



**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, September 20, 2023**

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, in person at the Government Center South Building Conference Room 5, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:42am.

**Roll call - Commissioners in attendance:** Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

**Via WebEx:** Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections).

**Commissioners absent:** Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith, (Representative), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Proxy Dept. of Health), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones stated a quorum was established at 10:44am.

**Others in attendance:** N/A

**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 outreach events. Chair Jones requested that every Commissioner bring ideas to the October Commission meeting and be ready to discuss the needs by statistics, any potential sponsors that align with our five focus areas, ROI, and estimated cost to operate the program. The next item up for discussion in the Chair's report was the Per diem. Chair Jones read the bylaws that explains

the Per diem reimbursement. The Chair informed the Commissioners that it is their responsibility to record and complete the documentation needed for the Per diem forms and once completed forward them to Director Giles for processing. In addition, the Chair stated that if you're not a registered vendor, you must complete the attached forms that were included in the electronic meeting packet. Director Giles added, if any Commissioner has participated in any previous Commission events and you still have your receipts you can be reimbursed.

Before adoption of the meeting minutes and financial report, Chair Jones explained the updated financial report figures based on the compensation study for Director Giles salary and how it effects programming moving forward into 2025.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the July 19, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Elijah Neal motioned to approve the July 19, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kesha Rich. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Commissioner Kesha Rich motioned to approve the August 16, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Elijah Neal. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

**Review and Approval of the Financial Report:** Commissioner Damein Jones motioned to approve the August 2023; financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamar Sykes. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

**Director's Report:** Director Giles asked the Commissioners to post the marketing material from the grant program on their social media formats and share with their partners. In addition, the Director informed the Commission on the upcoming career fair dates and asked them to post the information on their social media pages and share with their partners as well. Director Giles again presented a draft copy of the ICSSBM General Guide asking the Commission to approve the content that was presented at the August Commission meeting. During the August meeting, Commissioner Vernon Smith asked if language could be used from the bylaws regarding recommendations. The Director asked for approval of the ICSSBM General Guide the way it's currently presented because it is easier for the public to understand. The printing expense for 1000 copies of the brochure is quoted for \$180.80.

Commissioner Damein Jones motioned to approve the ICSSBM General Guide the way it is currently presented and the cost of \$180.80 for 1000 copies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kesha Rich. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Following the vote, Commissioner David Stewart asked if a packet could be created to add IHDA housing information (post card) with the ICSSBM General Guide and pass it out to the public at outreach events. Chair Jones stated that would be a great idea to pass out during the IBBHI.

**Sub-Committee Reports:** Chair Jones provided an overview on the IBBHI initiative and the previous meeting. The Chair highlighted the health assessments and statistics for Black males at the events.

**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 Kesha Rich stated that IDOA is hosting its 15th Annual Division of Supplier Diversity Business Conference on Friday, October 13th, at 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Rich asked if Director Giles could send the information (flier) to Commissioners, and they can share it with their partners.

There being no further business to discuss, the ICSSBM September Commission meeting concluded at 11:21am.