



CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion
February 8, 2018
New Hampshire Executive Council Chambers
Concord, New Hampshire**

MINUTES

Rogers Johnson, Chairperson
Commissioner John Barthelmes
Devon Chaffee
Commissioner Frank Edelblut
Sharon Harris
Elizabeth Lahey
James Maggiore
Dr. Salman Malik
Commissioner Ken Merrifield
Commissioner Jeff Meyers
Dottie Morris
Pawn Nitichan
Marianne Rechy
Sheriff Eliezer Rivera
Allyson Ryder
Andrew Smith
Chief Douglas Wyman

Board Members

Members Present: Rogers Johnson, Devon Chaffee, Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Sharon Harris, Elizabeth Lahey, James Maggiore, Dr. Salman Malik, Commissioner Ken Merrifield, Commissioner Jeff Meyers, Dottie Morse, Pawn Nitichan, Marianne Rechy, Sheriff Eliezer Rivera, Allyson Ryder, Andrew Smith, Chief Douglas Wyman

Absent: Commissioner John Barthelmes

Quorum: Yes

Others Present: Attorney General Gordon MacDonald, John Formella, James Vara, Dr. Trinidad Tellez, members of the media

Proceedings

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Rogers Johnson, Chair.

Opening Remarks/Introductions

- The Governor opened the meeting with remarks. He called on the council to interface with the new Civil Rights Unit to engage and educate the community. The Governor also called on the council to solicit input from the community and let that input assist it with determining the direction in which it should go. He encouraged the council to create metrics and goals, and to work with similar councils in other states to develop best practices related to equity and inclusion.
- The council members made introductions around the table.
- Rogers Johnson delivered welcome remarks to the council.
- The chair introduced Andrew Smith as the council vice chair. Mr. Smith delivered remarks to the council.

Discussion regarding meeting schedule:

The membership discussed setting a regular meeting schedule. The council discussed scheduling regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month. However, the Council agreed that the next meeting would be February 22, 2018.

Listening sessions:

The council discussed the Governor's request that the council host public listening sessions throughout the State. The chair stated that he wanted to host the first such event at the University of New Hampshire in March 2018. Members of the council questioned whether the council should first clearly define its mission, goals, and vision prior to hosting such events. To address these issues, the chair did as follows:

1. Convened a group comprised of Rogers Johnson, Dottie Morse, Devon Chaffee, and Andrew Smith to plan a listening session at the University of New Hampshire; and
2. Convened a group comprised on Pawn Nitichan, Marianne Rechy, and Andrew Smith to begin drafting the advisory council's mission statement and objectives.

The chair then scheduled the listening session at the University of New Hampshire for March 8, 2018.

Other business:

RSA 91-A questions: Elizabeth Lahey raised the question of whether listening sessions would constitute a "public meeting" pursuant to RSA 91-A. She indicated that she would look into this question and report upon it at the next meeting.

Council Governance: Pawn Nitichan suggested that Elizabeth Lahey create governance documents to discuss at the next meeting.

Subcommittee: The chair proposed creating a subcommittee related to training. He proposed that Andrew Smith chair that committee.

Dr. Trinidad Telez addressed the council. She introduced herself as the Director of the Office of Health Equity (formerly Office of Minority Health & Refugee Affairs) at the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services. She stated that she plans to attend all meetings and will fill in for Commissioner Meyers when he is unavailable. Dr. Tellez questioned whether Executive Order 2017-09 requires the council hold its regular meetings in different areas of the State, as had been stated earlier in the meeting. She also stated that the council must be explicit and deliberate about providing accommodations at future events, including the listening sessions, particularly for those with vision and hearing impairments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Next meeting: February 22, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Hampshire Executive Council Chambers

Minutes submitted by: /s/ Elizabeth Lahey
Elizabeth A. Lahey

February 23, 2018