

WEBVTT

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00:00:03.020 --> 00:00:04.320

Spencer Dove: It's all yours.

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00:00:04.510 --> 00:00:23.439

Janssen Evelyn: All right. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Commissioners. Good morning, staff. My name is Jansen for the record. My name is Jansen Evelyn, the vice chair of the Maryland Commission, Mccr. And I'm kicking it off in place of chair. Stephanie, I just want to do a quick roll call again. My name is Jansen Evelyn.

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00:00:24.480 --> 00:00:25.570

Janssen Evelyn: Commissioners.

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00:00:27.490 --> 00:00:29.379

Eileen Levitt: Commissioner Eileen Levitt.

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00:00:30.460 --> 00:00:31.379

Janssen Evelyn: How are you?

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00:00:32.040 --> 00:00:32.960

Eileen Levitt: Awesome.

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00:00:33.140 --> 00:00:34.909

noah metheny: Commissioner Noah Matheny.

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00:00:36.370 --> 00:00:37.280

Janssen Evelyn: How are you?

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00:00:37.740 --> 00:00:39.560

Angela J. Scott: Commissioner, Angela Scott.

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00:00:40.930 --> 00:00:44.589

Janssen Evelyn: Morning again, ma'am, is that it.

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00:00:44.590 --> 00:00:46.639

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Commissioner Jeff Rosen.

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00:00:46.810 --> 00:00:49.080

Janssen Evelyn: Okay, perfect. Hi, Jeff, how are you?

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00:00:51.070 --> 00:00:51.940
Cleveland Horton: Good morning.

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00:00:51.940 --> 00:00:55.269
Cleveland Horton: Good good morning, everybody. Cleveland Horton, executive director.

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00:00:55.580 --> 00:00:56.890
Janssen Evelyn: How are you doing, Cleveland?

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00:00:57.428 --> 00:00:59.581
Cleveland Horton: How you doing, Jansen?

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00:01:00.120 --> 00:01:01.499
Janssen Evelyn: Channel on a Tuesday.

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00:01:03.780 --> 00:01:05.770
Glendora.Hughes: Glendor, Hughes, General counsel.

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00:01:07.500 --> 00:01:08.470
Janssen Evelyn: Be esteemed.

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00:01:09.810 --> 00:01:11.509
Gina McKnight-Smith: Good morning, everyone.

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00:01:12.010 --> 00:01:13.349
Yolanda F. Sonnier: Oh, go ahead! Gina!

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00:01:13.350 --> 00:01:16.069
Gina McKnight-Smith: Just say, good morning, everyone. It's Gina.

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00:01:16.310 --> 00:01:17.380
Janssen Evelyn: Good morning, Gina.

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00:01:19.810 --> 00:01:23.940
Janssen Evelyn: Don't be shy. You guys act like we don't know each other. Staff, introduce yourself.

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00:01:24.670 --> 00:01:31.280
Yolanda F. Sonnier: Good morning, everyone! I was making sure all the commissioners went. Good morning, everyone. I'm Yolanda Sonya. I'm the deputy director.

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00:01:32.060 --> 00:01:32.500

Janssen Evelyn: Thank you.

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00:01:32.500 --> 00:01:35.500

Spencer Dove: Answered our special assistant to the executive director.

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00:01:37.090 --> 00:01:40.629

Alesha.Bell: And good morning. Everyone, Alicia Bell, Civil Rights Supervisor.

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00:01:43.410 --> 00:02:03.750

Janssen Evelyn: That may be it. I'm not seeing any. Normally. This is the time period. We would open it for any public comment. But being in 10 0. 4 on a Tuesday, and seeing someone from the public present, I would imagine that there's no one I'll I'll give space for that. If there is anyone that wants to comment from the public.

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00:02:05.020 --> 00:02:06.630

Janssen Evelyn: hearing none.

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00:02:06.630 --> 00:02:08.889

Cleveland Horton: We don't have anyone from the public on the call.

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00:02:09.229 --> 00:02:11.698

Janssen Evelyn: Alright! Excellent! Well, no, not excellent.

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00:02:13.070 --> 00:02:15.299

Janssen Evelyn: We want to change that.

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00:02:15.986 --> 00:02:17.080

Glendora.Hughes: Is it.

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00:02:17.080 --> 00:02:19.549

Eileen Levitt: Excellent that you didn't miss it.

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00:02:19.550 --> 00:02:21.310

Janssen Evelyn: Yes, excellent!

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00:02:21.310 --> 00:02:21.680

Janssen Evelyn: I know

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00:02:21.680 --> 00:02:39.729

Janssen Evelyn: the agenda that Spencer laid out so beautifully. I see that there's a chairperson's report as she's not here. I'm not going to freestyle and waste anyone's time, so I'll just transition and pivot straight to staff reports over to you. Executive director.

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00:02:39.960 --> 00:02:50.130

Cleveland Horton: Oh, I appreciate it. Thank you, Commissioner Evelyn. Good morning, everybody. My report will be somewhat brief. I really just want to give a

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00:02:50.711 --> 00:02:57.039

Cleveland Horton: shout out to our newly appointed deputy director. I know we kind of introduced her officially last month.

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00:02:57.200 --> 00:02:59.790

Cleveland Horton: but I really just want to acknowledge

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00:03:01.060 --> 00:03:09.270

Cleveland Horton: the hard work that she's put in since she became the deputy here at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. So I do want to

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00:03:09.310 --> 00:03:13.659

Cleveland Horton: acknowledge. You know, Yolanda Saunier, for

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00:03:13.690 --> 00:03:30.530

Cleveland Horton: the amount of work and hours that she has put in since being appointed as as the deputy. It's always a good opportunity. When you bring in a new staff, you get a new set of eyes to really take a look at processes to ensure that we are being

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00:03:30.862 --> 00:03:44.829

Cleveland Horton: as efficient as we can be. She has brought with her a a high level of accountability that I think will be a true asset to our agency. So I just wanted to start off my report by just

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00:03:44.850 --> 00:03:51.030

Cleveland Horton: is saying, Thank you to Yolanda for one choosing our agency

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00:03:51.373 --> 00:04:20.239

Cleveland Horton: and really just being the the constant professional and hard worker that she is, I think she is. I think we've spent some very late nights and weekends over the last few weeks, just trying to make sure that we're doing things in order. So I just want to just give her a shout out and just say, Thank you, and we appreciate the hard work that you've done thus far. And we look forward to the continued commitment and dedication from you that this entire agency will benefit from

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00:04:21.250 --> 00:04:22.360

Janssen Evelyn: Cleveland, just.

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00:04:22.360 --> 00:04:22.900

Cleveland Horton: Yes.

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00:04:23.324 --> 00:04:35.629

Janssen Evelyn: Thanks for saying that and sharing that with the with the Commissioners. I've heard a lot about Yolanda Sonnier. I know her reputation precedes her, and I know that

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00:04:35.810 --> 00:04:45.029

Janssen Evelyn: whoever she's this I've heard she's a superstar, so I know she's going to continue to shine, and I heard that she's from like Englewood. Is that accurate, Miss Sonya?

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00:04:47.740 --> 00:04:49.020

Janssen Evelyn: So she's always.

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00:04:49.020 --> 00:04:52.529

Cleveland Horton: Where you from your lot. Tell her where you tell her where you're from your lot. Come on.

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00:04:52.530 --> 00:04:53.460

Janssen Evelyn: We'll set you up.

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00:04:53.460 --> 00:04:58.050

Yolanda F. Sonnier: He. He knows where I'm from, and he's trying to be funny. But yes, I

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00:04:58.050 --> 00:05:02.980

Yolanda F. Sonnier: I'm proud of my Englewood, California born and raised. Yes, I am.

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00:05:05.320 --> 00:05:06.000

Yolanda F. Sonnier: You can take.

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00:05:06.000 --> 00:05:11.729

Yolanda F. Sonnier: You can take the woman out of Englewood, but Inglewood is always there in in spirit and heart.

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00:05:11.730 --> 00:05:12.299

Janssen Evelyn: Hold up!

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00:05:13.195 --> 00:05:13.965

Cleveland Horton: That's right.

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00:05:19.400 --> 00:05:20.409

Cleveland Horton: Report.

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00:05:22.240 --> 00:05:25.109

Cleveland Horton: I also want to. I know that.

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00:05:25.640 --> 00:05:54.450

Cleveland Horton: you know. Formerly we had the Maryland Equity and Inclusion leadership program. We have transitioned away from that we had transitioned away from the University of Baltimore and partnering with them with that program, reason being, we took a look at the Budget for the program the program was bringing in about \$100,000. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights was only getting about \$15,000. Of that the other 85,000 was going to the University of Baltimore.

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00:05:54.560 --> 00:06:15.179

Cleveland Horton: and our Education Outreach department was doing the lion's share of the work. We attempted to have a conversation with the University of Baltimore about kind of reallocating some of the funds, because I just wasn't comfortable with the allocation of the funding, and as a result of that conversation they were not amenable to doing so.

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00:06:15.180 --> 00:06:37.149

Cleveland Horton: So we have moved away from that partnership. We have created the Maryland leadership and advocacy program, which will be the Mlap program which will be our own version of that program. That will give us the flexibility to take this program around to multiple campuses and not just be tied to one particular college or university.

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00:06:37.150 --> 00:06:58.479

Cleveland Horton: We will be starting this with some of our hbcus here in the State, and then kind of spreading it out with other colleges and universities. But we do think, with the current platform that we'll have, that this program will be much more flexible to us. And again, not tie us to one particular college university and allow us to spread this out and then create a more diverse

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00:06:58.480 --> 00:07:07.920

Cleveland Horton: cohorts amongst these different colleges and universities as we move throughout the State. So we wanted to kind of update you all the tentative plan for our 1st cohort

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00:07:08.300 --> 00:07:31.570

Cleveland Horton: under this new Mlat program will be tentatively sometime February of 2026. Candace and her team right now are working on finalizing or creating and finalizing the curriculum for that program, and we will kind of update you all. As we continue to move forward, we are going to have some open house virtual sessions, where we will talk about the program.

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00:07:31.770 --> 00:07:49.620

Cleveland Horton: get some interest and kind of garner interest for the program, also to hear suggestions from past alumni in reference to things that we could do. As we continue to try to improve the program. Moving forward. Those sessions are slated for April 4th and April 16th

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00:07:49.943 --> 00:08:13.919

Cleveland Horton: As of right. Now, there'll be more information that will come out in reference to those virtual kind of Open House sessions for us to talk about the program, solicit feedback and things of that nature. Spencer and Candace will be sending that information out shortly. So definitely be on the lookout for that information. It's April 4, th which is a Friday, April 16, th is a Wednesday. Both of those Open House virtual sessions will be at one Pm.

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00:08:14.120 --> 00:08:26.859

Cleveland Horton: So if if any of you are available to attend, please feel free to to attend any of those sessions, we are also in the process of re, kind of Re. Go ahead. I'm sorry, Commissioner Evelyn.

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00:08:26.860 --> 00:08:28.970

Janssen Evelyn: Yeah, I was curious you.

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00:08:29.290 --> 00:08:37.190

Janssen Evelyn: So is this something that we, as a new funding proposal, or you will be able to absorb the costs with our current, like operating expenses.

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00:08:37.190 --> 00:08:47.640

Cleveland Horton: Yeah, the the program is always paid for itself, right? And that's still the intent, because it's not a free program so it will be a cost to attend the program, and through those funds the program will pay for itself.

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00:08:48.070 --> 00:08:57.299

Janssen Evelyn: Okay? And and when you're saying that we held that hbcus initially, will these be happening contemporaneously? Or will it be one program then going to another university, then.

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00:08:57.300 --> 00:09:07.820

Cleveland Horton: Yeah, it'll be different cohorts like the 1st cohort. Maybe, for instance, at Morgan State University, right? The next cohort might be a copy State University the following, that their cohort might be a University of Maryland, right so.

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00:09:07.820 --> 00:09:08.180

Janssen Evelyn: Okay.

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00:09:08.180 --> 00:09:15.259

Cleveland Horton: We'll spread out that way so they won't be happening simultaneously. But we'll do different cohorts at different colleges and universities at different times.

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00:09:15.260 --> 00:09:19.890

Janssen Evelyn: And it's the same length as the original program, or it's a bit more truncated.

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00:09:20.174 --> 00:09:38.980

Cleveland Horton: That's what that's what they were kind of creating and really defining what that will look like right now. We think it will probably still be about the same. But I can't, you know, again, commit to that right now, because Candace is still kind of creating that program. But it will be very similar in length to what the previous program was.

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00:09:39.380 --> 00:09:55.679

Janssen Evelyn: I mean, I just know this is a speaking for myself. This sounds like a really great idea, and it's a way to one not just bring more exposure to Mccr, but also to expand the scope and the impact of that leadership program. So yeah, great idea.

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00:09:55.920 --> 00:09:56.480

Cleveland Horton: Yep.

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00:09:56.960 --> 00:10:07.710

Cleveland Horton: we are also in the process of kind of reinstituting our civil rights coalition. We had this, probably back in 2,014, 2,015 timeframe.

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00:10:07.710 --> 00:10:10.350

Janssen Evelyn: Can you give us some background? What the civil rights coalition is.

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00:10:10.350 --> 00:10:30.149

Cleveland Horton: Yep, yep. So when we initially started the Civil Rights coalition, it really was an opportunity for us to bring together human and civil rights agencies throughout the entire State right to talk about some of the challenges and issues pertaining to different communities, right? Whether it was Lgbtq, whether it was race, whatever the whether it was religion

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00:10:30.220 --> 00:10:34.009

Cleveland Horton: for us to really talk about as a group? How do we address these issues?

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00:10:34.020 --> 00:10:51.289

Cleveland Horton: Part of the problem that we had during our kind of 1st iteration of the Civil Rights Coalition was who was going to lead the Coalition right, and who was going to make sure that from a leadership standpoint we continued to have the Coalition. The Coalition continued to thrive on its own absent.

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00:10:51.290 --> 00:11:14.959

Cleveland Horton: having to have direct leadership from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. So it kind of fizzled itself out. In short, nature. So right now, because of the times that we find ourselves, and we know that right now, more than any of our recent times, that collaboration is at the utmost importance right now. And how do we collaborate? How do we? How do we show up in solidarity around issues? Right? Whether it's a

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00:11:14.960 --> 00:11:36.499

Cleveland Horton: Lgbtq issues right? And you may be part of an organization that focuses on religion issues. But how do you still show support in some way to those issues impacting the Lgbtq community, right? Or the deaf and hard of hearing community? Right? Or, you know, black individuals, black and brown individuals. So we want to make sure that we're creating a coalition

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00:11:36.530 --> 00:11:59.739

Cleveland Horton: of individuals who are willing to show up and support all issues, irregardless of what their main focus or main primary issue is within their organization. We also want to make sure, through this new reiteration, that we're not just meeting to meet to say, Hey, we all get together monthly or quarterly, and we talk, and then we kind of all go back to our silos.

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00:11:59.740 --> 00:12:24.080

Cleveland Horton: We want to make sure that through this coalition that we're developing a strategic plan, a plan of

action, and there will be accountability and follow up through this coalition. So folks understand that it's not just. We're not just coming together to talk. We're coming together to do something. So we want to make sure, as we can continue to move forward and think about this civil rights coalition, that we keep that top of mind. The civil rights coalition will also be

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00:12:24.360 --> 00:12:40.150

Cleveland Horton: a point of conversation during those open House virtual sessions that we talked about on April 4th and April 16, th because we again, we are going to be soliciting feedback for individuals to talk about what are some of the things they would want to see in the civil rights coalition, so that as we continue to kind of

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00:12:40.230 --> 00:12:56.360

Cleveland Horton: craft this and draft this new iteration that we can make sure that we include those things as we move forward. So those are probably 2 of the the top programs and services that we're working on at the moment. So I know Candace and her team are are

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00:12:56.360 --> 00:13:21.330

Cleveland Horton: kind of embedded in creating this, creating the curriculum for the Mlab program. And at the same time, you know, I know me and Spencer kind of working on drafting. We already have bylaws from before we're taking a look at those as an entire leadership team taking things out, adding things in. And then we'll be soliciting input, from, you know, other organizations in reference to what they would want to see in this civil rights coalition so that we can make sure there's value for everybody that's

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00:13:21.330 --> 00:13:23.990

Cleveland Horton: want to be a part of this civil rights coalition. Moving forward.

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00:13:25.890 --> 00:13:31.000

Janssen Evelyn: I'm curious. But this is this is not just gonna be like local government agencies.

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00:13:31.000 --> 00:13:31.330

Cleveland Horton: No.

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00:13:31.330 --> 00:13:39.809

Janssen Evelyn: Nonprofit. So that's why it's that's how it's gonna be different from some of the other coalitions of human rights agencies that are like that you guys are all a part of already.

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00:13:39.810 --> 00:14:09.610

Cleveland Horton: Correct. It's going to be across the board. Right? Governmental agencies, local nonprofit advocacy organizations, the whole gamut around human and civil rights. So we just want to make sure that we have a diverse group of individuals who are committed to really being a resource and support for all the issues and not just their particular issue. Right? We recognize that now we talk about, how do we address these issues that are happening? Now? We know that we are more powerful if we address these issues collectively

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00:14:09.610 --> 00:14:13.809

Cleveland Horton: right and together. And how do we create a coalition that is going to allow?

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00:14:15.320 --> 00:14:25.019

Cleveland Horton: Do that and use a collective voice to again speak out on issues, talk about different things, develop plans to address certain issues. So that's what we're trying to do with through the civil rights coalition.

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00:14:25.020 --> 00:14:31.510

Janssen Evelyn: That's a great idea. I guess, because so many things happen on a national level and so quickly. And it's

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00:14:32.080 --> 00:14:37.450

Janssen Evelyn: it's like something different every day. What's your timeframe? For standing this up.

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00:14:38.061 --> 00:14:43.380

Cleveland Horton: We like to have it up by the beginning of the fiscal year, which is July one. So that's our plan.

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00:14:44.910 --> 00:14:45.640

Cleveland Horton: Yep.

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00:14:46.335 --> 00:14:54.879

Cleveland Horton: and with that I will take. If anyone has any any questions for me I'd be. I'd be happy to answer any additional questions that that you all may have.

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00:14:57.310 --> 00:15:02.419

Cleveland Horton: I'm glad to see you're feeling well. You're feeling better, Gina, I think last time you were a little under the weather, so.

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00:15:04.760 --> 00:15:10.310

Janssen Evelyn: I'd have to say. These are both great ideas. I don't know if any commissioners have any other comments or questions.

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00:15:13.340 --> 00:15:14.620

Janssen Evelyn: hearing none.

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00:15:14.770 --> 00:15:17.909

Cleveland Horton: Cool. With that I will pass it off to our deputy director.

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00:15:19.110 --> 00:15:35.919

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Thank you, and good morning again, everyone, and thank you, Cleveland, for the kind words I appreciate being able to be in leadership here at the Commission and to work with all of you commissioners. I am continuing to

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00:15:35.940 --> 00:15:52.630

Yolanda F. Sonnier: learn all the processes and procedures that the Commission operates underneath. I am examining, you know, each of our units, and kind of going through everything to make sure that I learned before. You know we

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00:15:53.270 --> 00:16:05.509

Yolanda F. Sonnier: you know, before giving suggestions of change. You know, some things we doing really well. A lot of things we're doing really well. And then other things we could change to be more efficient. And so

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00:16:06.160 --> 00:16:30.209

Yolanda F. Sonnier: I am thankful. And I'm looking forward to working with each of you. You did receive a copy or the report of our case process and data. I'm not going to go through it. But if you have any questions about it, please let me know. But we continue to investigate closed cases, and we continue to have

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00:16:30.886 --> 00:16:41.579

Yolanda F. Sonnier: you know, people that are coming to the Commission to have their matters investigated. So I will leave my report at that, unless you have any questions.

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00:16:44.150 --> 00:16:49.490

Janssen Evelyn: Yolanda. I don't have any questions about the report. Thank you for that. My only question is, I know that.

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00:16:49.660 --> 00:17:10.399

Janssen Evelyn: like, How how will Mccr. Potentially be impacted by you know whether it's money that comes from HUD. Any other Federal agencies for especially like housing accommodation or whatnot? Is that something that you guys are already anticipating or planning for.

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00:17:10.810 --> 00:17:26.569

Yolanda F. Sonnier: So I'll start the answer to that. And if Cleveland has anything else he wants to offer, what I will say is right now. We haven't been impacted. Of course, you know that the Commission with both the Eeoc and HUD contracts

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00:17:26.630 --> 00:17:55.770

Yolanda F. Sonnier: we receive. I don't know if it's about 25% to 30% is of our budget comes from those federal contracts. We have not received any word that anything is changing from those contracts at this point, but I think that we sit and wait like a number of other people that have contracts with Federal entities. And so, Cleveland, I don't know if there's anything additional that you want to offer.

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00:17:56.470 --> 00:18:08.288

Cleveland Horton: No, I think I think that's that. That's really it. I think that one of the things that we ha we are currently doing is anticipating a budget cut right? We know that initially. With this administration

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00:18:08.600 --> 00:18:28.999

Cleveland Horton: there was a pressing need to freeze all Federal funding right that has since been somewhat lifted through preliminary litigation. What we do anticipate happening is that although they could not freeze the funds for those current contracts.

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00:18:29.000 --> 00:18:48.379

Cleveland Horton: we are anticipating that as we enter into these new fiscal years with new contracts, that there's a high potential, that whether it's the amount per case or the total amount of our contracts will be decreased to what level we really don't know yet, right?

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00:18:48.380 --> 00:19:04.630

Cleveland Horton: And I think for us that's kind of like the the 1 million dollar question, how much will it be? Right? So I think for us it's not a question of if it's going to be decreased. It's really about how much is it going to be decreased? So we are working. Excuse me with the Administration

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00:19:04.910 --> 00:19:20.380

Cleveland Horton: to identify, and and Nicolette has sent over to them because there's a spreadsheet going around for all the agencies to input the amount of Federal dollars that we currently are getting from our Federal partners, so that the Administration knows, in the event of a

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00:19:20.400 --> 00:19:43.310

Cleveland Horton: overall Federal freeze. What's going to be the impact to the agencies? So we are working with the Administration to do that. We also know that in the event that there's a significant decrease, that the State will be trying to figure out how they can provide supplemental budget increases to those agencies are impacted by any sort of Federal

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00:19:43.310 --> 00:20:00.599

Cleveland Horton: Federal fund, freeze or Federal fund cut, so we will continue to communicate with them. Right now we are meeting on a monthly basis. I am meeting with all the agencies to talk about, kind of where we are, and all of us really are in the same position right now we're waiting to see

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00:20:00.600 --> 00:20:14.029

Cleveland Horton: what will be the overall impact as we enter into these new contracts. These new fiscal years in reference to what the Federal funding will be like. So, as many of you all we are.

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00:20:14.230 --> 00:20:39.719

Cleveland Horton: Excuse me, we are also eagerly waiting to see what happens by Friday with this Federal, the impending Federal shutdown, to see what that will look like, what is going to be. If there is a Federal Government shutdown, what the length of time will be for that. Now, historically, we haven't been impacted financially through a Federal government shutdown. Normally, any

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00:20:39.800 --> 00:21:02.279

Cleveland Horton: cases that we submit we are reimbursed for those cases. Once the Federal Government opens back up. So we haven't lost any Federal funds historically, through a Federal Government shutdown. So, but we are just kind of waiting to see what this shutdown will look like. The impact of it, the duration of it, if there is one. So we are keeping our eyes on that as well.

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00:21:03.130 --> 00:21:32.550

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Cleveland. The only thing that I will add to, even though not financial. If there is a Federal shutdown, our partners at Eeoc and HUD won't be available for us to consult with because if they are, you know, furloughed, and they, you know, they can't communicate with us about any cases or anything impacting the contractor or the cases that we're investigating. So that's the only other impact that we may have.

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00:21:33.080 --> 00:21:33.650

Cleveland Horton: Good.

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00:21:35.300 --> 00:21:36.699

Janssen Evelyn: Thank you for that. Update.

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00:21:37.450 --> 00:21:38.410

Yolanda F. Sonnier: Thank you

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00:21:41.900 --> 00:21:46.250

Yolanda F. Sonnier: who's next for for their report, unless there were any other questions for me.

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00:21:47.040 --> 00:21:50.230

Cleveland Horton: If no other, no other questions, we'll pass it off to Glen Door.

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00:21:51.900 --> 00:22:03.889

Glendora.Hughes: Good morning, everyone. I think we had someone join the meeting after we did the roll call need to identify for the record. I think, Miss Strong.

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00:22:09.070 --> 00:22:13.889

Glendora.Hughes: can can you identify yourself for the for the record we're recording? We have to keep attendance.

138

00:22:18.550 --> 00:22:20.050

Glendora.Hughes: Okay? So.

139

00:22:20.050 --> 00:22:21.010

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: Yes.

140

00:22:21.270 --> 00:22:22.299

Glendora.Hughes: Okay. Thank you.

141

00:22:22.300 --> 00:22:26.358

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: Storm storm. Okay, it's it's spelt backwards.

142

00:22:26.840 --> 00:22:27.940

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: ST.

143

00:22:28.150 --> 00:22:29.690

Glendora.Hughes: Oh, I apologize.

144

00:22:29.690 --> 00:22:30.490

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: From sorry.

145

00:22:30.490 --> 00:22:31.220

Glendora.Hughes: We have.

146

00:22:31.540 --> 00:22:33.279

Glendora.Hughes: Okay, thank you.

147

00:22:36.260 --> 00:22:42.329

Glendora.Hughes: For my report. Most of my report will have to be done in executive session

148

00:22:42.670 --> 00:22:45.380

Glendora.Hughes: to discuss several cases.

149

00:22:47.470 --> 00:22:55.859

Glendora.Hughes: And you have my report in terms of my activities. For the month of February.

150

00:22:59.900 --> 00:23:07.650

Glendora.Hughes: we've been meeting with delegates during session to discuss some of these bills that we had some question marks about

151

00:23:09.340 --> 00:23:35.370

Glendora.Hughes: For instance, we were talking about the bill that dealt with them, creating a commission on nondiscrimination, so we made sure we spoke with the delegate to get a sense of what that bill was about, and and register our concern, and we submitted testimony to a letter of concern to explain

152

00:23:35.980 --> 00:23:48.390

Glendora.Hughes: why we thought that it was something that would be redundant, and that it become that this Commission already has the authority under

153

00:23:48.530 --> 00:23:56.969

Glendora.Hughes: the statute to do studies and surveys, which is what this bill was going to do with this newly created commission.

154

00:23:57.280 --> 00:24:01.690

Glendora.Hughes: and we didn't want to have any conflict or confusion.

155

00:24:01.890 --> 00:24:13.500

Glendora.Hughes: So we pointed that out that perhaps what they're trying to achieve could be done by enhancing the areas that you all can hold

156

00:24:13.640 --> 00:24:26.779

Glendora.Hughes: studies and surveys on, because right now, and presently it's just limited to race, and it should be expanded to other protected classes, such as disability, such as

157

00:24:28.100 --> 00:24:32.499

Glendora.Hughes: of Lgbtq, such as religion, etc.

158

00:24:32.610 --> 00:24:44.360

Glendora.Hughes: So that was one of the recommendations that we suggested to the delegate. We'll see if it it does reach the point of being addressed.

159

00:24:45.550 --> 00:24:48.709

Glendora.Hughes: As far as legislation.

160

00:24:48.880 --> 00:24:57.139

Glendora.Hughes: So far none of the bills have really made it to vote. I think crossover is when Spencer.

161

00:24:57.440 --> 00:25:02.919

Spencer Dove: March 17.th So I I think this is the week the holding pattern might finally break.

162

00:25:04.530 --> 00:25:30.429

Glendora.Hughes: and then we'll probably see some movement in some of the legislation and we'll be able to report some of the potential votes on some of the bills that we've discussed on Thursday morning, and the positions that we took, and we'll hopefully the next meeting we'll be able. Well, we'll be doing the roundup of the next meeting of the session to let you know what passed, what didn't

163

00:25:30.990 --> 00:25:39.390

Glendora.Hughes: and what areas of hopefully, there's not any areas of concern that we have to to look at.

164

00:25:41.800 --> 00:25:43.980

Glendora.Hughes: And that

165

00:25:44.090 --> 00:25:51.950

Glendora.Hughes: pretty much is, you know, you have my report, and I will go in detail with some of our cases when we go into executive session.

166

00:25:52.680 --> 00:25:55.170

Janssen Evelyn: Glendor. The only question I have is

167

00:25:55.682 --> 00:26:05.739

Janssen Evelyn: the the one the one meeting you had with the delegate regarding the commission they're trying to do did they seem to be receptive of your concerns.

168

00:26:07.050 --> 00:26:14.880

Glendora.Hughes: In the meeting one we wanted to find out. Well, where did this come from, and

169

00:26:15.620 --> 00:26:23.900

Glendora.Hughes: why weren't we there? And so the delegate did apologize for not including us in the meeting.

170

00:26:24.867 --> 00:26:26.720

Glendora.Hughes: Apparently there are

171

00:26:27.180 --> 00:26:36.589

Glendora.Hughes: group of advocacy groups, private bar who wants to. Really, I think this is sort of like a

172

00:26:37.110 --> 00:26:42.820

Glendora.Hughes: and a step in trying to provide a bypass of the Commission

173

00:26:43.050 --> 00:27:05.810

Glendora.Hughes: to go directly into court without having to exhaust administrative remedy without having to file with the agency 1st before going into court. So they wanted. I think this is sort of like that. The real reason for wanting this non-discrimination mission, because the thing, the

174

00:27:06.070 --> 00:27:25.509

Glendora.Hughes: what was said was, well, we want to find out what all the types of discrimination that are out there, that you may not be addressing. And I said, Well, we constantly, through bills being submitted by legislators, by

175

00:27:25.600 --> 00:27:39.160

Glendora.Hughes: Town Hall meetings that we've been having by outreach, that we're having. We hear about different types of discrimination that we are not then, are not covered by the agency, and that we have put forth

176

00:27:39.909 --> 00:27:45.400

Glendora.Hughes: legislation and had bill sponsors having legislators put forth

177

00:27:45.991 --> 00:28:06.229

Glendora.Hughes: legislation. So you know the thought that you know you can go do all the studies you want, but that takes time, and also from experience. Any amendment to our statute is a marathon. It's not a sprint, so you're not going to get a quick fix, because

178

00:28:07.490 --> 00:28:31.289

Glendora.Hughes: whenever we've had any additional protected classes or any procedural, it has. I mean, it has been several years in getting it, as we just went through the Marathon with just getting a little change in our public accommodation statute to at least provide some form of monetary relief to the victims of discrimination.

179

00:28:31.814 --> 00:28:34.299

Glendora.Hughes: And I gave an example that

180

00:28:34.470 --> 00:28:44.599

Glendora.Hughes: when we even tried to just change our name to what we actually do from the Human Relations Commission to the Civil Rights Commission. It took 3 years to get the name change because they thought

181

00:28:44.740 --> 00:28:51.259

Glendora.Hughes: some of the opponents argued that this was a a

182

00:28:51.420 --> 00:29:09.199

Glendora.Hughes: power grab. So. So it it it does. You know we we did have a fruitful conversation. I think there's still, initially, they had us in the statute as being the agency to staff that commission.

183

00:29:09.610 --> 00:29:17.789

Glendora.Hughes: Oh, and we spend, and the Attorney General's office to staff the Commission, and I think we both objected to having that

184

00:29:18.465 --> 00:29:36.064

Glendora.Hughes: responsibility without any resources. And so they said that they were, submit an amendment to amend us out and make it the responsibility of the Speaker and the President of the Senate to determine what exactly was

185

00:29:37.640 --> 00:29:39.327

Glendora.Hughes: what exactly the

186

00:29:40.650 --> 00:30:04.740

Glendora.Hughes: responsibility would be to provide staffing to this commission. So it remains to be seen what exactly is going to be the outcome and but we submitted our our letter. We've got it to the Governor's office, approved, so we'll we'll see. We monitor the votes by the committee on that on that piece of legislation.

187

00:30:05.700 --> 00:30:06.659

Janssen Evelyn: Alright. Thank you.

188

00:30:14.820 --> 00:30:16.999

Cleveland Horton: Any other questions for Glendara

189

00:30:24.930 --> 00:30:27.870

Cleveland Horton: Sheena. I did want to highlight

190

00:30:28.610 --> 00:30:40.438

Cleveland Horton: 2 other things that I I mistakenly overlooked. One. I know that we have our thursday call at 8 30 to talk about obviously, impending legislation. But

191

00:30:41.398 --> 00:30:48.410

Cleveland Horton: we also need to talk about on Thursday. We have, potentially 8 commission initiated complaints.

192

00:30:48.630 --> 00:31:16.640

Cleveland Horton: One is involving a service animal, the other 7 are involving housing discrimination through testing through the equal rights center. So we will be requesting a review of those. We'll get the information out later today to you all to review prior to the meeting on Thursday. So again, we do need obviously

193

00:31:16.950 --> 00:31:45.910

Cleveland Horton: per our statute. We do need 3 commissioners to sign off on each commission initiated complaint in order for us to be able to move forward. So we'll get the information out for those potential 8 Commission initiated complaints today for you all to review, and we're hopeful that at least 3 of you. All that will be on the call on Thursday will agree and be willing to sign off on the Commission initiated complaints that we'll have for you later on. Today.

194

00:31:47.653 --> 00:31:54.198

Cleveland Horton: There was one of Yup. There was one other thing, but it has slipped my mind again, so I apologize.

195

00:31:57.140 --> 00:32:21.099

Spencer Dove: Well, I can take over and fill in for Nicolette, so I won't cover her report. But she did have an ask for the commissioners for your monthly per diems that you get for attending this meeting. She wanted to ask if she can have your permission to sign on your behalf, just to speed that up a little bit. This permission would apply only to those per diems, not to anything else that would require your signature. So are the Commissioners. Okay.

196

00:32:21.210 --> 00:32:24.019

Spencer Dove: with her signing on your behalf for the per diems.

197

00:32:24.650 --> 00:32:25.120

Janssen Evelyn: I am.

198

00:32:25.470 --> 00:32:27.050

Eileen Levitt: Yes, it's fine.

199

00:32:27.170 --> 00:32:27.690

noah metheny: Yeah.

200

00:32:27.690 --> 00:32:29.360

Gina McKnight-Smith: Yes, yes, like.

201

00:32:29.360 --> 00:32:29.940

Spencer Dove: Alright!

202

00:32:32.630 --> 00:32:40.383

Cleveland Horton: Unless you all would like for your per diem just to come to me. I can arrange that, too, if you all like. I just wanna make sure.

203

00:32:40.660 --> 00:32:43.469

Eileen Levitt: Yeah, Cleveland, there is no way that it

204

00:32:43.910 --> 00:32:46.360

Eileen Levitt: like gonna make a difference in anyone's life.

205

00:32:51.080 --> 00:32:58.779

Spencer Dove: I I believe. Gina Noah, Eileen and Jansen all said, yes, Angela and Jeff, are you okay with that.

206

00:33:01.880 --> 00:33:02.750

Angela J. Scott: Yes.

207

00:33:06.390 --> 00:33:13.200

Janssen Evelyn: Alright. So I is that it for staff reports or way to transition to the legislative session updates

208

00:33:14.750 --> 00:33:19.625

Janssen Evelyn: before we do, though I know that at the beginning of this meeting,

209

00:33:20.140 --> 00:33:30.889

Janssen Evelyn: After the roll call I opened up space for public comment. At the time there was no one from the public. No members of the public that was that was present. I'm not sure

210

00:33:31.170 --> 00:33:37.580

Janssen Evelyn: as strong or storm is member of the public, and wants to at this time. Oops

211

00:33:37.920 --> 00:33:40.750

Janssen Evelyn: make public comments, or she's just here to observe.

212

00:33:42.400 --> 00:33:45.429

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And just one moment for the interpreter to PIN strong.

213

00:33:45.950 --> 00:33:46.580

Janssen Evelyn: Yes.

214

00:33:54.100 --> 00:33:55.710

ASL Interpreter- Malik: I apologize.

215

00:33:59.830 --> 00:34:00.750

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Go ahead!

216

00:34:02.100 --> 00:34:03.450

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yes. Hello.

217

00:34:04.060 --> 00:34:04.830

Janssen Evelyn: How are you doing.

218

00:34:06.720 --> 00:34:12.860

ASL Interpreter- Malik: It's good to see you, and Jeff is saying, Hey, Hello!

219

00:34:13.260 --> 00:34:16.030

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yes, no! I I as Strong saying, Yes, I am deaf.

220

00:34:20.260 --> 00:34:27.179

ASL Interpreter- Malik: So this is my 1st meeting that I've I'm joining. I wanted to comment, but I prefer to observe

221

00:34:29.366 --> 00:34:36.939

ASL Interpreter- Malik: just because there's no mention their Omd Government office for deaf and hard of hearing.

222

00:34:37.560 --> 00:34:47.520

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And again I just feel better for me just to observe maybe next meeting

223

00:34:47.699 --> 00:34:51.180

ASL Interpreter- Malik: I wouldn't comment, but I just wanted to to say that?

224

00:34:51.866 --> 00:34:52.900

ASL Interpreter- Malik: So yeah.

225

00:34:53.540 --> 00:34:55.319

Janssen Evelyn: Okay. Well, welcome.

226

00:34:58.140 --> 00:34:59.770

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Thank you, appreciate it.

227

00:35:01.160 --> 00:35:02.680

Cleveland Horton: It looked like Commissioner.

228

00:35:02.680 --> 00:35:03.600

Janssen Evelyn: What's the speed?

229

00:35:08.470 --> 00:35:19.349

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yeah, and so I just wanna say, Thank you, Strong, for coming to the meeting. I didn't expect to see you, but I greatly appreciate you coming, so please do. If you know if you're free.

230

00:35:19.710 --> 00:35:29.659

ASL Interpreter- Malik: If to show up to the next meeting, make comments, or if you want to, you know. Send a letter in or an email. You can do that as well.

231

00:35:32.399 --> 00:35:37.160

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And what's a good email address? For you.

232

00:35:37.630 --> 00:35:45.709

ASL Interpreter- Malik: strong, or if you want to communicate you know, with the Maryland Commission for Civil rights, you can do that as well.

233

00:35:50.660 --> 00:36:18.460

Spencer Dove: So if anybody wants to contact us here at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, the best way is by email Mccr. At Maryland, Gov, I'll also put that in the chat. That's a helpful email address. Because multiple people receive the email. I'm 1 of those recipients. If it's complaint related, it'll get to our intake unit. If it's something that we want to follow up on, then I make sure that it gets where it needs to go, or I handle that directly.

234

00:36:18.460 --> 00:36:40.660

Spencer Dove: But alternatively. If you go to our website, Mccr, dot, Maryland, Gov, under contact, us, all of our staff phone numbers and emails are linked on that web page for the public to use. But but certainly, if you ever need anything, you can always feel free to reach out to me directly, and I would be more than happy to assist you, and if I can assist you, I'll make sure that you get where you need to go.

235

00:36:47.500 --> 00:36:49.510

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And this is Strom speaking.

236

00:36:51.250 --> 00:36:55.769

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yeah, if you don't mind putting in the chat that that information

237

00:36:56.170 --> 00:37:00.289

ASL Interpreter- Malik: that'd be great. I did meet with

238

00:37:01.713 --> 00:37:07.650

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Marilyn Horton, or with Horton and another person previously.

239

00:37:08.050 --> 00:37:08.720

ASL Interpreter- Malik: I

240

00:37:09.380 --> 00:37:21.328

ASL Interpreter- Malik: don't remember that me. But again, like I said, This is my 1st meeting that I I joined recent recently. So I'm not sure if it's appropriate for me to address any concerns.

241

00:37:22.596 --> 00:37:26.069

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Maybe you guys can walk me through that process.

242

00:37:30.600 --> 00:37:32.160

Janssen Evelyn: No, the.

243

00:37:32.540 --> 00:37:35.060

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Jeff is saying, Yeah,

244

00:37:36.440 --> 00:37:41.970

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Spencer, do you mind putting the email address in the chat? That'd be great

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00:37:42.530 --> 00:37:44.850

ASL Interpreter- Malik: and strong? Thank you very much.

246

00:37:45.170 --> 00:38:00.199

Spencer Dove: Yeah, and this is Spencer. I just went ahead. I also sent a DM to Strom on the ability to multi PIN. So I'm learning something new about zoom in the middle of it. But I put the email on our website and and then I'll also put my direct contact information in there, and you can feel free to

247

00:38:00.410 --> 00:38:04.030

Spencer Dove: ask me anything, or or see how we might be able to connect.

248

00:38:19.010 --> 00:38:20.140

Janssen Evelyn: So.

249

00:38:20.140 --> 00:38:22.580

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yeah, and Jeff is saying.

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00:38:22.830 --> 00:38:26.759

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yeah, it's, you know. I think that's a definitely better approach

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00:38:29.954 --> 00:38:33.939

ASL Interpreter- Malik: but yeah, Sean, do you have any other questions that you want to share?

252

00:38:36.210 --> 00:38:47.900

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Yeah. So the email, so I can list concerns. And then how does that work from there? What's the next steps forward.

253

00:38:48.747 --> 00:38:53.889

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And Jeff say, Yeah, I can't speak on that maybe the staff can.

254

00:38:55.829 --> 00:39:04.629

ASL Interpreter- Malik: But the staff would review the email. And then, if there are any concerns from there, you know we as members.

255

00:39:04.780 --> 00:39:07.589

ASL Interpreter- Malik: and the Commissioners, would review that.

256

00:39:08.890 --> 00:39:09.595

Spencer Dove: Yeah.

257

00:39:10.300 --> 00:39:11.640

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Your concerns.

258

00:39:11.820 --> 00:39:13.940

Spencer Dove: Yeah. And this is Spencer.

259

00:39:16.833 --> 00:39:23.560

Spencer Dove: I think Jeff is right. We evaluate every email and every phone call, every letter, every fax

260

00:39:23.855 --> 00:39:48.340

Spencer Dove: on a case by case basis. And so if it's a complaint matter, we'll generally route it to our intake unit. If it's a sometimes it's an education and outreach a training request. We'll get that over to our Eno unit if it's something that that needs to be moved up the hill over to the deputy or the executive director. I'll make sure that it's routed there. But every voicemail, every email we review them and make sure that they get

261

00:39:48.340 --> 00:39:58.450

Spencer Dove: to the appropriate person for follow up. And it really does depend on on what's included in the email to figure out who's best equipped to to assist you with that request.

262

00:40:03.640 --> 00:40:07.090

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And Jefferson. Yeah. And I would just like to add on to that.

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00:40:11.720 --> 00:40:18.030

ASL Interpreter- Malik: you know. Again, if possible. You know the staff will look at it. And

264

00:40:19.390 --> 00:40:23.630

ASL Interpreter- Malik: you know, whatever issues is there, we will move it to the right person.

265
00:40:25.242 --> 00:40:28.829
ASL Interpreter- Malik: And so we definitely do review that.

266
00:40:31.000 --> 00:40:33.469
ASL Interpreter- Malik: And and that process. So th- thank you very much.

267
00:40:33.470 --> 00:40:34.110
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: Yes.

268
00:40:34.110 --> 00:40:36.189
ASL Interpreter- Malik: Strom, do you have any other questions?

269
00:40:36.490 --> 00:40:37.290
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: Yes,

270
00:40:38.200 --> 00:40:41.980
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: I did file some time back.

271
00:40:43.090 --> 00:40:47.250
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: It was botched, and the reason why

272
00:40:48.460 --> 00:40:53.820
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: you know it it, and the reason why I think that happened was because this meeting wasn't advertised.

273
00:40:54.190 --> 00:40:58.750
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: you know, so we had no idea how to reach out or anything like that.

274
00:41:01.640 --> 00:41:07.799
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: So the go. So there was no advertisement for the deaf and hard of hearing.

275
00:41:07.950 --> 00:41:10.690
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: you know. So whenever issues do show up.

276
00:41:13.060 --> 00:41:22.570
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: they didn't have it kind of went around in a circle, and it was very frustrating for me, especially for the meeting I was in

277
00:41:24.200 --> 00:41:28.629
Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: But really we have real serious issues and obstacles.

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00:41:29.632 --> 00:41:39.010

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: And so I was trying to get the process for the complaint to file the complaint, and so

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00:41:39.710 --> 00:41:46.330

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: I had a lawyer that I had worked with at one time, said that I it was the rights

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00:41:50.060 --> 00:41:53.929

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: I did request through Md.

281

00:41:55.976 --> 00:41:57.680

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: The request was submitted.

282

00:41:58.730 --> 00:42:04.339

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: and they said that it wasn't received because it had to go through the courts.

283

00:42:04.580 --> 00:42:09.249

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: and so it was sent back, and I filed with the Department of Justice.

284

00:42:11.100 --> 00:42:14.449

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: and that would has been ongoing since then.

285

00:42:17.290 --> 00:42:21.070

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: So this. And so this, this is my 1st time.

286

00:42:21.070 --> 00:42:28.236

ASL Interpreter- Malik: I definitely appreciate that you take your time to do that, and I look forward to to that

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00:42:30.370 --> 00:42:37.260

ASL Interpreter- Malik: to that staff review of your complaints, and you know it will be shared with. You know the

288

00:42:38.212 --> 00:42:54.489

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Committee members, so you know I can't promise that, you know. I I will respond to that, but I will make sure that whoever is, you know, responsible for that. You know we don't want to, you know, ignore what you're saying. You know your voice does matter.

289

00:42:55.410 --> 00:43:03.269

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And so, you know, I am working with the Mccr. And you know it's a great team, and it's definitely worth to review that

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00:43:06.248 --> 00:43:09.709

ASL Interpreter- Malik: to have that communication. So thank you. Thank you for your time.

291

00:43:09.710 --> 00:43:10.899

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: I appreciate that.

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00:43:11.050 --> 00:43:12.630

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: And lastly.

293

00:43:13.180 --> 00:43:14.220

Cleveland Horton: I just want to.

294

00:43:14.220 --> 00:43:15.010

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Oh, awesome!

295

00:43:15.630 --> 00:43:17.720

Interpreter-Michelle Sanchez: Oh, sorry my cat is in the way.

296

00:43:19.720 --> 00:43:41.480

Cleveland Horton: I just wanted to also clarify, too. I wanted to add on to what Commissioner Rosen was saying. Obviously every every voice does matter to us. But we think about this meeting here from a commission meeting standpoint, this meeting. We don't talk about individual complaints during this meeting, because the information for any individual complaint is confidential.

297

00:43:41.480 --> 00:44:00.580

Cleveland Horton: These meetings are recorded for the public, so we don't get into any discussions around individual complaints or issues pertaining to individuals. Specifically what we do. What we do request is that if you have an individual matter or request that you do reach out to

298

00:44:00.580 --> 00:44:25.530

Cleveland Horton: the contact information that Spencer provided and articulate what your issues or concerns are individually, so that we can speak to you individually and confidentially to address what your issues and concerns are. But this meeting that we have once a month is not for us to discuss, because we can't, because again, the issues are confidential, and we would not do that in a public forum. So we just wanted to make sure.

299

00:44:26.004 --> 00:44:50.009

Cleveland Horton: Miss Storm, that you understand that. And you're more than welcome to come to to any of our meetings and provide general comments or concerns that are impacting a particular community. But we just are not able to to talk at any level of detail in regards to individual complaints, because that information is confidential, and we like to keep it that way. But we are more than happy to speak to you individually

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00:44:50.010 --> 00:44:57.560

Cleveland Horton: and discuss any individual concerns or issues that you may have. So I just wanted to make sure, as a matter of process, that you do understand that.

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00:44:58.630 --> 00:44:59.230

ASL Interpreter- Malik: So.

302

00:45:00.280 --> 00:45:05.729

Glendora.Hughes: And and one of the problems also is that this commission the Commissioners

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00:45:06.720 --> 00:45:13.319

Glendora.Hughes: set as an Appeal Board. So if there is a matter that goes forward

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00:45:13.954 --> 00:45:32.609

Glendora.Hughes: into a hearing, and there's a determination, and you want to appeal it. The Commissioners would be the the board that would hear the appeal. Therefore it's improper for them to hear anything about a case without the other party being present as well.

305

00:45:32.660 --> 00:45:50.259

Glendora.Hughes: and that is one of the in the statute, and you want to make sure that there isn't any ex what they call ex party communication with the Commissioners before a case has been investigated and and heard at a hearing or trial.

306

00:45:51.970 --> 00:46:12.709

Spencer Dove: And then, just for the general body, both for Strong and the Commissioners the Executive director has a standard of returning emails and phone calls, usually within 2 to 3 business days. So normally, what I'll do working with him to make sure that things get routed appropriately is, if we can't like.

307

00:46:13.700 --> 00:46:36.859

Spencer Dove: really help you within that 48 h period at very least, we will write to acknowledge a receipt, and then follow up as soon thereafter. But the the expectation on the agency is clear that we do return every contact within a timely manner, and of course we do our absolute best to adhere to those standards just in the interest of good customer service, and serving our constituency.

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00:46:46.520 --> 00:46:48.469

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And this is Jeff speaking.

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00:46:49.600 --> 00:46:53.449

ASL Interpreter- Malik: So, yeah, I do recommend that we move forward with business.

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00:46:53.740 --> 00:47:02.237

ASL Interpreter- Malik: Thank you. Strong, for your time. It's, you know was very important. Hopefully, we can see how

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00:47:03.060 --> 00:47:05.810

ASL Interpreter- Malik: we can get meetings like this open to the public.

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00:47:06.530 --> 00:47:28.970

ASL Interpreter- Malik: And you know, we wanna respect the process for the appeals and for complaints. And so just for, like another member on the committee was saying, we want to respect your privacy, and we want to respect your time. And so again, thank you very much for coming to this meeting. We value, you know, all the different voices in the community.

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00:47:29.825 --> 00:47:36.160

ASL Interpreter- Malik: So you know, I greatly appreciate it. And so I'm gonna recommend that we move forward with the meeting. Thank you very much.

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00:47:38.060 --> 00:47:42.550

Janssen Evelyn: With that, said do we want to transition to

315

00:47:43.310 --> 00:47:50.990

Janssen Evelyn: all new business? I see that on the agenda there's a 2025 legislative session updates. And then after that, we can go into closed session.

316

00:47:52.370 --> 00:47:57.499

Glendora.Hughes: I think I pretty much gave you the 2025 update in my my report. So.

317

00:47:57.500 --> 00:48:01.170

Janssen Evelyn: I was gonna say that. But I I just wanna be clear.

318

00:48:01.170 --> 00:48:04.829

Glendora.Hughes: And if if Cleveland and

319

00:48:05.120 --> 00:48:10.450

Glendora.Hughes: Yolanda stay on for the executive session, since it's dealing with cases.

320

00:48:11.240 --> 00:48:14.573

Janssen Evelyn: Right. So do we need to, Spencer just

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00:48:15.380 --> 00:48:20.390

Janssen Evelyn: Do we need to have a motion to move into closed session? And if so, can we have that motion.

322

00:48:20.390 --> 00:48:20.910

Spencer Dove: Yep.

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00:48:23.400 --> 00:48:24.020

Janssen Evelyn: And move.

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00:48:24.020 --> 00:48:24.630

Janssen Evelyn: Motion.

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00:48:24.630 --> 00:48:26.209

Gina McKnight-Smith: Oh, it's a good question.

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00:48:26.780 --> 00:48:27.690

Janssen Evelyn: Is there a second.

327

00:48:27.690 --> 00:48:28.710

noah metheny: Second, end.

328

00:48:30.480 --> 00:48:33.630

Janssen Evelyn: Alright, all a favor.

329

00:48:34.370 --> 00:48:35.100

Eileen Levitt: Funny.

330

00:48:36.010 --> 00:48:38.909

Janssen Evelyn: Unless we're gonna move in a closed session to

331

00:48:39.060 --> 00:48:47.130

Janssen Evelyn: seeing none opposed. We're going to move into closed session to discuss a few cases with our general counsel, Wendora Hughes.

332

00:48:47.660 --> 00:48:50.329

Spencer Dove: Alright. I'm going to stop the recording now. Thank you.