



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males**  
**Government Center South**  
**Conference Room 4 Wabash Hall**  
**302 W. Washington Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, in person at the Government Center South Building, Conference Room 4, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:47am.

**Roll call - 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 Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray).

**Via WebEx:** Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Vernon Smith (Representative), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections).

**Commissioners absent:** Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Proxy Dept. of Health), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones stated a quorum was established at 10:49am.

**Others in attendance:** N/A

**Chair's Report:** Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five-areas of focus. The Chair noted that the November meeting has been moved up a week to 11/8 at 10:30am, and the grant program deadline is on November 1. Additional information was provided regarding the timeline for the subcommittee to meet and review the proposals as well as share the information and recommendations with the entire commission.

Next, the Chair opened discussion regarding programming ideas for 2024. Some proposed programming ideas focused on were, employee business fair (preparing Black males for job fairs), entrepreneurship boot camp, socio-emotional learning program for high school students, sponsor for housing projects (on behalf of IHADA) through the Commission, Programs that Work (mentoring program), program dealing with homicides, financial literacy (how to finance a business), resource program for mental health, community resource day (increase ICSSBM awareness and visibility), Black Males Matter Day, IBBHI, ICSSBM Annual Conference, assisting other local commissions to create policies, city-wide youth summit. Following the discussion, Commissioner Allen asked is there a current strategic plan. Director Giles responded, that's the reason for this discussion to create a strategic plan. In addition, the Director stated that there is a document that exist, but it has not been reviewed. Commissioner Allen recommended that a five-year strategic plan be created to lead the Commission.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the September 20, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Kenneth Allen motioned to approve the September 20, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Rozzell. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections). The vote passed unanimously.

**Review and Approval of the Financial Report:** The September Financial was not presented. The commission will review the financial report at the November 8, meeting.

**Director's Report:** Director Giles informed the Commissioners that the fliers for the next two career fairs were in their meeting packet and asked them to share the information on their social media pages. The Director provided a recap of the October 10, career fair and thanked the Commissioners who came out and supported the event. In addition, Director Giles provided an update on the status of 2021 - 2022 Annual Report and asked Commissioner Neal if he could prepare a welcome message for the report and a photo. Commissioner Neal informed the Director that he would provide the information for the annual report. Following the Director's report there were questions regarding the posting of the annual report and what is the strategy for the legislature to receive physical copies of the report.

**Presentation:** Clarence Underwood from Extreme Execution provided an overview of the D.I.S.C. assessment which help participants identify their strengths and develop them to be successful in life. An additional goal of the program is how to communicate effectively and deal with conflict. Following Mr. Underwood's presentation there were questions regarding the D.I.S.C. assessment and the age of the participants. Mr. Underwood stated that he also does "deep dive" sessions during the assessment process consisting of course work. The participants for the program are high school students and younger.

**Unfinished Business:** Director Giles again asked Commissioners to share the career fair flier on October 24, on their personal social media pages.

**New Business:** There was no new business to discuss.

**Announcement for the Good of the Order:** Commissioner Kesha Rich thanked everyone that shared the 15th Annual Division of Supplier Diversity Business Conference flier with their partners that was held on Friday, October 13.

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