



Washington State Commission On

African American Affairs



Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks,
Representing Eastern Washington

Commissioner Joseph Todd, Vice Chair
Representing South King County

Commissioner Stacy Estes
Representing Central Washington

Commissioner Michael Bailey
Representing King County

Commissioner LeRoy Laney III
Representing King County

Commissioner Zellynda Perkins
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Geolingo
Representing Thurston County

Commissioner Sheila Stanton
Representing King County

Commissioner Lolinda Turner
Representing Pierce County

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 13, 2024 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 p.m. | In Person

1000 W 4th Ave, Kennewick, WA 99336 - Kennewick School District Office

Members present: Chair Kendricks, Vice Chair Todd, Bailey, Laney, Turner, Dr. Geolingo, Estes, Executive Director Edward Prince, Program Manager Charlotte Kerney, Executive Assistant Keahna Umpstead. Quorum established.

Absent: Perkins, Stanton

1:00pm – Meeting called to order by Chair Kendricks

1:02pm – Roll Call

1:03pm - Motion to approve meeting minutes by Commissioner Laney – Motion seconded to correct and accept minutes by Commissioner Dr. Geolingo.

Chair Kendricks called for vote to accept May 2024 Meeting Minutes

Voice vote – no objections. Motion carried. May 2024 commission meeting minutes approved.

1:10pm – Washington Equity Now Alliance Founder, Jesse Wineberry - Reparations

Discussion – Surrounding the Legislative Recommendations on Reparations, remedies, land restoration, healing and reconciliation for descendants of the United States' Enslaved African Americans. Along with the resolution created by the WA State Democratic party to create a state commission to study reparations for Washington's African American Descendants of American Chattel Slavery that was submitted on April 27, 2024, by Jesse Wineberry, former Washington State Delegate, 37th Legislative District.

2:50pm – Motion to approve WENA's Resolution by Commission Estes – Motion Seconded by Vice-Chair Todd

Chair Kendricks Called for vote to approve WENA's Resolution – Voice Vote. No Objections. Motion Carried.

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2:00pm – Public Comment – 4 audience members – 1 member made public comment

2:30pm – Chief Diversity Officer and Director of STEM Education at PNW National Laboratory (PNNL), Evangelina Galvan Shreeve – Expanding student diversity within PNW National Laboratory’s internship Program

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s (PNNL) Internship Programs offer internships to high school students that are interested in business or research. PNNL’s programs included the High School Business Intern Program, Summer Research Apprenticeship, Young Women in Science Summer programs, and the High School Research Intern Program. There is also the Pathway to Summer School for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science’s Reaching New Energy Sciences workforce (RENEW) that is sponsored by the Office of Workforce and Development. Opportunities are also available to college students as well where PNNL hires hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students through a large variety of programs each year.

Building the Diverse STEM Workforce of the Future

- STEM Outreach
 - Working to create collaborations to share the opportunities and science being done at PNNL to help ignite curiosity.
 - Some of the Collaborations and Partnerships
 - Cisco Systems, Inc.
 - Boeing
 - Genifuel Coporation
 - IsoRay Medical
 - UniEnergy Systems, Inc.
 - General Motors
- STEM Workforce Development
 - Investing in STEM educators and students through internships and trainings to expand skills, experience, and understanding of national laboratory career opportunities.
- High School Internship Program
 - Inspires high school students to explore STEM careers through business career pathways through offering real-world experiences that expand student’s technical and communication skills for a strong STEM foundation.
- RENEW Pathway Summer Schools
 - A five-week experience that offers learning focused on renewable and sustainable energy through experiences designed around relevant energy research.
- DOE WDTs Community College Internships Program
 - Program designed to encourage students to study STEM focused courses through mentorship and exposure to career opportunities in a Department of Energy (DOE) lab.
- DOE WDTs Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship Program (SULI)
 - A 10–16-week summer or semester long program for college sophomore, juniors or seniors that are majoring in a STEM field or science program.

- Uses as an opportunity to enhance these students' professional networks and enhance their interests in their desired fields.

3:00pm – Founder/CEO of the Tri-Cities Diversity and Inclusion Council (TCDIC), Naima Chambers – Priorities of the Tri-Cities Diversity and Inclusion Council

A grassroots nonprofit that is dedicated to the dismantling of oppressive systems, helping communities of color heal from past and present trauma, building community power, and manifest joy and collective liberation. The TCDIC prioritizes serving those impacted by systemic inequalities. Including marginalized communities including those who are under-resourced, overburdened, and disenfranchised. The mission is to foster a unified community that celebrates diversity by promoting cultural competence and compassion through education, outreach and advocacy that celebrates diversity.

TCDIC Three Pillars

- Education
 - DEI Consulting and Trainings to local organizations
 - Culturally Responsive Programs
 - “Building a Sisterhood through Healing”
 - Serves women of color, addressing trauma caused by historically based systemic racism.
 - “Keep Your Crown On”
 - Serving black youth and promotes psychological safety
 - Holistic Wellness
 - Teaching the community about centering the 8 dimensions of wellness to promote physical, mental, and financial well-being to help improve the social determinants of health that persist in the black community.
 - Alternatives to Violence Program
 - Teach restorative practices as alternatives to punitive justice.
- Outreach
 - Collaboration with local organizations in the Tri-City area
 - League of Women Voters
 - The Star Project
 - Collaboration with educational institutions
 - Advocate for disenfranchised voters
 - Promote civic participation
 - Event Coordination
 - TCDIC Events
 - Celebration of Community and Culture
 - Red and Black on the Green
 - Juneteenth
 - Afrofuturism
 - MLK Day of Service
 - Voter Education Drives
 - Healing Workshops
 - Youth Scholarships
 - Refugee Support

- Advocacy
 - Helping to connect underserved community members with essential services from mental health support to financial literacy and legal aid.
 - Employee rights advocacy program
 - Empowering workers to challenge workplace discrimination and injustice.
 - Creation of affinity spaces to foster a place for the community to bond, be in community, and heal.

TCDIC Core Foundation

- Community
- Love

3:30pm – Founder of Restoration Community Impact, Marlando Sparks and Chief Executive Officer, Stephanie Sparks – Introduction to Restoration Community Impact and the Organizations Community Outreach Work

Using a holistic approach to address the full spectrum of needs through food offerings, job trainings, trauma-informed care, and culturally relevant healing to help reach the goal of helping disenfranchised individuals rediscover their voices, reclaim their futures, and restore families to regain what has been lost. This is done through community engagement by fostering safe, supportive spaces to strengthen community connections.

Restoration Community Impact Counties served so far

- North Central
- Chelan
- Douglas
- Grant
- Lincoln
- Adams
- Benton
- Franklin
- Yakima
- Walla Walla
- Columbia

Restoration Community Impact Active Programs and Community Work.

- Restoration Market – Opened in 2023
- Power of the “RE” Initiative – A comprehensive program designed by and led by organizations to address deep seated impacts of systemic racism, anti-blackness, colonization, and the war on drugs waged on the Black, Latine, and tribal communities. The initiative aims to facilitate healing on a personal and intergenerational level and repair the harms that have been caused and continue to cause systemic issues.
 - Advocacy and Empowerment Based Programs
 - Housing support
 - Job readiness
 - Detox/Treatment
 - Trauma-Informed Groups

- Community Healing Circles
 - Healing Circles
 - Affinity Circles
 - Support Groups
 - In person and Zoom offerings
- Digital Equity Program – Connect Across Washington
 - Will be the organization that undertakes the role of digital equity program facilitator.
 - Bringing free or low cost internet to families in Benton/Franklin Counties