



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room D
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room D, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:37am.

Rollcall - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), (Vice Chair) Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Via Conference Phone: Commissioner Larry Ervin (Proxy Dept. of Health), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Chair Jones established a quorum at 10:40am.

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Others in attendance: N/A

Presentations: Presentations were given on the following topics: **Policies and Statute** by David Fleischhacker, Deputy Director, and General Counsel; **Ethics** by Stephanie Slone, Deputy Director; Internal/External Programming and **Finance** by Erik England, Chief Financial Officer. The content of the presentations was recorded and filed for future consideration. Commission members asked general questions, which the presenters addressed.

Chair's Report: Chair Jones informed everyone about the Commission's purpose and five focus areas. The Chair provided an update on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee meeting held earlier in the month, where the SWOT analysis was discussed. Chair Jones also offered an update on the IBBHI Subcommittee meeting, and she informed the Commission members that the events would begin in April. She also asked everyone to share the information with their contacts to promote the events and secure volunteers. The Chair concluded her report by informing Commissioners on the Black Masculinity Reimagined (BEAM) mental health virtual training program for barbers throughout the state. Commissioners were provided a document with more detailed information and invited to attend the training.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the November 8, 2023, December 4, 2023, and January 17, 2024, meetings. Commissioner Kenneth Allen approved the November 8, 2023, December 4, 2023, and January 17, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Rozzell. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y) Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of the Financial Report: Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the October 2023, November 2023, December 2023, and January 2024 financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Okello. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Y), Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y) Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner David Stewart (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Y). The vote passed unanimously.

Elections: ICSSBM held elections to vote for a new chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2024. Commissioner Dave Rozzell nominated Commissioner Kari Jones to be retained as Chair of the Commission. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Richard Okello. Commissioner Elijah Neal nominated Commissioner Kenneth Allen for Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Dave Stewart.

Commissioner Kenneth Allen withdrew his name from the nomination process. Chair Kari Jones accepted the nomination. There were no additional nominations. Commissioner Kenneth Allen nominated Commissioner Kari Jones to remain as the Chair of the Commission. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Tori Williams and the vote was unanimously approved by the Commissioners present at the meeting to reelect Commissioner Kari Jones as the Chair.

Commissioner Kesha Rich nominated Commissioner Richard Okello to serve as Vice-Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Tori Williams seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Richard Okello accepted the nomination of Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Dave Rozzell moved for a unanimous vote since there were no other nominations. Commissioner Kenneth Allen approved the nomination of Commissioner Richard Okello. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Damein Jones. The vote was unanimously approved to name Commissioner Richard Okello Vice-Chair.

Director's Report: Director Giles provided an update on his activities since the last Commission meeting. On February 1, 2024, the Director served as a panelist on the topic of Heart Health at the Martin University Public

Health Summit. For Black History Month, on February 10, the Director served as a guest on Harambe Radio to discuss the Commission's purpose and current programming. Director Giles informed the Commission that on April 1, he will be on Community Connection with Tina Cosby, along with Chair Kari Jones, and a community partner from Elkhart to discuss the IBBHI.

Unfinished Business: Chair Jones informed Commission members that meeting notifications, minutes and agendas are posted on the website.

New Business: No new business was announced.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Dave Rozzell announced that he has been participating in panel discussions at Fathers and Families. Commissioner Kenneth Allen informed the group that Shannon Sharp will be speaking at Warren Central High School and Deion Sanders will be speaking in April. In addition, Commissioner Allen asked if the Commission could purchase a table at this years' IBE luncheon. Chair Kari Jones stated that the Director Giles will research cost and it will be put in on the March agenda for discussion and a vote.

There being no further business, the February ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 12:05pm.