

**State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights**  
**Commission Meeting**  
**February 14, 2017 – 10am**  
**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Shawn M. Wright, Esq., Chairperson; Roberto N. Allen, Esq.; Laura Esquivel, Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA; Rabbi Binyamin Marwick; DeWayne Wickham

**Present via Conference Call:** Naima Said; Dominique S. Moore, Esq.

**Management Present:** Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Cleveland L. Horton, II, Deputy Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel

**Staff Present:** S. Spencer Dove, Executive Associate; Tara Taylor, Director of Education & Outreach; Tashella Smith, Education & Outreach Unit Intern

ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION
<b>Call to Order</b>	1. Meeting called to order at 10:06 am	Meeting opened.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	1. Motion to approve the January 2017 meeting minutes made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Wickham; motion carries unanimously.	Minutes approved.
<b>Chairperson's Report</b>	1. Reviewed the meeting's agenda.	None.
<b>Executive Director's Report</b>	1. Looking forward to 2017, Outreach is the focus of the agency. The Education & Outreach Unit has been incredibly successful with connecting with communities around the State, and Legal has played a critical role in furthering that success. Staff have been encouraged to participate in Outreach, and response has been positive. Met last week with the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to discuss how MCCR can better serve the community. We no longer want to be a hidden asset, we want to be out there so that people know who we are and the services we provide. 2. Staff finalizing the piloting of Advisory Councils. This is in response to MCCR's Strategic Plan to cover underserved areas across Maryland. Current target for the pilot is the Eastern Shore of Maryland, from Kent County south. 3. Participated in the National Fair Housing Training Academy's Leadership Institute in California. 4. Incredibly proud of MCCR staff for all of their work to get MCCR out in the community.	None.
<b>Deputy Director's Report</b>	1. Reviewed submitted written report. 2. Deputy Director provided an overview of the structure, focus, and objectives of the Advisory Council pilot program. Commissioners and staff discuss how the Advisory Councils will serve MCCR, especially with the recent closures of field offices in Salisbury and Hagerstown. 3. Commissioners will formulate questions to share with staff regarding Advisory Council composition	Further Information Requested.

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	and functions. Staff will return to the Commissioners with additional information on the structure and operations for the Advisory Council pilot program as details are more finalized.	
<b>Assistant Director's Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewed submitted written report.</li> <li>2. 3 vacancies in the agency. One position in the Administration Unit is filled. Agency aggressively recruiting to fill remaining vacancies.</li> <li>3. Discussed analysis of the agency by the Department of Legislative Services – DLS concurred with the Governor's budgetary allowance. MCCR appeared before the subcommittees in the Senate and House to respond to analysis.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>General Counsel's Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewed submitted written report.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>Education &amp; Outreach Director's Report</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maryland Equity &amp; Inclusion Leadership Program launches next month. Received new sponsorships from M&amp;T Bank, Johns Hopkins University, and Anne E. Casey Foundation.</li> <li>2. Introduced E&amp;O Intern to Commissioners.</li> <li>3. Commissioners voiced a strong interest in further discussing MCCR making a statement or taking a position on matters, such as the President's Executive Orders impacting the Muslim community and actions against immigrants. Commissioners to discuss further on Thursday.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>Executive Session</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>New Business</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion and vote on House Bill 919, which amends MCCR's Title 19 (Commercial Non-Discrimination Policy). Legislation spells out additional protected class covered throughout the Title. Legislation also prohibits contractors from having Boards of Directors that are formed based on discriminatory criteria, as prescribed by the protected classes listed in the legislation. Commission votes to support the bill 7 to 1, with 1 Commissioner taking no position (roll-call vote below).</li> </ol>	Commission votes to support HB919.
<b>Good &amp; Welfare</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. None.</li> </ol>	None.
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjourned 12:10pm.</li> </ol>	Adjourned.

**House Bill 919 Roll-Call Vote**

Support: Commissioners Esquivel, Wickham, McKnight-Smith, Wright, Moore, Said, Norman; Oppose: Commissioner Allen;

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No Position: Commissioner Marwick