

African-American Affairs Commission
 Un-Approved Minutes for December 4, 2013
 Legislative Office Building – Room 1B

Present: Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **Darity**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Harris**, Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**, and Commissioner **Wright**, Commissioner **Clark**, Commissioner **McBride**, Commissioner **Washington**

Absent: Commissioner **Jones**, and Commissioner **Hugley**

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

Public: **Garvin Ambrose**, State Victim Advocate
Erin Boggs, The Center for Equity and Opportunity
Dr. Helen Newton, The Commission on Health Equity

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Meeting called to order	6:04 pm Called to order	Chairman Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis
Roll Call	11 Present and 2 absent	Executive Director Glenn Cassis
Public Comment	<p>Executive Director, Cassis started the meeting by introducing Garvin Ambrose, State Victim Advocate. Garvin gave the commission an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Office of the Victim Advocate. He also talked about the possibility of collaborating with the commission to help victims of the minority population. He further explained that minority victims do not seek services from his organization and he would like the help of the commission with outreach to minority communities. He went on to explain the differences between the Office of the Victim Advocate and the Office of Victim Services which are often confused.</p> <p>Commissioners asked why the SVA and the AAAC have never worked together and Mr. Ambrose explained the changes that he would be implementing in his office in order to build more collaborative efforts.</p> <p>There was discussion about the referral process and how</p>	

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	<p>victims are able to contact the Office of Victim Advocate to receive their services.</p> <p>Glenn Cassis then introduced Erin Boggs from The Center for Equity and Opportunity. Erin gave her personal background explaining that she grew up in Washington, DC and was one of very few white children who were in the DC public school system. That experience she explained helped shape her mind and thinking.</p> <p>She presented slides from a new report the deals with housing segregation in the state. The highlights of the report are that minorities live in the areas with the least economic opportunities, all of the metropolitan areas in Connecticut are in the top 20% of the most segregated areas in the nation and housing policies have not changed in decades to change these trends.</p> <p>Ms. Boggs went on further explain that the segregated areas were same ones that were redlined in the 1930's. There was also data that showed how historically the cities have changed and became more segregated as whites have moved out and minorities have moved in.</p> <p>Information was presented to help showcase that housing segregation matters because it affects education, crime rates, quality of life and economic opportunities. 89% of African Americans are living in areas that are considered lower opportunity areas. Ms. Boggs talked about ways that the state can help to change the patters which would include making changes to housing policies. Her new non-profit is attempting to change the way the state does housing policy with has many positive effects in people's lives.</p> <p>Commissioners asked about white flight and how moving minorities into white neighborhoods will affect the make-up of</p>	

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	<p>the areas that will be targeted. Ms. Boggs countered with explaining that the push to have whites moves back into cities has not been successful so it is time to try a different model.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis introduced Dr. Helen Newton, Exec. Director of the Commission on Health Equity</p> <p>Dr. Newton thanked the commission for inviting her and she shared information about her background and the vision that she has for the Commission on Health Equity.</p> <p>She explained that the CHE was established to eliminate racial disparities in health. The mission of both organizations has shared goals and makes collaboration between the AAC and CHE an easy fit.</p> <p>Dr. Newton explained that although laws have been passed that make everyone equal that is definitely not the case for African Americans in this country especially relating to health care issues. She went on to say that the language has changed from health equality and moved to health equity which makes the outcomes very different. We need to band together to fight injustices.</p> <p>How do we address health equality? She said that the CHE has to asses every piece of legislation that is proposed to examine them for health disparities, keep abreast of the SIM grant (State Innovation Model) to ensure that cultural competencies are a part of the plan, currently the plan does not include health equity, also the proposal of the use of the CLAS standards. CLAS is Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards of care. This standard is based on a principle of eliminating racial disparities in healthcare.</p> <p>Dr. Newton has spent most of her adult life as a health care provider. Many of the injustices in healthcare are beyond</p>	

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	access to quality care. She asked that the commission remember the purpose of the commission and help to implement processes to eliminate racial disparities in healthcare.	
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda - Budget Report, Approval of November 2013 Minutes, Executive Committee Reports. Commissioner Wright had a question about the budget report that shows that there is a negative balance for the classic awards. Mr. Cassis said he would get back to the commission to explain the number.	Moved by Commissioner Harris , seconded by Commissioner Canterbury
Chair Report	Dr. Pierre-Louis reported that commissioner Thompson has resigned from the commission. Also he missed the last executive committee but it was decided that the Christmas dinner meeting has been scheduled for December 11 th at 5:30 in the LOB Dining Room.	
E.D. Report	<p>Executive Director Cassis started his report by saying that he met with Channel 30 to deal with the roll out of the Affordable Care Act. There is a sense of urgency with getting people signed up for healthcare. 300,000 people in CT don't have health care and only 40,000 people have signed up so far. Mr. Cassis explained that there are many ways to get the word out and partner with "healthcare for all" to attend College Goal Sunday and present information to the families about the health care exchange.</p> <p>Religious organizations have also committed to help get the word out about ACA enrollment.</p> <p>At the suggestion of Teresa Staten Hopkins, Mr. Cassis has requested that the AAAC have a seat at the table for the state's education 5 year plan.</p> <p>AAAC met with the parent group from, PACE (from Windsor, CT) and help them to get their goals defined.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis then yielded the floor to Subira Gordon who explained what the legislative agenda will be for February. She would like to look at the SIM grants and look at cultural competencies and ensure that minority doctors are able to meet the standards and minority areas and ensure that they</p>	

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	<p>are properly served.</p> <p>Next-Rehab certificates, there is a proposal to give rehab certificates to individuals who have a record to gain employment which will give minority youth access to employment.</p> <p>Next the commission should look at the housing choice voucher program and examine the possibility of giving individuals a real choice for where they live to give individuals access to affordable housing choices.</p> <p>The AAAC should champion the housing issues and be supportive of the other issues.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p><u>Classic Awards Committee</u> – Commissioner Wright reported that the classic awards are coming up and he would like individuals to volunteer for committees and thanked everyone who was involved last year. The committees are the nomination/selection committee and the program committee.</p> <p>Commissioners Campbell and Harris had nothing to report.</p> <p>Commissioner Clarke-Continuing to get information out on Facebook. Wants to get involved in the newsletter.</p>	
Resolutions	<p>177. BE IT RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission will host and sponsor a reception in honor of Helen Newton, MD, the new Executive Director of the commission for Health Equity (CHE). The reception will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2014 in the 2nd Floor of the Atrium of the LOB 1PM-2:30PM. The AAAC will provide refreshments and partner with the CHE to promote the reception.</p>	<p>Moved by Commissioner Wright (with a change in date to 2013 from 2014 as the resolution states), seconded by Commissioner McBride.</p>
Old Business	None	
New Business	<p>Executive Director mentioned that the AAA Scholarship book is available and passed few samples around. There will be books available at each site for college goal Sunday.</p> <p>Mr. Cassis also asked commissioners to think about individual who may be willing to serve on the commission as there are 10 vacancies.</p>	

