



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
BETH TOWNSEND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Minutes of the June 28, 2012 Meeting of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission

I. Roll Call: Chapman, Spicer, Williams, Morain, Lipski (joined the meeting in session)

Staff: Townsend

Public: None

II. Minutes from April 12, 2012 meeting: distributed for review; approval tabled until next meeting.

III. Discussions of Town Hall meeting held June 21, 2012:

Commissioners discussed the town hall meeting and suggested changes to the format for future meetings. Also extensively discussed methods to improve turn out including networking with local organizations and stakeholders; more outreach by Commissioners; partnering with community organizations such as FFA, 4-H, Lions, Rotary Clubs, sororities and fraternities. Discussed preparing a short agenda to be passed out to attendees. Also discussed focusing future discussion on the complaint process and specific civil rights issues unique to location of town hall.

Discussion then continued regarding locations and dates of future town hall meetings including review of the counties with the highest number of complaints filed annually. Lipski moved and Spicer seconded to hold two meetings in Burlington on September 10th and Council Bluffs in September 18th, locations to be determined. Motion carried.

Discussions regarding the format of the town hall meetings included using the State Fair questionnaires as a conversation starter. Williams volunteered to act as the moderator of the next town hall.

Legislative priorities were discussed. Lipski moved, Williams seconded, and motion carried to make a bill giving the ICRC subpoena power of witnesses in non-housing cases. Spicer moved, Lipski seconded and motion carried to support maintenance or increase of funding of the ICRC as second legislative priority. Morain volunteered to look for records of past legislative priorities of the ICRC.

III. Executive Director Report – Discussed updating brochures to include definition of “probable cause” as well as ways to include the definition in current brochures. Discussions regarding the ICRC booth at the Iowa State Fair, August 9-19th including adding more kid-friendly giveaways. Discussion of creation of a staff resource calendar, available to staff to keep them informed of upcoming events.

IV. Commissioner Reports

Williams – Attached

Spicer – Attached

Lipski – Attended local town hall meeting held by Gov Branstad and Lt Gov Reynolds. Gov Branstad made favorable comments about the ICRC and the progress it was making with regard to the backlog. Will be attending a public meeting with Iowa Ag Secretary on June 29th.

Morain – No report

Chapman – Participated in planning committee for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference targeting underrepresented minorities in these areas; participated in Juneteenth Celebration on June 16, 2012; Committee member for the Iowa African American Hall of Fame who is having their next induction in August, 2012; spoke at the Prison Reentry Conference.

Next meeting set for August 2, 2012 beginning at 1:30 pm

Adjournment

Prior Meeting attended February 9th – no report given.

All activity post April 12th –

1. On April 17, 2012 - Attended Iowans for Social and Economic Development's launch of the "Women of Influence" cookbook reception held by at the Iowa State Historical Building in De Moines.
2. On April 23, 2012 – Attended the AVID author visit of Wil Haygood located at the Des Moines Central Library. He discussed his research, writing methods, books and articles in publications such as the Washington Post on historical African American figures from the 1950's such as Sammy Davis, Jr., Mr. Allen (butler in the White house from President Truman to President Reagan) , Sugar Ray Robinson & Thurgood Marshall's confirmation.
3. On June 21, 2012 – Participated in the ICRC town hall meeting at the Iowa State Historical Building in Des Moines.
4. On June 24, 2012 – Attended Art Fest Midwest at the State Fair grounds in Des Moines.

Iowa Civil Rights Commissioner Report

MaryAnn Spicer

June 28, 2012

As part of my appointment commitment, this commissioner continues to track bills that relate to mental illness and education reform that includes bullying. Several bills as well as the amendment to the Iowa Code were of particular interest:

- **Senate File 2247** terminology change of any wording in state policy from mental retardation to *intellectual disability*.
- **Senate File 2284** Task Force studying competency-based instruction standards and models with a desire, by this commissioner with a concern that this task force mirror the image of Iowans likely to be served.
- **Senate File 2312** In-service Training for all Law Enforcement Officers on Mental Health.
- **Senate File 2315** Providing Equitable Health Services to Iowa Citizens with Disabilities.

In addition to the above, this commissioner attended the following public forums:

- June 8, 2012 1:15 – 3:30 P.M. East High School, Des Moines, Iowa – Hearing: Bullying-Free Schools: How Local, State, and Federal Efforts Can Help - Moderator: Senator Harkin.
- June 21, 2012 6 PM – 7:10 P.M. Iowa Historical Building, Des Moines, Iowa – Iowa Civil Rights Commission Open Community Forum – Moderator Beth Townsend ICRC Administrator.
- June 26, 2012 6-7:30 P.M. – Polk County River Place, Des Moines, Iowa – EEOC Presents – Know Your Employment Rights – Key Issues Facing African Americans Moderator Maria Flores, Education Out Reach Program Manager – Milwaukee EEOC Area Office.

Trivia: Forty-year anniversary of Title IX prohibiting discrimination based on sex in any program receiving federal funds (enacted into law June 20, 1972).