

African-American Affairs Commission  
 Public Meeting, Minutes for Wednesday, April 2, 2008  
 State Capitol – Old Judiciary Room

**Present:**

- Commissioner** Kristen Clark
- Commissioner** Michael Jefferson
- Commissioner** Rosetta Jones
- Commissioner** George Logan,
- Commissioner** Derrick McBride
- Commissioner** Fred Pierre-Louis,
- Commissioner** Alphonse Wright

**Absent:**

**Also Present:** Glenn Cassis, AAAC Executive Director; Cheryl Harris Forbes, AAAC Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator, Floyd Blair - Deputy Commissioner of Department of Children & Families, Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt, Esq., Duckworth Grange - Community Relations Liaison – Department of Children & Families.

**Members of the Public: None**

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM	Call to Order  Roll Call	Vice- Chairperson F. Pierre-Louis  Cheryl Harris Forbes

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
	<p>Department of Children &amp; Families (DCF) Deputy Commissioner Floyd Blair introduced his staff; Anne- Marie Degraffenreidt, and Duckworth Grange. He informed the Commission that as of Jan 1, 2010 “Raise the Age” will take effect.</p> <p>All committed youth between 16 and 18 years of age will be transferred to the DCF Juvenile Justice Division. He asked the AAAC for assistance in broadening the resources for services for this target youth population, with particular emphasis in identifying the faith-based, community based, and non-traditional agencies to provide such services. Additionally he requested assistance with outreach with public awareness of RFP process, technical assistance, specifically co-sponsorship of information sessions for entities that may not be familiar with RFI, RFP process for juveniles and youthful offenders.</p> <p>Ms. Graffenreidt offered explanation of Hartford’s Juvenile Review Board and process. She further detailed the need to provide culturally competent positive peer relationships, traditional services, incarceration diversion, supportive and transitional housing services for young adults, as well as independent living skills, and reentry programs.</p>	
Approval of March 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes	Motion to move to accept the March 5, 2008 Board Minutes.	Motion by Commissioner Wright 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Jones Motion Approved
Treasurer’s Report	Commissioner Wright noted there were no significant changes or adjustments to the budget. He reminded Commissioners to submit their reimbursement statements prior to fiscal year deadlines.	Commissioner Wright

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Chairperson's Report	<p>Chairperson Jefferson directed attention to his distributed Chairperson's Report noting the September 29, 2008 Freedom Trail event honoring descendents of the Connecticut 29<sup>th</sup> Colored Regiment (Civil War).</p> <p>He asked each Commissioner to submit names for potential members of the advisory council by the May Board meeting. He requested Commissioners to consider geographical diversity as they suggested names for the various proposed AAAC advisory councils i.e., health, economic development, education, criminal justice .</p> <p>Commissioner Wright suggested that some of the names could be directed to appointing authorities for appointment to State boards and commissions.</p> <p>Commissioner Jones suggested that Commissioners contact potential candidates prior to submitting their names.</p> <p>Chairperson Jefferson announced his participation in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Citizens Academy and FBI Multicultural Taskforce. Chairperson Jefferson asked that the AAAC sponsor an FBI forum for the public to discuss issues of concern for the African American community. He suggested such a meeting could take place during the public comments section of a regularly scheduled Board meeting for about an hour.</p> <p>Chairperson Jefferson noted his awareness of a potential collaboration with Partnership with the Governors Prevention Partnership, and that he had not yet spoken with Mr. Sykes regarding the Tobacco Trust Fund.</p> <p>Chairperson Jefferson set the date for the next Executive Committee Meeting for April 16, 2008.</p> <p><b><u>Legislative Agenda</u></b></p>	Chairperson M. Jefferson

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	<p>Commissioner Pierre Louis distributed the Legislative Report and asked Commissioners to review it in preparation for discussion at the May 2008 Board meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Education</u></b></p> <p>.</p> <p>Commissioner Pierre Louis reported his attendance at the Education Town Meeting featuring a keynote by Connecticut State University Chancellor Dr. David Carter. The event will be broadcast on CPTV on April 26<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b><u>Health</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Wright noted Ms. Forbes participation in the Comprehensive Cancer Plan’s Health Disparities Subcommittee , as well as the press release regarding a conference on Tobacco Prevention and Control on April 8 and 9th in Waterbury, Connecticut.</p> <p>Ms. Forbes gave an overview of 2008 bills being tracked by the partnership.</p> <p>Chairperson Jefferson inquired about the money allocated for some of the programs for cancer and smoking cessation related services. He challenged the Board to focus on that. He further inquired about identifying funding sources for the above-mentioned services as well as the RFP process, DPH funding and Tobacco Trust Funding.</p> <p>Commissioner Wright suggested distributing the information in a press release once such sources were identified.</p> <p>Chairperson Jefferson asked that such information also be put on the website and asked Commissioners to help identify community based organization capable of providing smoking cessation services and to provide the information to AAAC office.</p>	

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	<p>Ms. Forbes invited Commissioners to participate on the Cancer Partnership's various subcommittees.</p> <p><b><u>Other Items</u></b></p>	
Executive Director's Report	<p>Mr. Cassis directed attention to the distributed Executive Director's Report and noted that pursuant to Commissioners' inquiry, a staff person can receive reimbursement for up to 18 credits per fiscal year.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis stated that announcements have been sent to the electronic and print media regarding the Classic Awards resulting in numerous nominations for all award categories. Press releases will be sent out subsequent to the selection of award winners and invitations will be sent out shortly. He also noted that Commissioners should have received e-mail regarding Massachusetts Academic Achievement.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis reported that Frank Sykes met with the Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding the report on the State's taxi industry. The report will be completed by Fall 2008.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis noted he served as a reviewer for the ConnCaP Program – a program designed to help minority students transition to higher education as well as his attendance at an African-American Day Parade meeting.</p> <p>Executive Director Cassis informed the board that Community Conversation will meet on Saturday, May 10, 2008 in the Legislative Office Building. The focus is to have 100 parents from the Greater Hartford area to talk about ways education can be improved through parental involvement. He indicated a request by event co-sponsor - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for canvas bags, and AAAC brochures.</p>	G. Cassis

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	<p>Commissioner Logan requested drafting a resolution regarding co-sponsored events.</p> <p>Commissioner Jefferson requested a matrix of events that the AAAC is sponsoring.</p>	
Resolutions	None	
New Business	<p>Classic Awards  April 9, 2008 4:00 p.m. will be a conference call regarding the event. Commissioner Logan reminded that it is exactly one month prior to Classic Awards. Commissioners Jones, McBride, Logan Logan explained the process, and Asked nominating Committee members to submit the summary forms to the AAAC office.</p> <p>Discussion of the Classic Awards program followed including musical selections, and poet, as well as other program elements.</p>	G. Logan
Other Business	<p><b>None</b></p> <p>.</p>	
Upcoming Events	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b> - April 16, 2008, Stroke Update Reception – Sen. Harp, DPH Commissioner Robert Galvin, and Mr. Cassis will speak.</p> <p>Urban League of Greater Hartford requested the AAAC be represented at their Annual Meeting on April 24, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. The Urban League will issue a resolution to the AAAC recognizing the Commission’s involvement with youth. Commissioner Pierre-Louis will represent the Commission at the event.</p> <p>CERC will have a symposium on May 1 – May 3, 2008 in Waterbury, called the <i>Intersection of Race &amp; Education</i> . Mr. Cassis will</p>	

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	participate in a panel discussion on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.	
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn meeting.  Meeting adjourned 8:00PM	Motion by Commissioner Pierre-Louis 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Wright Motion Approved

Respectfully Submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheryl Harris Forbes  
 Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner George Logan  
 AAAC Secretary