



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room D
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room D, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:39am.

Roll Call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner (Vice Chair) Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Via Conference: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Proxy Dept. of Health), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Others in attendance: N/A

Chair Jones established a quorum at 10:40am.

Chair's Report: A quorum was not established at the start of the April 17, 2024, Commission meeting and no official business was discussed. Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five areas of focus. Chair Jones suggested that Director Virgil Giles provide his report in the meantime until a quorum is established.

Once a quorum was established Chair Jones reported the Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative events are being held in the Month of April and to receive additional information on dates and locations, Commissioners can go to IBBHI.com. In addition, Chair Jones mentioned that IBBHI is still looking for a Community Leader for Indianapolis. Chair Jones provided an overview on the Black Masculinity Reimagined program presented by Black Emotional and Mental Health (BEAM) Collective.

Black Masculinity Reimagined is a community building initiative that addresses the intersection of male socialization, mental health, and community violence.

Chair Jones continued her report by informing Commissioners that the cost to provide the training is \$10,000. CareSource has provided a \$5,000 sponsorship and an additional \$5,000 is needed to provide the Black Masculinity Reimagined training program for Black male barbers. The Chair further stated, grant program recipient Multiple Pathways to Recovery LLC declined the funding request (\$5,250) and Chair Jones asked the Commissioners if that funding amount could be used to offset the \$5,000 balance. Commissioner Dave Rozzell moved that the Commission uses the \$5,000 left over from the grant program and devote it to the Black Masculinity Reimagined training. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Okello.

Before roll call, the Commissioners presented various questions regarding the virtual training and Chair Jones addressed their concerns. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y) and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Lastly, Chair Jones provided an update on behalf of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee focusing on the objectives and budget that was submitted to the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. At the end of Chair Jones Report she asked Commissioners to approve the increased budget request for the grant program (\$20,000) and IBBHI (\$10,000). Chair Jones asked for a motion to increase the grant program to \$20,000 and IBBHI by \$10,000. Commissioner Kenneth Allen agreed, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Rozzell. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y) and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Director's Report: Director Giles presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Call to Unity Conference and Commission Sponsorship Packet. During and following Director Giles report, Commission members raised questions and provided recommendations on both presentations. Director Giles stated that he will incorporate the Commission's suggestions regarding the sponsorship packet and provide an updated packet with the recommendations at the May Commission meeting.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Vice Chair Okello moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the February 21, 2024, and March 20, 2024, meetings. Commissioner Kenneth Allen approved the February 21, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Rozzell. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y) and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Okello entertained a motion to adopt the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Dave Rozzell approved the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kesha Rich. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y) and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of the Financial Report: Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the February 2024 financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamar Sykes. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y) and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business to discuss.

New Business: There was no new business addressed.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Dave Rozzell introduced Antonio Patton and Marcus Blackshear Sr., from Men of Vision Empowering (MOVE). There was discussion surrounding barbershop owner, Mr. Patton, becoming a community leader for the IBBHI representing the City of Indianapolis. Mr. Patton stated that he would need some time to consider the role of being a community leader for the IBBHI.

There being no further business, the April ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 12:00pm.