



Commission Chair Will Hausa
Representing Pierce County

Commission Vice-Chair Sara Franklin
Representing South King County

Commissioner De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County

Commissioner Chaune Fitzgerald
Representing Tri-Cities

Commissioner Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County

Commissioner Andrea Caupain
Representing King County

Commissioner Rev. Walter Kendricks
Representing Eastern Washington

Executive Director Edward O. Prince

Commission on African American Affairs Public Meeting Minutes Friday, September 14, 2021 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Chair Hausa, Vice-chair Franklin-Phillips, Fitzgerald, Kendricks, Waller, Executive Director Edward Prince, Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

Absent: Commissioner Quinn

3:30 pm – Meeting Called to order by Chair Hausa

3:31 pm – Roll Call by Executive Assistant Charlotte Kerney

3:32 pm – Quorum Established

3:33 pm – Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Commissioner Caupain
Point of order by Commissioner Kendricks - discrepancy detected in the minutes
Motion seconded to correct and accept minutes by Commissioner Caupain
Chair Hausa called for vote

Voice vote – no objections. Motion carried. May 2021 commission meeting minutes approved

3:35 pm –Megan Matthews & Lori Pflugst , Washington State Department of Social & Health Services – Economic Services Division Universal Basic Income Feasibility Project

- The 2021 legislative session assigned a budget proviso to DSHS to conduct a feasibility study due by June 2022 that aligns with the 10-year plan developed by the Poverty Reduction Workgroup.
- What is Universal Basic Income? There is no standard definition but is generally accepted as a cash transfer given to all members of a community, regardless of income level without any conditions attached to the funds. Will have to determine what is best in Washington. UBI isn't new –occurrences date back to the 1800's and took the form of a negative income tax proposed during the Nixon administration. Most of the current research is from pilots conducted internationally. Some emerging evidence supports poverty decreases as a result of UBI and shows good outcomes on education and health. Although there is some mixed evidence on savings – its to stabilize although it could be structured to encourage savings.
- By in large, data shows recipients are likely to participate in the workforce. Emerging evidence from around the country: the Stockton Empowerment in Stockton California is the first pilot provides strong evidence UBI improved the lives of its participants. A pilot in Jackson, Mississippi shows promising outcomes for Black single mothers. A randomized trial includes four states in the Mid-West is expected to produce

outcomes are expected in a few years. ESA can structure this pilot specific for Washington state including how it intersects with other available resources/benefits. The City of Tacoma in partnership with United Way has launched GRITS – their own guaranteed income program to assess whether this helps alleviate or lessen poverty. Tacoma’s program is the first in the state. The City of Seattle has similar plans.

- The UBI Strategic Committee Currently gathering individuals for the UBI Steering Committee. Looks to ensure members from rural communities to consider the existence of geographic disparities.

3:50 pm – Jan Yoshiwara, Executive Director and Ha Nguyen, Diversity & Inclusion Director for [Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges](#)

- Asking for feedback about how the community/technical college can better serve the community. Community & Technical College Resources. Almost half of the students in Washington’s community and technical colleges are people of color. About 10% of the C&T population is African American. Unfortunately, competition rate is lower than the enrollment rate. Goal is to raise the competition rate to 70% for all groups. Will have to double that rate for African American students to reach that goal. Financial aid is needed to attend and stay in college. A serious issue has emerged because of the pandemic; financial aid applications have fallen across the board. SBCTC has employed a new outreach effort - taking financial aid information out to communities in addition to the traditional college night at high schools. Also, their Teach
- The C&T have a means of closing the achievement gaps. 18 of the 38 chancellors in the college system are people of color – the highest in the history of the college system. A strategy to increase student completion rates and close equity gaps is C&T’s Guided Pathways approach - a system that advances racial, social, and economic justice by achieving equitable student aspiration, access, economic progress, and educational and career attainment. Has a proviso for Cybersecurity training to meet the increasing demand. C&Ts now offer applied BA degrees - about 120 all in technical fields where you can begin with a certificate and work into management.

Commissioner Kendrick: Are the BA accelerated or a 4-year program? They are regular 4-year programs: these are working people coming back to enhance their careers. The average age student is 35, their previous credits count towards the BA

Commissioner Waller: Are there any African Americans on your board. On the program advisory board, we have about 2000 business representatives. We have openings on our board every year; 9 members sit for a 4-year term, so if anyone is interested please share our openings with them

4:30 pm –Keri Williams & Claire Petersky, Washington State Housing Finance Commission

Created in 1983, [The Housing Finance Commission](#) has been around for almost 40 years. Houses people as first-time home buyers or renters. The agency finances home loans, new construction apartments for low and moderate-income people and they are a self-sustaining agency – no appropriations are received from the Legislature. The programs HFC runs are market-driven: housing tax credits, federal tax-exempt bonds and other financing tools. The programs under both the family housing and community facilities are used by both non-profit and for-profit organizations. In multi-family rental housing, they have financed 133,000 affordable housing units by partnering with for-profit developers, non-profits, housing authorities and local tribes using federal low-income tax credits and bonds and these are coordinated with state and local funds.

Housing ranges from permanent supportive housing for those coming out of homelessness, working families or older adults. This housing is located all over the state and works that the housing will stay affordable for as long as possible. Policy changes they have made sets the program for the future: it used to be that if you wanted the low-income tax credit with tax-exempt bonds were just handed them out on a first-come first-served basis but the program has become increasingly competitive in the last few years. 230 million in bonds was available in January, with a billion dollars in applications. Instead of trying to tweak the maximum benefit, realized new program criteria was needed. Wanted to finance more projects by people of color for communities of color and align better with other public partners. As a state-wide program, it isn't just Seattle-King centered and builders across the state should have access. Aims to maintain existing affordable housing stock instead of them going market rate – displacing many long-term renters. Targeting 15-20% of the amount of bonds for preserving the existing portfolio of affordable housing. About half of it or more that has received other types of public investment and about 40% outside of King and Snohomish counties.

Buy-in by the community is new for the agency. New structure is planned for the next few years.

- Creating an Advisory Board with a priority on BIPOC communities
Aims to make sure developments are owned long-term by a community-based organization: usually a tax-credit partnership expires after 15 years and this is when many of these properties turn over to a new owner or partnership. Wants to make sure the new owner of this long-term asset is a CBO. Trying to be creative here and entertaining different types of CBOs - such as ownership by a group of business owners, tenants in a co-op structure, etc.
- Seeking expertise from the community so should they partner, there will be a position of bargaining strength to get a lower term lease, a financial benefit
- Require a meaningful community participation process. Most community engagement has been dictated by the municipality. Trying to standardize this so communities can provide input about amenities needed in the area.
- Aware a great deal of resources will be needed for these developers. Assembling a list of CBOs by county who are interested in partnering together to develop housing. Asks the commission to assist with a resource list; they are lacking information from Central and Eastern Washington specifically. Seeking CBOs that look to be long-term owners of housing or chiming in on the housing that is developed in their area.

4:55 pm – Public Comment

One individual in the audience. No public comment

5:00 pm – Meeting adjourned