

Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion
Thursday, April 19, 2018
Executive Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Rogers Johnson, Chair; Andrew Smith, Vice Chair; Dr. Salman Malik; Jose Luna; Marianne Rechy; Sheriff Eliezer Rivera; Devon Chaffee; Allyson Ryder; Elizabeth Lahey (left at 6:30 p.m.); Commissioner Jeff Meyers; Commissioner John Barthelmes; Commissioner Ken Merrifield; Dr. Dottie Morris; Sharon Harris; Chief Douglas Wyman

Absent: Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Pawn Nitichan, James Maggiore

Quorum: Yes

Others Present: Dr. Trinidad Tellez; Lowell C. Matthews

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Rogers asked for a motion to approve the March 8th meeting minutes. Commissioner Myers made the motion to approve the minutes Commissioner Barthelmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mission and Vision

Marianne Rechy provided an overview of the mission and vision statement as presented to the Council. The Chair asked for feedback. Group stated additional thoughts for edits to the proposed mission and vision statements. Additional discussion ensued around all sections.

Allyson Ryder made a motion to approve the mission and vision statement as presented with the edits discussed. Sharon Harris seconded the motion. Sheriff Rivera asked if we could include the norms as part of the approval. Allyson withdrew her original motion.

Sheriff Rivera made a motion to approve the mission, vision, and norms as presented with edits as discussed. Dottie seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Group thanked the working group for their work in bringing this effort to fruition.

By-Laws

Attorney Lahey presented the revised By-Laws to the group. Chair Johnson asked for feedback from the Council. A few clarifying questions were asked. A motion was made by Devon Chaffee to approve the By-Laws as presented with one editorial change. Jose seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Lahey had to leave the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to attend a Nashua NAACP meeting.

Listening Sessions

Devon Chaffee provided an overview of the two listening sessions to date. She noted that we may want to explore some other avenues to get additional feedback. Group discussed different venues and avenues to pursue. Jose Luna offered to help get faith-based communities in attendance at the events. Council agreed that it's appropriate for individuals to attend meetings and/or events, in addition to the larger listening sessions, to gather input from groups across the state. Subcommittee will provide materials and formats for gathering input.

Group looked to explore other outreach options including PSA's on TV and radio.

Next listening session in Claremont was asked to be rescheduled due scheduling conflict with a partner organization. New dates proposed were April 30th or May 1st and will be confirmed shortly. Nashua may be moved to the week of June 4th based on availability of venues and partners. Confirmation on both dates will be made shortly.

Interim Report

Chair Johnson reminded Council that we have our first preliminary report by June 1st.

Chair Rogers Johnson, Chief Wyman, Commissioner Rechy, Devon Chaffee, Elizabeth Lahey, and Allyson Ryder. Group will meet in early May to craft the report. Group will present the preliminary report to the full council on May 17th. The business meeting on the 17th will be moved to Department of Safety at 33 Hazen Drive in Concord.

Legislative Agenda

Group discussed whether we want to consider putting together recommendations for the new legislative session beginning in January, 2019. Council will revisit this item once more data has been collected. Group also briefly discussed seeking a request to become a statutory committee but acknowledged that this will require further exploration.

Other Business

Group will have one more business meeting in June on the 21st at Executive Council Chambers in Concord.

Public Comments

Public stated that being a Governor's Advisory Council through Executive Order can be an effective model

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Department of Safety in Concord at 5:30 p.m.