will be held at South Suburban College.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:20pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 16, 2019 at 1911 S. Indiana at 10:00am.

Submitted by:

Lori Welcher-Evans, Recording Secretary