

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
July 12, 2022 – 10am
Meeting Held by Google Hangouts Meet
MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Stephanie Suerth, MPA, CCEP, Chairperson; Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq., Vice Chairperson; Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA; Eileen M. Levitt, SPHR, SHRM-SCP; Magdalena S. Navarro, MSc,

Management Present: Alvin O. Gillard, Executive Director; Cleveland L. Horton II, Deputy Director; Glendora C. Hughes, General Counsel; Kara N. Hunt, PhD, Director of Education & Outreach

Staff Present: Gerald T. Ford, Executive Associate; Alesha Bell, Investigative Unit Supervisor

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am

Meeting Minutes from the May and June meetings were approved with no discussion

Chairperson's Report

The Chair will schedule a strategy meeting with the Vice Chair and the Executive Director and loop in the entire Board to strategize on how best to support MCCR in moving forward.

Executive Director's Report

- Thanked Chair Suerth for her leadership and her willingness to reach out to him and staff regarding strategy and the overall work of the Commission.
- Also, the Executive Director made a plea to the Commissioners to help market and support the Gala.
- The Attorney General's office was successful in getting a grant for the following purpose:
 - create a Hate Crimes Task Force comprised of law enforcement, civil rights agencies, and community-based organizations.
 - develop a statewide hate crime web portal; conduct regional hate crime summits; and train law enforcement and prosecutors in an effort to promote a comprehensive response to address hate crimes.
 - MCCR has and will continue to play a role in crafting & implementing the deliverables of the grant

Deputy Director's Report

- For the month of June, we brought in 65 complaints
 - 48 employment

- 16 housing
 - 1 public accommodations
- A total of 14 abortions for the month of June
- Housing and PA units,
 - 143 open housing cases.
 - Average number of days open is 234 days.
 - 16 open Title XX only cases with an average of 356 days
 - 35 open PA cases with the average number of days over 544 days
 - In June, Housing unit closed 12 cases with a total monetary settlement of approximately \$13,000.
- Employment
 - As of June 1, 308 open employment cases
 - Approximately 286 employment cases in backlog status
 - Average number of days open for employment cases is 420 days
 - During the month of June, closed 44 employment cases with a total monetary benefit of \$10,900.

General Counsel's Report

- Cases;
 - Rowe case, on 6/15/22 Ms. Rowe filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the MD Court of Appeals. In order to bolster their argument, the complainant had several advocacy groups to sign off on the Writ stating there is no review of the Commission's decisions and therefore they allege there is no oversight. However, the regulations state your right to review is through the Circuit Court for any "no probable cause" findings from the Commission. MCCR filed its brief in response to the petition.
 - Glen Fallin, Et Al. case: Case filed in Harford County Circuit Court against the Executive Director and one of the supervisors. The lawyer has never properly served MCCR, the lawyer filed in Harford County, but we are in Baltimore city. The attorney in question is believed to be disbarred at this time. The case was dismissed and he's asking the court to vacate their dismissal and reinstate his claim. The hearing is scheduled for July 21st. MCCR have prepared and will be filing a complaint with Bar Council against the lawyer for practicing law without a license.

Assistant Director's Report

- No report, due to the vacancy of this position.

Director of Education & Outreach's Report

- Events Attended

- Pride month events (Annapolis and Baltimore)
 - Juneteenth @ Prince Georges County
 - Older Americans Festival @ Prince Georges County
- Upcoming Events
 - National Night Out (Washington and Allegany Counties)
- Trainings and Outreach
 - Added two new programs
 - Workshop on inclusive language
 - Safer Spaces (formerly safe spaces)
 - First one to be held July 18 for a government agency
- Young Scholars Program
 - Still negotiating creating a program in Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Western Maryland Advisory Council
 - Scheduled to have the Mayor of Frederick at the next WMAC meeting.
 - Still working on two major efforts
 - Contact Law enforcement agencies at the local and county levels to inquire as to their hate bias reporting process and how they classify certain crimes as hate bias incidents.
 - Creating a resource list for individuals who may be experiencing housing insecurity, public accommodations discrimination or employment discrimination.
- **Old/New Business**
 - The Chair will follow-up on conversations that have begun around how the Commissioners can support and be more active in the areas of;
 - Outreach and social media
 - Establishing policies and developing strategic partnerships, (Chair would like to put together a small subcommittee on Policy).

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.