



Commissioner Franklin Donahoe, Chair
Representing Snohomish County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Will Howard
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Sara Franklin-Phillips
Representing South 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

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Public Commission Meeting Minutes Byrd Barr Place 722 18th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122 November 9, 2018 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Donahoe, Commissioners Caupain, Franklin-Phillips, Howard, Smith, and Waller
Executive Director Edward Prince and Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Commissioners Reed-Trahan and Williams

1:30 PM – Meeting called to order. Quorum established.

1:35 PM – Motion to accept previous meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.

1:40 PM – Director's Report

- 2019 CAAA Meeting Schedule
- Black Women's Policy Summit scheduled for January 2019 in Tacoma. Created to provide an opportunity to discuss issues important to Black women. Rep. Debra Entenman, D-47 and Commissioner Franklin-Phillips to assist.
- Commissioner Howard met with Secretary Sinclair to explore new opportunities to prepare inmates for re-entry (Intake to Exit Strategy to focus on skill sets and character development). Will meet with the DOC Executive Strategy Team on December 3, 2019

1:45 PM – Motion to approve 2019 Meeting Schedule

Motion carried and passed.

1:50 PM – Update from Chair Donahoe

Lynnwood High School tracks a wide-range of student data; different from data talked about when the Commission was in Spokane. Report from the high school is forthcoming for the entire commission to examine. The school has a Success and is very aggressive about equity and diversity. Making ethnic studies a requirement for graduation. Chair spoke to BSU advisors; plans to speak with students on December 20. Discussed the idea with the BSU's executive director to establish a cohort of different BSUs to get together and a discussion about soft skills; how to deal with micro-aggression, conflict, maintaining who you are as a human being, financial literacy, networking, business, technology, and the importance of civic duties. Lynnwood school administrators admits racist attitudes infiltrate the school from home and they are dealing with it. Spoke with the high school principal who expressed difficulties in getting teachers into training because of some restrictions such as union requirements.

2:00 PM - 2020 Census Discussion – Commissioner Caupain

Detailed information regarding a 20K grant from the Department of Commerce for the upcoming 2020 Census. Eight organizations funded, none of which represented Black/African American communities. The department said they fell short and needed to do better. A second round of funding occurs in 2019 but it is felt it may be too late. Questions the prioritization of other resources coming out of Commerce for Black/African American communities. The importance is to ensure our community understands the importance of the U.S. Census as undercounts are detrimental to our community regarding resources. Our state loses 19k per individual every year from undercounting.

2:20 PM Debra Johnson, Communications Director - Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families

[Division of Children, Youth and Families](#) – new, cabinet-level state agency overseeing several services previously offered by the DSHS and the Department of Early Learning. Ross Hunter is its secretary.

The top five priorities of the new agency are: Inclusion, Respect, Integrity, Compassion and Transparency. Some actions the department looks to implement immediately;

- Making it work. Certain infrastructural parts of the agency are not working well. A heavy caseload is working against the placement of foster children. The agency is not meeting federal standards for the number of caseloads a social worker should have; the standard is 18 and our workers average 21-25. This means children stay in the system longer and time is limited for placement. More staff needed in this area.
- Committed to expanding programs that work such as early achievers program (ECEAP), home visiting and services, juvenile rehab up to age 25, the Juvenile Justice System (OJJ is now a part of DCYF) up to age 25. Improve the juvenile justice system; children of color represent 70% of the system, however 70% of the services that support rehabilitation service white children.
- How children come into the system: inherent biases exist in the reporting of children into the child welfare system itself
- Change the work environment to create a respectful workplace.
- Window for children entering the system is being shortened by the federal government; placement must be found in kinship care or foster care rather than group or congregant care. Title E funding is being diminished thus the department has to reduce caseloads by increasing and retaining staff.
- Increasing childcare options, making childcare more affordable, supporting childcare centers to better prepare children for kindergarten.

Department is looking to increase communications with the community regarding fostering. The department has an overwhelming number of children in care of the state. Wants to change the perception of fostering by creating a foster care recruitment campaign. States that kinship care (with relatives) is funded at a reduced rate compared to those who foster non-relatives. The agency is looking to increase the funding or services for kinship care families in order to encourage this type of fostering.

2:45 pm – Public Comment

Open discussion from audience

3:40 pm - Executive Session

4:00 pm – Motion Carried/Adjournment