

African American Advisory Council Minutes

Tracy Marshall, Chairperson
Keith Smith, Vice-Chairperson
November 18, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Robin Albritton
James Bracey
Fayette Coleman-Gill
Renee Heard
Tracy Marshall
Veronica Mattison
Jere Murry
Keith D. Smith
Christopher Towers
Lori Welcher-Evans

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairperson, Tracy Marshall at 10:01am. The meeting was held via WebEx.

ORDER OF MEETING:

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The review of the minutes is tabled.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

Tracy Marshall stated the following:

- ❖ Gave opening remarks and asked Robin to doublecheck the numbers as it relates to committee members
- ❖ Informed committee members that the meeting will be recorded and recorded today's attendance
- ❖ Requested an assistant to chair the meetings in her absence due to her job duties
- ❖ There will be an upcoming meeting with the Director and the council's University partners, the Black Association of Social Workers, Black Administrators of Child Welfare and the planning committee
- ❖ The purpose of the meeting will be to have dialogue with the Director around the recommendations from the Summits held throughout the regions
- ❖ Jackie Bright was working on a few things for the meeting
- ❖ The Director was provided with a copy of the report a while ago and Tracy is excited about the upcoming meeting

- ❖ There is a total of 15 council members, and 3 have been inactive and there are currently 12 members
- ❖ There is a quorum to vote on the bylaws
- ❖ Robin lead the discussion regarding the vote as the bylaws were amended and there was a unanimous vote to accept the bylaws
- ❖ Robin put forth the motion, Lori second the motion and Tracy made a motion for a correction
- ❖ Will be discussing the Permanency Enhancement Project, examples of things that are needed to get things back in place will be given, such as services, status of action teams and family advocacy centers
- ❖ Robin reviewed the document Jackie Bright pulled together, and it appears as though some of the recommendations made are already in place. It's important to provide feedback to the participants who attended the Summits

NEWSLETTER:

This agenda item is tabled.

A.A. SERVICES:

Chris reported that Affinity groups are being developed and it's in the beginning stages. Chris reported they are looking to increase participation by giving a monetary incentive and the goal is to try to get at least 10-12 youth committed to being active participants. Chris further reported that they are in the process of developing an outline on how members will be sought. Chris reported that the Affinity groups are an extension of the youth advisory boards and the goal is to have Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and for youth speak specifically about some of their needs. The criteria for the group is age 14-21. Jere asked follow-up questions regarding the Affinity groups. Fayette suggested to coordinate with the youth advisory council. Chris also gave an update on CWAC and reported that this is a collaboration meeting with all the different councils. Chris had presented some things that the council is working on and reported that other councils has some similar issues.

TRAINING COMMITTEE:

This agenda item is tabled.

STATUS REPORT-HOST FAMILIES/CARE PACKAGES:

Veronica was unable to provide an update. Tracy will follow-up with Shirley.

MEMBERSHIP:

Robin reported that she had two inquiries, one for Cook South and one for northern region in Waukegan. Robin reported that there has not been any follow-up for submission of a letter. As it relates to the Waukegan inquiry, this person has not passed probation yet, however is willing to volunteer. The membership committee has monthly meetings. The committee is actively recruiting members and planning for the upcoming year.

LEGISLATIVE:

No report.

REAL TALK:

This agenda item was tabled. Tracy did report that the council will continue to partner with the youth advisory councils. Veronica and Renee will be the co-chairs and they will reach out to those persons who are in charge of the events to get an idea of what the plan may be for 2022.

BUSINESS UPDATES:

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Tracy suggested the council to get together in-person for our next meeting and a Christmas celebration
- ❖ Robin will host and Lori will be the back-up host
- ❖ Chris mentioned that some chiefs of some of the other councils would like to attend the next AAAC meeting and Tracy reported they are welcome to attend the January 2022 meeting
- ❖ Joint Council meeting will be held soon
- ❖ Tracy thanked council members for their patience with all the changes that are going on
- ❖ Lori requested a back-up secretary in her absence at meetings
- ❖ Tracy wished all council members a Happy Thanksgiving

The next meeting is scheduled to take place December 17, 2021 in-person.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Minutes submitted by:

Lori Welcher, Recording Secretary