



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, March 22, 2024 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 p.m. | In Person 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310 - Heninger Meeting Room

Members present: Chair Kendricks, Vice-chair Todd, Bailey, Perkins, Laney, Geolingo, Stanton, Executive Director Edward Prince, Program Manager Charlotte Kerney, Executive Assistant Keahna Umpstead. Quorum established.

Absent: None

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

1:02pm – Roll Call

1:03pm - Motion to approve meeting minutes by Commissioner Todd – Motion seconded to correct and accept minutes by Commissioner Estes.

Chair Kendricks called for vote to accept November 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

1:05pm – Executive Director, Ed Prince – Directors Report

Education and Accountability Study – CAAA is participating in the follow-up to this original study done in 2008. This study will be recreated by all the WA State Ethnic Commissions and the Governors Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) to show how things have improved, declined or stayed the same since the original study 15 years ago.

- Research has begun at CAAA under Angela Powell at Imago Consulting
- Working with the Educational Resource and Data Center to acquire the data set pertaining to the opportunity gap within the African American student body in WA State.
- Drafted report will be turned into the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee in December 2024 and the final report is set to be finalized by June 2025.

Legislative update

- Of the 106 bills CAAA tracked this legislative session 45 passed and 61 died.

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1:10pm – Director of Energy Equity (PSE) Troy Hudson – Energy Equity Program, Community Partnerships

PSE serves 1.2 million electrical customers, 800,000 gas customers throughout their coverage areas. Of these customers 6% are severely energy burdened meaning that that spend more the n10% of their income on their energy services.

Energy Equity Strategic Framework – Equity vs. Equality, with an objective to create meaningful engagement with communities, resulting in equitable and streamlined clean energy project implementations, making sure that clean energy benefits are distributed to necessary communities, incorporate energy equity into PSE’s processes, and be able to see improvement across enterprises in energy equity maturity.

- Mission – seeks to connect energy equity to PSE’s 2030 and 2045 goals, ensure regulatory requirements are met, and provide consistency and alignment across enterprise.
- Vision – Strategic industry leader in energy equity, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits from energy delivery system and reduction of burden to named communities, through authentic community engagement and creation of equitable solutions.
- Guiding Principles – Accountability, simplicity in solutions, transparency
- Strategic Goals – Meet regulatory commitments, operationalize equity, strengthen partnerships and enhance engagement.

Discussion – Energy Justice is made up of four energy equity guidelines.

1. Recognition Justice – Understanding of historic and ongoing inequalities and prescribes efforts that seek to reconcile these inequalities.
2. Procedural Justice – Focuses on inclusive decision-making processes and seeks to ensure that proceedings are fair, equitable, and inclusive for participants, promoting marginalized and vulnerable populations to participate.
3. Distributional Justice – Distribution of benefits and burdens across populations. Aims to ensure marginalized and vulnerable populations do not receive inordinate share of the burdens or are denied access to benefits.
4. Restorative Justice – Utilizes regulatory government organizations or other interventions to disrupt and address distributional, recognition and procedural injustices and to correct them through laws, rules, plies, orders and practices.

1:50pm – Director of the Washington State Women’s Commission (WSWC), Grace Yoo – Presenting on WSWC Overview

WSWC was created on March 15, 2018, by House Bill 2759 and is made up of 9 volunteer commissioner, 4 Legislative Advisors, and 4 Full-time Employees and represents 3.8 million women all through WA State which makes up half of the Staes population.

Mission - The Washington State Women’s Commission’s mission is to improve the life of every woman by ensuring equitable opportunities and removing systemic barriers through engagement, advocacy, and public policy, while being inclusive of their diverse populations. This mission is accomplished through,

- Advising the Governor and legislature
- Advocating for removal of legal and social barriers for women

- Partnering with public, private and community organization
- Focus on three key pillars of health, safety, and opportunity.

Discussion – Held listening sessions across WA in Vancouver, Seattle, Bellingham, Spokane, Quincy, Olympia, and Yakima. The feedback gained from the listening sessions brought up 3 major concerns from the women of WA State, pay equity, childcare and access to services.

Discussion - Occupational segregation in the key areas of tech, aerospace, construction, engineering, and trades leading to women historically and still here in WA are more likely than men to work in low-paying jobs that offer fewer benefits.

Activate 3.8 – Action plan created by WSWC out of the listening groups and data that shows that even though WA has the 13th highest number of women in country it ranks as the 8th worst gender pay equity in the country.

- Goal – drive down the wage gap and fully unlock the economic potential of WA State.
 - Steps to achieve this goal.
 - Study the current state of occupational segregation in the state to ground future policies and initiatives in WA specific data.
 - Statewide campaign to enhance exposure and approachability to the target industries that have historically seen the lowest numbers of women employees.
 - Public – private taskforce to translate study findings into policy, for introduction as bills in future legislative sessions.

2:40pm – Director of Community Resources, Franklin Smith and Finance Director Qudaffi Howell – Presenting on The Freedom Project

The Freedom Project is a non-profit organization and is the oldest peer-based reentry organization serving adults who are reentering the community for over 21 years. Through accountability, empathy, connection, and equity the organization currently offers nonviolent communication and mindfulness classes at seven of WA state’s 12 state prison facilities.

- Mission - work alongside the community to dismantle systems of oppression and allow for healing from the trauma it has on those who are targeted and impacted by incarceration.
- Vision – That together can make a shift from punishment to restoration, from oppression to equity, and from apathy to empathy.
- Values – Partnering with communities and individuals to identify and remove barriers.

Discussion - Belief that people don’t change they heal from the negative aspects put on them in society such as, mass incarceration, economic disenfranchisement, systemic oppression, and negative connotations surrounding mental health.

Program Offerings:

- Prison Programs
 - Non-violent communication/mindfulness training
 - Restorative justice healing circle
 - Transitional preparation and smart goal planning

- Inside/out toastmaster
- Mentoring training
- Reintegration
 - Reintegration preparation
 - Clothing and other essential items
 - Housing support
 - Emotional support/mentorship
 - Employment assistance
- Advocacy
 - Court Support
 - Meeting with attorneys to ensure correct representation, discuss strategies and guidance to attorneys when it pertains to community and family involvement in the legal process. Ensuring the family is kept informed and even provider research for the attorney in some cases.
 - Legislative advocacy
 - Build relationships with legislators and push for retroactivity in all bills.
 - Building relationships with legislators.
 - Community Support
 - Court watch to ensure accountability, transparency, and fairness within the legal system.
 - Support letters who seek relief from the court and seek to receive services upon their release and routing community members to reintegration support.
 - Voter registration
 - Civic engagement webinars
 - Informs and creates political empowerment.
 - Black representation in civic spaces
 - Policy impact
 - Accountability
 - Community mobilization and connection
 - Voter registration drives
 - Ending decline
 - Coalition leaders

4:00 pm – Public Comment – No public comment

4:10pm – Meeting Adjourned