

September 18, 2024

Subject: Racial Equity Commission July 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Reporting Period: July 2024-September 2024
Prepared By: Joyce Chiao, Consultant, Abundance Strategies
Reviewed By: Dr. Larissa Estes, Executive Director, Racial Equity Commission

Recommended Action

Approval of the July 17, 2024 Racial Equity Commission Meeting Minutes.

Racial Equity Commission March 21, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Welcome

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM. Shared a reminder that the Commission condemns acts of hate and discrimination. Chair Wood shared the CA VS Hate resource line.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

D. REMARKS FROM DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Chair Wood welcomed any distinguished guests in the room to address the Commission, and recognized distinguished guests present.

Distinguished Guests:

The Honorable Patricia Lock Dawson, Mayor, City of Riverside

The Honorable Karina Quintanilla, Mayor, City of Palm Desert

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Assemblymember, 60th California Assembly District

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Quorum Met; 11/11 Commissioners Present

Commissioners Present:

1. Commissioner Dr. Luke Wood, Chair
2. Commissioner Simboa Wright, Vice Chair
3. Commissioner Candis Bowles
4. Commissioner Virginia Hedrick
5. Commissioner John Kim
6. Commissioner Gabriel Maldonado
7. Commissioner Traco Matthews
8. Commissioner Jolie Onodera
9. Commissioner Dr. Manuel Pastor
10. Commissioner Yolanda R. Richardson

11. Commissioner Angelica Salas

F. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment on matters not on the agenda

Abigail Freshley of California Racial Equity Commission, Mimi Velasquez of Public Health Professional, Samantha Guerrero of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights.

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dr. Luke Wood, Chair

Dr. Larissa Estes, Executive Director, Racial Equity Commission

Public Comment

No public comment.

Commission Discussion

Kim: Noted to correct Ripple Board to RIPA, Racial and Identity Profiling Act, Board on page 3.

Estes: Noted the correction from Commissioner Kim. Noted that staff will make this correction prior to posting the March meeting minutes.

Motion to approve with the correction by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Matthews.

Motion passes (11-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #4: ACTION: Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director to present their report to the Commission, with comments from Commissioner Pastor while reviewing the USC Graduate Student Research Opportunity

Dr. Larissa Estes, Executive Director, Racial Equity Commission

A. COMMISSION TIMELINE

B. ASSET ANALYSIS UPDATES

C. USC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Commission Discussion

Wood: Expressed appreciation to Commissioner Pastor for the offer to provide Commission with graduate student research opportunity. Commission will take accept this offer.

Salas: Focus on focused attention on elders and how they are faring economically. Include a lens of equity, especially given that some are living on fixed income and housing situation is precarious. Look at race, ethnicity, and immigration status.

Maldonado: Interested in the differences in experiences across rural, suburban, and urban residents throughout the state. Explore where there are overlapping equity issues and outliers that are unique to those types of regions.

Bowles: Study areas where there is equity. Where there is access to housing, education, health equity in the world. Would like to know the policies and practices that created an equitable environment.

Wright: Explore work equity.

Hedrick: Race and intersection with political status. Analysis to include members of federally-recognized tribes, documented and undocumented communities.

Kim: Hard to track whether public comments have larger themes from which to pull. Thematic analysis of public comments. Knowing what themes appear the most.

Richardson: Include change management best practices in research. Focus not just on what we need to do but also how to do it across geographic areas, population, age group, and other aforementioned demographics.

Matthews: Interested in seeing what investment looks like geographically throughout the state, per head or by population and how this investment correlates to equity outcomes. State investment in community-based organizations and how it translates into outcomes for people across the state.

Wood: Interested in interviews or conversations with frontline workers across different State agencies about the policies and practices that they would recommend being changed to alleviate inequities.

Onodera: Expressed a desire to uplift the work being done by local communities.

Pastor: Will take this list of topics to students. Will look for intersections of their interest and these topics. Dr. Estes will visit one of the early graduate student classes and discuss the work of the Commission in this process.

D. ACTION: LOGO

Commission Discussion

Wright: Recommends the Version B logo, which includes “State of California” and therefore is explicit that the Commission is part of the State of California.

Salas: Committed to Version B. Likes the idea of digging deeper into shared identities.

Matthews: Minor preference for teal state image in Version A. Willing to sacrifice that minor preference for the reasons that Commissioner Wright and Commissioner Salas have shared.

Public Comment

The Honorable, Mayor Karina Quintanilla of City of Palm Desert; Julia Caplan of State of Equity; Alejandra Ponce De León of Catalyst California; Michael Jimenez of California Strategic Growth Council; and Cynthia Gómez of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights.

Commission Discussion

Wood: Commended Executive Director Dr. Estes for beginning a Commission and all the work that has been done by Dr. Estes and staff. Expressed a desire to locate the September 2025 meeting in Weed, California.

Estes: Acknowledged the different options available for reaching different geographical regions. Reiterated commitment to meeting community where they are. Noted that these engagement options do not necessarily need to follow the current proposed timeline.

Kim: Expressed a desire for the survey and interview instruments to be presented to the Commission or to a committee for review. Wanted to confirm that the interviews would follow the survey since the survey may identify specific items to explore further in interviews.

Estes: Framework Development Committee will review the survey. With regards to timing, there is an opportunity for a two-fold strategy. Have identified a host of practitioners who have already undergone the Capital Collaborative on Race and Equity Training and are implementing work actively. Working to identify how to best reach as many people as possible who can provide this information. Exploring options for multiple people to collaborate in completing the survey collectively. Will consider how survey results could inform interviews.

Motion to adopt Version B of the logo by Commissioner Matthews and seconded by Commissioner Richardson.

Motion passes (11-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #5: CHAIR ACTION: 15 Minute Recess

Commissioner Dr. Luke Wood, Chair

Dr. Larissa Estes, Executive Director, Racial Equity Commission

Chair Wood called a recess at 2:40 PM.

Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 2:57 PM.

Agenda Item #6: ACTION: Committee Reports and Discussion

- Committee Leads and representatives to present their reports to the Commission

Commissioner Gabriel Maldonado, Budget Equity Committee Lead

Commissioner Manuel Pastor, Data Committee Lead

Commissioner Salas, Fundraising Committee Member

Commissioner Richardson, Framework Development Member

A. BUDGET EQUITY [COMMITTEE REPORT](#)

B. FUNDRAISING [COMMITTEE REPORT](#)**C. DATA COMMITTEE REPORT**

Action item for staff to explore process and policy outcomes to better impact population outcomes.

D. [FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT](#)**Commission Discussion**

Matthews: Proposed change to Budget Equity Committee bylaws seem to align with the language for all other committees. Supports change.

Maldonado: Proposed change to bylaws has full support of Budget Equity Committee.

Public Comment

Vince Leus of Prevention Institute, Danielle Kilchenstein of Inland SoCal United Way, and Elena Santamaria of NextGen CA.

Motion to amend Budget Equity Committee bylaws by Commissioner Kim and seconded by Commissioner Maldonado.

Motion passes (11-0-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #7: DISCUSSION: Next Steps for Staff Action

Commissioner Dr. Luke Wood, Chair

Dr. Larissa Estes, Executive Director, Racial Equity Commission

Committee Discussion

Matthews: Interested in more marketing of the Commission and its work.

Estes: Opportunity to grow engagement through newsletter, while balancing information dissemination with Commission approval of meeting minutes to ensure that the information being disseminated is accurate and verified through a public process. Supported notion of public engagement and awareness of Commission progress.

Richardson: Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Estes and staff on Commission progress.

Salas: Thank you to all who have participated in this meeting.

Estes: Acknowledge the need for more active engagement and transparency of the activities happening between meetings. Noted the action items coming out of the Data Committee Meeting to explore population, process, policy, and systems change outcomes in more depth. Exploring ways to bring conversations to the full Commission.

Agenda Item #8: Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM.