

African-American Affairs Commission
 Approved Minutes for April 1, 2015
 Central Connecticut State University
 Good Year Room 322 ITBD/ Downtown Campus
 185 Main Street New Britain, CT

Present: Commissioner **Brown**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **Darity**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Fields**, Commissioner **Harris**, Commissioner **Hugley**, Commissioner **Ike**, Commissioner **Johnson**, Commissioner **Jones**, Commissioner **McBride**, Commissioner **Vermont** and Commissioner **Wright**

Absent: Commissioner **Brown**, Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Ficklin**, and Commissioner **Pierre-Louis On Leave**; Commissioner **Tetty**

Staff in Attendance: AAAC Executive Director, **Glenn Cassis** and AAAC Legislative Analyst, **Subira Gordon**, AAAC Information Officer, **Earl Bloodworth**

Public: List of members of the public is attached

Agenda Item	Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>)	Action (<i>and by whom</i>)
Meeting called to order	6:20 pm Called to order	Chairman Alphonse Wright
Roll Call	13 Present, 5 absent and 1 on leave	Executive Director Glenn Cassis
Public Comment	<p>Introductions to Commission meeting were conducted by CCSU President, Dr. Jack Miller.</p> <p>Chairman Wright introduced Central Connecticut State University President, Dr. Jack Miller. President Miller, CCSU acknowledged the partnership of CCSU and the AAAC. President Miller talked about the important work being produced by the AAAC and CCSU partnership like the CTRP3 reporting. President Miller discussed the increased rate of African-American enrollment in CCSU, that population's increased graduation rate, and success post-graduation. Discussed the first African-American graduate from a Connecticut institution of higher learning with a credentialed degree having graduated from CCSU.</p>	Executive Director Glenn Cassis and Chairman Alphonse Wright addressed concerns

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	<p>Kelt Cooper: Minority Graduation Rates</p> <p>Quyên Truong: Health Disparities in the African-American Community</p> <p>Helen Simpson: Homelessness</p> <p>High School minority graduation rates was discussed by New Britain Public School Superintendent of Schools, Kelt Cooper.</p> <p>There has been a 15% increase in graduation rates for African-Americans in New Britain from 2013 to 2014 by more efficiently utilizing budgets and targeting more at risk African-American youths. Even with this increased success there remains much work to be done along with an emphasis on FASFA assistance for New Britain high school African-American graduates. Also, President Miller said there is a need for increased focused on scholarship resources, PSAT test taking, and truancy reduction.</p> <p>Quyên Truong Health disparities Review and Evaluation Coordinator for the North Central Regional Mental Health Board Inc.</p> <p>Health disparities fit within the frame work of the undertakings of the AAAC. Recognized need to cater specifically to the needs of African-American's in the areas of health disparity and rate of uninsured African-Americans in the state of Connecticut and nationally. Quyên also discussed plans to hold community forum discussions for African-Americans on health disparities based on a grant received from Substance Abuse And Mental Health Administration. The community conversations will start in New Britain this summer in partnership with the federation of</p>	

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	<p>churches. Topics of discussion will be the Affordable Care Act, Mental Health, and health care coverage navigation.</p> <p>Homelessness</p> <p>Helen Simpson Executive Director, Friendship Service Center of New Britain</p> <p>Friendship center housed 364 people last year, 57 or 16% were Black 169, 46% were White, and 138 or 38% were Hispanic. Housing data shows that 21 adults reside in Arch St housing 5 were Black, 8 were White, and 8 were Hispanic.</p> <p>Helen also discussed FSCNB's path program that reaches out to people living on the street or in abandoned buildings trying to bring them in and provide services. 30% were Black, 45% were White, 20% were Hispanic, and 5% were Asian. Helen stated that the suspension and arrest rates of young Black males may contribute to a lower rate of homelessness in the African-American population as well as mass incarceration being a byproduct of racial profiling in CT. Full recorded text of discussion is available upon request</p>	
Consent Agenda	<p>Consent Agenda - Budget Report, Approval of March 4th 2015 Minutes, Executive Committee Reports.</p> <p>Executive Director Glenn Cassis discussed budget and possible budget cost cutting measures and possible future cuts. All agencies had budget reduction for FY15 per Governor Malloy budget reduction. Employees of AAAC have elected to take some furlough days.</p> <p>Chairman Wright discussed March 4th, meeting notes correction in regards to resolutions discussed. Chair does</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Ike Approved</p>

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	not move or second any motions. Meeting notes not officially approved at the time so there was time for corrections to be made.	
Chair Report	Chairman Alphonse Wright asked if there were any questions regarding report that was sent prior to the meeting and there were none.	
E.D. Report	<p>Mr. Cassis reported that the release of the Racial Profiling Report is slated on April 7th. It was presented at CCSU and the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) for Chiefs of Police. Advised that report does not state any particular town has racists' cops, but notes that evidence of racial profiling does exist in several towns.</p> <p>Discussed bills the AAAC is working on in the legislature. There is concern for oversight on police department militarization and that policy may not be amended.</p> <p>Juneteeth Celebration recognizing the AAAC April 11th by Fairfield County Juneteeth Committee. The AAAC will be a recipient of a Juneteeth recognition award. George Mintz, 2014 AAAC Man of the Year recipient is interested in having the AAAC be more recognized in Fairfield County.</p> <p>Question from Commissioner DelGado regarding awareness campaign on the CTRP3. Commissioner DelGado also suggested to have the Commissioners involved in the forums in some capacity.</p> <p>Earl Bloodworth discussed the upcoming forums on the CTRP3 with first forum taking place in New Haven on April 13th. Multiple forums will be reproduced in Hartford, Bridgeport, New London/Norwich and Waterbury.</p>	E.D. Glenn Cassis , Subira Gordon and AAAC Information Officer Earl Bloodworth

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Committee Reports	<p>Commissioner McBride spoke for Commissioner Campbell's suggestion to have new Commissioner orientation on May 6th. Chairman Wright said issue will be discussed during the AAAC's executive meeting.</p> <p>Legislative Analyst, Subira Gordon discussed having various commissioners participate in reaching out to their local representatives and senators based on the various committees in conjunction with various initiatives and policy being pushed in the LOB.</p> <p>Commissioner Johnson discussed Classic Awards about following up on phone call list for sponsorship for the Classic Awards Journal. Commissioner Wright urged all commissioners to make their telephone calls. Commissioner Johnson stated that a form letter could be used to reach out to possible sponsors from each commissioner's lists.</p> <p>Action taken to pick up some of the slack where one or two commissioners could not complete the calls on their lists. But it is imperative that the as many commissioners complete their own list as possible so all of the work does not fall on just one or two of the commissioners.</p> <p>Chairman Wright requested \$25 from each commissioner for the AAAC ad. Payments accepted tonight or sent to the Executive Director.</p> <p>Commissioner Hugley discussed the keynote speaker for the Classic Awards. Commissioners Hugley and Ficklin both have recommended Dr. Khailia Dean-Brown. She is looking for direction on topic or subject matter. Commissioner Hugley looking to have correspondence on official letter head. Commissioner Hugley advised to send draft to executive director for review and it will then be sent out after review and approval.</p>	

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	<p>Executive Director, Glenn Cassis stated that IO, Earl Bloodworth was a possibility to MC Classic Awards. Keith Koontz suggested as MC for the Classic Awards event.</p> <p>Chairman Wright wants decision for Keynote and MC decided upon by the 15th and the Executive Director be made aware of the final decision.</p> <p>Committee Chair for Classic Awards is in agreement with the suggestions for keynote and MC for Classic Awards.</p> <p>Chair asked all commissioners to make sure the office has correct email addresses.</p>	
Resolutions	N/A.	
Old Business	The Multi-Commission Meet and Greet was discussed as a great success. The other commissions are looking forward to the next event and possibly scheduling one during the fall session.	Executive Director Glenn Cassis, Legislative Analyst Subira Gordon, and Chairman Wright
New Business	Incident in New Haven of possible police brutality at the New Haven St. Patrick's Day parade. Commissioner inquired about having the issue added to policy meeting coming up at Post University and being addressed by the AAAC.	AAAC E.D. Glenn Cassis , AAAC L.A. Subira Gordon , Commissioner Hugley and Chairman Wright
Upcoming Events	Fairfield County Juneteeth celebration April 11th. Classic Awards May 15th	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 8:32 PM	Moved by Commissioner Fields and Seconded by Commissioner Ike .

Respectfully Submitted



Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director

Approved by



Donna Campbell, Secretary /Date