



Commissioner Franklin Donahoe  
Representing Snohomish County

Commissioner Sara Franklin – Phillips  
Representing South King County

Commissioner Al Herron  
Representing King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn  
Representing South King County

Commissioner Sheila Reed Trahan  
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Dr. James Smith  
Representing King County

Commissioner Dorian Waller  
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Sandra Williams  
Representing Eastern Washington

Commissioner Dolly England  
Representing Southwest Washington

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

**Public Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**GA Building Auditorium,**  
**210 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Olympia, WA 98504**  
**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**March 10, 2017**

Members Present: Chair Donahoe, Commissioners Quinn, Reed-Trahan, Williams, England, Franklin-Phillips, Waller, Smith, Herron, Executive Director Edward Prince and Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Commissioner Herron

**1:00 PM** – Meeting called to order.

**1:05 PM** – Motion to accept previous meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.

**1:10 PM – Director's Report** Motion to accept Director's report. Motion passed

**Action Item:** Report to provide details on summary statements explaining outcomes and next steps

**Action Item:** Amend report to also contain assigned tasks to commission members in support of the director

**1:15 PM – Update on Use of Deadly Force by Commissioner Quinn**

Something going to happen. Optimistic but also pragmatic about the bill. Appreciate the support of the commissions and glad to see the commissions coming together. Joint recommendations made.

**1:20 PM – Presentation Theresa Berntsen & Lawrence Coleman, Office of Women and Minority Business Enterprises**

- Created in 1983 identify to eliminate barriers to participation by minority and women-owned businesses. Does outreach to increase the number of certified forms. Report every agency and educational institution's spending with veteran-owned firms.
- Thorough vetting to discover who isn't disadvantaged. Some firms are easily designated; broke down by ethnicity. Anything that is discretionary is totaled and then it's tabulated how much was spent with certified firms. Would like to report this spending by ethnicity in the future.
- Certification isn't easy. Thinks it will always be complicated. They try hard to strike a balance and explain it in a manageable way. Maintaining the integrity of the program. Still working on this aspect.

- Subsidiaries are also complicated but looked at situationally/case-by-case. The kind of subsidiary matters as the federal government has just changed their affiliation rules.
- Certification is a hard sell. Most minority-owned firms don't understand the benefit and the point of targeted outreach. Plan to take some of their analysts on the road – going to the people. Although they are a small team, they have some great resources and plans to go out in April.
- Working with the Governor's Business Diversity Sub-cabinet
- Commission suggested that an organization such as Ventures (formerly Washington Cash) could prove to be a resource for OWMBE as a means of getting closer to the community and other outreach such as this should occur.

**1:50 PM – Presentation Rex Brown, Administrative Director, Diversity Subcabinet on Business Diversity**

- How the efforts contribute to the whole (between OWMBE and the Diversity Subcabinet) not in an ad hoc fashion that fails to address the issues of the entire enterprise, but how do the pieces of the puzzle fit together? The Subcabinet believes it begins with a common vision: we envision a future that the business the state does strengthens communities and the quality of life for the residents of Washington and increasing participation actually is a goal that fosters a more stable efficient and equitable economy for everyone, veterans, minorities and women. DES believes the actions begin with a common mission. DES envisions a future for the state and increases participation actually fosters a goal for a more stable, efficient and equitable economy for minorities and women. The collaborative approach often is the way that DES envisions a sustainable future in the area of diversity. It is not viewed as mutually exclusive. We don't think your demographics dictate your destiny or presumes participation will occur at a particular level. We believe that all those things will contribute to a stronger state overall.
- The past three fiscal years of the state detail one of the consequences: The total spending equals \$14.5 billion dollars and of that if the 10% (minority) and 6 % (women) contracting goals were attained, the state would have spent \$2.3 billion dollars in certified businesses that were owned by minorities and women. This is a shortfall from where the state actually was – attaining only 2% which means about \$343 million dollars is what minorities and women certified business had in proceeds from the state. That shortfall tells a story of why we are examining this issue. Without a determined focus of the work being done by the subcabinet, they are guaranteed to repeat the disappointing performance incurred in the past. Without some action for the Governor in dealing with the underutilization of the Washington state Civil Rights Coalition and their contributing members have indicated they would pursue legal claims under Title VI. Like all states, Washington must ensure there is no discrimination.
- Currently administering a disparity study. This examination is a 21 month process with the final phase scheduled to possibly end in 2018. Notes that an AGO opinion may have some bearing on the subcabinet's work.
- CAAA asks how the subcabinet will know if their recommendations are working for the African American community? Rex asks that the commission help motivate constituents to provide feedback in April and May when the study is released to help the subcabinet capture data. This will assist the subcabinet in what actions can possibly be done now to remedy some of the underutilization.

**3:30 pm – Public Comment  
No Public Comment**

**3:35 PM – Commission Discussion**

- **Action Item : Letter to Hanford regarding recruitment of interns of color**

**4:00 pm - Adjournment**