

**PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
OF NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

The meeting convened at 1:15 PM, Monday, November 19, 2018 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners:

Joel Bolstein, Chair (absent)  
Dr. Raquel O. Yiengst, Vice Chair  
Mayur Patel, Secretary  
Rad Agrawal (phone)  
George Dawson  
Kathleen Dormer-Carusone  
Michael Hardiman  
Curtis Jones  
Gerald S. Robinson  
Adrian Shanker (phone)  
Aleena Sorathia

Staff:

Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director  
Martin Cunningham, Assistant Chief Counsel  
Jinada Rochelle, Director of Enforcement  
Geoffrey Biringer, Director of Education and Community Services  
Carl Summerson, Hearing Examiner  
Lyle Wood, Pittsburgh Regional Office Director  
Heather Roth, Harrisburg Regional Office Director  
Diana Medley, Philadelphia Regional Office Director  
Renee Martin, Director of Communications  
Tameka Hatcher, Education & Outreach Coordinator  
Anja Velemir, Administrative Officer  
Devin Heckman, Administrative Assistant  
Katherine Petruczok, Mediation Coordinator (absent)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Yiengst called the meeting to order. She further announced that the meeting had been advertised and was open to the public, in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act. She stated that prior to the meeting, in keeping with the confidentiality requirements of the Sunshine Act; there had been a closed session to discuss compliance matters.

Vice Chair Yiengst announced the meeting was being recorded.

Attendance was taken and the presence of a quorum was noted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES****MOTION:**

Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawson to approve the minutes of the October Commission Meeting. With the remaining commissioners in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Vice Chair Yiengst noted there were no guests in attendance.

**MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

Director of Education, Geoffrey Biringer provided an update on the advisory councils, noting several need a chair person and need re-energized. It is hoped that with the new AO3 position being filled we can attend more meetings as well as continue to work with Erie.

Hearing Examiner Summerson provided a brief update on the HRC MOU status and wants to encourage those HRCs with similar powers and have not yet signed to begin the drafting.

Chief Counsel Morrison provided an update on the Mediation Program on behalf of Katie Petruczok. Morrison noted that with the retirement of Karen George the importance of re-staffing the mediation outreach duties.

Commissioner Hardiman suggested looking for trends to report on cases eligible for the program.

Commissioner Robinson asked if the cost/benefit analysis had been done? Morrison explained that this was done previously at the start of the program and it was calculated at \$5k per investigation. With the proper support, the mediation program could be even more successful. Morrison also noted that a cost analysis had not been requested for any other program.

Executive Director Lassiter noted he spoke with the governor's office and we should have the mediation person by the end of December.

Commissioner Hardiman reflected on comments from the IAOHRA conference that the earlier Mediation is initiated while in Intake the easier the case is to resolve.

Director of Enforcement Jinada Rochelle provided a HUD update noting each regional office has one dedicated person and are making progress. Commissioner Robinson asked when did the contract number go down. Rochelle explained the number went down last year and is based on the population of the state.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Executive Director Lassiter asked for an update on the scheduling of the January Commission Meeting. Administrative Officer Walters provided information on a potential location of Shippensburg University. Lassiter and commissioners thought it would be better to have the meeting between Harrisburg and Philadelphia,

possibly in the Lancaster or Lebanon areas and future meeting sites to add to the list are the Harrisburg University and Hazleton area.

**NEXT SESSION**

The December Commission Meeting will be held Monday, December 17, 2018, at 1:00 PM in Harrisburg, PA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was video recorded. The video will become part of the permanent record.

**MOTION:**


Commissioner Dawson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sorathia to adjourn the November meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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Joel Bolstein  
Interim Chairman

  
o/b/o Mayur Patel

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Mayur Patel  
Secretary