



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room 1 Wabash Hall
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Friday, June 23, 2023

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Friday, June 23, 2023, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room 5, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:38am.

Roll call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections).

Via Conference Phone: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Proxy Dept. of Health), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith, (Representative) Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston), and Commissioner Ann Vermilion (Representative).

Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones stated a quorum was established.

Others in attendance: Meredith Lizza

Chair's Report: Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five-areas of focus. In addition, Chair Jones provided an overview of the Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative and its importance as IBBHI planning committee and ICSSBM begins planning for the 2024 program. Chair Jones recommended to Commissioners that a subcommittee be created to address the concerns of the IBBHI planning committee, develop a mental health component and address equipment challenges at IBBHI screenings.

Commissioner Kenneth Allen motioned to approve the creation of a IBBHI subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Rozzell. Before the motion was opened to a vote, Commissioner Dave Rozzell asked Chair Jones what would be the financial impact for the Commission for establishing a IBBHI subcommittee? Director Giles explained to Commissioner Rozzell that the plan is to utilize sponsorship dollars to operate the IBBHI program in 2024. However, there is no financial commitment to establish a IBBHI subcommittee.

Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Commissioner/Senator Greg Taylor and Commissioner/Senator Vaneta Becker will serve as committee members and Commissioner William Durham will serve as subcommittee chair.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the May 2023, meeting. Commissioner Elijah Neal motioned to approve the May 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Allen. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Review and Approval of the Financial Reports: Commissioner William Durham motioned to approve the May 2023, financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Allen. Before the roll call vote, Commissioner Kenneth Allen questioned if programming was planned for this physical year so that the Commission will not experience another year of losing state funding. Director Giles informed Commissioner Allen that programming is planned for the year and is budgeted at \$54,000. Commissioner Allen followed-up with an additional comment and question. He stated in previous years the CFO was able to move remaining funding dollars to the Donations Account, was that considered for 2022 and if it wasn't would that be under consideration for this budget cycle? Director Giles asked Senator Taylor if he could address Commissioner Allen's question. Senator Taylor responded, that dedicated funds are not used/transferred back to the Donations Account, it reverts to the general fund. Following Commissioner Allen's comments there was general discussion about meeting with the CFO to review how funding can be allocated and a Black Males Matter event during the general session at the statehouse.

Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Sub-Committee Reports: Commissioner Damein Jones and Tori Williams provided an update on the progress of the grant subcommittee. All Commissioners were provided with a document that was explained in detail by both Commissioners. Major highlights of the report were the approval of \$13,000 to fund projects and the grant evaluation/application process. Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the subcommittee's grant report. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the grant report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Allen. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Presentations: Kareem Hines, Founder, New B.O.Y. Mentoring & Youth Development presented an overview of his mentoring program for young Black males and wanting to partner with ICSSBM on future events. Following Mr. Hines presentation, Commissioner Tori Williams commented, "I loved that you're involved with young men that are not, "system- involved" because most providers have that as a requirement." Commissioner Williams questioned Mr. Hines if he has any involvement working with the Indiana Department of Youth Services (IDYS) for those young men who are released from the program prior to turning 18, are you working with anyone from IDYS through Indiana Department of Corrections? Mr. Hines responded, "at one time we did." He further explained that he currently works with other systems. Senator Taylor informed Mr. Hines why he wants to conduct a Black Males Matter Day and other opportunities where he can participate in statehouse events.

Director's Report: Director Giles provided a brief overview of the ICRC Annual Conference, updated Commissioners on the Career Fair, and promotional items coming under budget. Commissioner Dave Rozzell commented that he likes the status of the career fair planning. He also questioned, if the additional three career fairs would increase the budget to conduct the events. Director Giles informed Commissioner Rozzell that there are no additional charges for the Commission.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Stribling Jr., and Commissioner Rozzell provided information regarding upcoming public and community events.

There being no further business to discuss, the ICSSBM June Commission meeting concluded at 12:01pm.