



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room 5 Wabash Hall
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room 5, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:39am.

Roll call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Skylar Muckway (Proxy for David Stewart), (Proxy to Lt. Governor), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith, (Representative), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Via Conference Phone: Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Proxy Dept. of Health), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

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

Others in attendance: Sean Gorman, Indiana State Ethics Director, Meredith Lizza, Eric Saunders, Manager, Community Engagement, for Big Brothers Big Sisters and Clarence Underwood.

Chair's Report: Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five-areas of focus. In addition, Chair Jones discussed that the commission needs to begin planning for programming for next year and develop a budget to determine how much we will need to start reaching out for donations to support our proposed programming. Chair Jones requested that every Commissioner think about ideas for programing that align with the ICSSBM five focus areas.

The Chair wants everyone to be ready and discuss ideas at the October Commission meeting. She wants every Commissioner to provide statistics, potential sponsors and what is our ROI and estimated cost to operate the initiative. Following Chair Jones report regarding the FY24 programing Commissioner Smith asked if ICRC would recommend a budget increase. Chair Jones responded that the Commission would go through the proper protocols to support the Commissions programming. Commissioner Smith then responded that ICSSBM has not received any significant increases since 1993.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the June 2023, meeting. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the June 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vernon Smith. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Skylar Muckway (Y) (for Com. David Stewart), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Chair Jones mentioned that ICSSBM did not establish a quorum for the month of July and meeting minutes were not provided at the August meeting, but they will be presented at the September meeting.

Review and Approval of the Financial Reports: Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the June 2023; financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Okello. Commissioner Dave Rozzell questioned that the \$30,000 represented in the budget is already planned for spending. Director Giles responded by stating yes.

Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Skylar Muckway (Y) (for Com. David Stewart), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Following the vote for approval of the financial report Commissioner Vernon Smith asked why he does not receive a vote. Director Giles informed the Commissioner that elected officials do not vote. Following the Director's response, Commissioner Smith stated that is not true and Director Giles stated he will review the matter.

Director's Report: Director Giles presented a draft copy of the ICSSBM General Guide as well as the printing expense for \$180.80 for 1000 copies of the brochure. Commission members provided suggested edits for the brochure. Director Giles stated that he would make the edits and provide an updated copy of the brochure at the next commission meeting.

Presentation: Sean Gorman, Indiana State Ethics Director provided an informative presentation to the Commission on the Office of Inspector General and Code of Ethics Jurisdiction, State Ethics Commission, and Code of Ethics Provisions regarding Conflicts of Interests. During and following Mr. Gorman's presentation, Commission members asked questions regarding the ethics policy in general and as it relates to the Commission's grant program. Mr. Gorman provided answers to the questions as well as provide examples to explain the Code of Ethics policies.

Sub-Committee Reports: Commissioner Rich Okello informed the Commission that the grant program is on track to start Friday, September 1. Commissioner Okello further explained the subcommittee met to create the 6th month progress report as well as the final grant report. Agencies who are awarded grants have options to submit supporting documents for their final report. Lastly, Commissioner Okello described what is required for the final grant report. Commissioner Smith asked how much in funding was being allocated for the grant program and what is the source of funding. Chair Jones and Director Giles answered the Commissioner's questions.

Unfinished Business: Commissioner Kenneth Allen asked about the status of the annual report. Chairman Jones and Director Giles informed Commissioner Allen that the annual report is a priority and its being created. Once final data is available from programs the Commission will receive draft copies for review. A general discussion occurred regarding the annual report. Director Giles further stated to the group that November would be a good estimate when the Commission will be able to review the draft copy of the annual report.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Eric Saunders, Manager, Community Engagement, for Big Brothers Big Sisters introduced himself to the Commission and mentioned that he has been reconnecting with barbers in the community because the Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative (IBBHI) is a great event. In addition, Mr. Saunders wanted to know how Big Brothers Big Sisters can coordinate with the Commission, especially with mentoring. Following Mr. Saunders introduction, Chair Jones stated that he can participate on the IBBHI subcommittee.

Clarence Underwood introduced himself representing the Extreme Execution program which is a personality assessment to define the type of person you are and how to sharpen your professional skills. Mr. Underwood would like to attend a future Commission meeting and provide a more detail overview of the program.

Commissioner Dave Rozzell mentioned that on Saturday, September 9, there will be a free showing of the movie Till at the Greater St. Martin Church at 5300 38th Street. Also, a petition is being circulated for people to sign to make Emmitt Till's grave site a national historic site.

There being no further business to discuss, the ICSSBM August Commission meeting concluded at 12:16pm.