



**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, March 20, 2024**

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room D, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:39am.

**Rollcall - Commissioners in attendance:** Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner (Vice Chair) Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC) and Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA).

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

**Commissioners absent:** Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Chair Jones stated that a quorum was not established.

**Others in attendance:** N/A

**Chair's Report:** A quorum was not established for the March 2024, Commission meeting and no official business was discussed. Chair Jones acknowledged the visitors at the meeting and stated they will be formally introduced at the conclusion of the meeting. The Chair informed everyone on her trip to Africa and the favorite part of her vacation was the people. Chair Jones provided an update on the Strategic Plan and informed the Commission that as the

subcommittee is forecasting, and creating future programming, there has been a major focus on the budget and financials. Chair Jones wanted to discuss the most recent budget and asked Director Giles to display the financials on WebEx for everyone's view. Chair Jones reviewed the budget and stated her concerns regarding ICSSBM's sustainability. In addition, Chair Jones stressed, the Commission does not have the funding to do what we are currently implementing.

A final question was asked, what are we going to do about it? The Chair informed the Commission that we are working on a proposal to request more funding in the upcoming fiscal year budget and create a sponsorship packet to seek additional financial support. The sponsorship package will be shared with the Commission at the April meeting.

The Chair stated, the Commission's success relies on us and what does that look like? Commissioners need to attend meetings for a quorum, Commissioner participation is needed on subcommittees, Commissioners need to spread the word about our work and events, Commissioners need to attend the events, and when the sponsorship packet is complete it needs to be shared with your partners to seek funding. At the end of the Chair's report, she asked, what do you need from us to do what we're requesting.

Senator Taylor asked questions regarding the budget and does ICRC support the Commission's budget. Director Giles responded and stated that ICRC is in support of the proposed budget. Senator Taylor stated that he totally supports the Commission's increased budget request and strategic plan for programming. Commissioner Tori Williams also stated that the Commission has her full support as well as the Indiana Department of Correction. She also mentioned that the strategic plan is doable.

**Director's Report:** Director Giles provided an update on the 2023 Annual Report which was part of the meeting packet and it will be posted on the website once approved. In addition, Director Giles stated that he is still awaiting approval for the 2021 – 2022 Annual Report. Following Director Giles report, Senator Taylor asked about recommendations being a part of the annual reports and Director Giles responded that they are a part of the 2021 – 2002 Annual Report.

**Unfinished Business:** At the February meeting it was asked if the Commission could purchase a table at the Indiana Black Expo luncheon. Based on budget constraints Chair Jones stated that it would be difficult to support this request. There was no quorum and an official vote to approve the request was not possible. However, it was agreed by the Commission to not pursue the matter further.

**New Business:** No new business was announced.

**Announcement for the Good of the Order:** Director Giles introduced Jalen McGraw, Cultural Commissions Coordinator and informed the Commission that Mr. McGraw will provide meeting, marketing, and social media support. Mr. McGraw mentioned that he is excited and can't wait to work with the Commission.

In addition, Director Giles introduced Minkah Becktemba from Multiple Pathways to Recovery LLC (MPTR). Mr. Becktemba attended the meeting to request \$5,000 to support recovery month in May at P30 and transfer \$2,750 in grant funding that MPTR no longer needs for Peer Recovery Support training. A quorum was not established so no action was taken on the request. Mary McBeth from P30 was also introduced and she provided an overview of the program.

Commissioner Kesha Rich mentioned that the Division of Supplier Diversity is hosting a 1:1 workshop where they're introducing people that don't know about the agencies' services and who are looking to do business with the State of Indiana.

There being no further business, the March ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 11:49am.