



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, May 15, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room D, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:37am.

Roll Call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), 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 Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Via Conference: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Proxy Dept. of Health), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Others in attendance: N/A

Chair's Report: Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five areas of focus. During the Chair's report there was a lengthy discussion regarding the Commission's sustainability. The Commission addressed the following questions:

1. What does success of the Commission look like to you?
2. What is your expectation of the Commission's leadership?
3. What are you committed to doing as it relates to the Commission's success?
4. What does accountability mean to you?
5. What does accountability look like in our roles?
6. What is your specialty area that you are willing to utilize in your role as a commissioner?

Following the Commission's group discussion on sustainability, the Commissioner's made a decision to cancel the June 19, 2024, meeting to celebrate the Juneteenth holiday.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Vice Chair Okello moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the April 17, 2024. Commissioner Keisha Rich approved the April 17, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tori Williams. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones, Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes, and Commissioner Tori Williams (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

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

Director's Report: Director Giles provided a follow-up report from April's meeting regarding the 2025 – 2029 Strategic Plan Sponsorship Packet. Following Director Giles report, he asked the Commissioners, specifically Commissioner Allen because of his background of working with others to share the sponsorship packet with their external partners. In addition, Director Giles informed Commission members that a ICSSBM Instagram account was created to establish more awareness and the Commission's involvement in community activities. He also asked Commission members to share photos and provide a caption of the participation in the community event to be shared on ICSSBM social media formats. There were no questions following Director Giles' report.

Unfinished Business: Commissioner Dave Rozzell asked Commission members, have there been any contact or communication with Antonio Patton and Marcus Blackshear Sr., from Men of Vision Empowering? Director Giles responded that there has been no communication. Commissioner Dave Rozzell stated that he will follow-up on the matter.

New Business: There was no new business addressed.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Kenneth Allen informed the group that the body of ICSSBM should be acknowledged as Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioner. Chair Jones thanked Commissioner Allen for the information.

There being no further business, the May ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 11:57am.