



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

JOHN BEL EDWARDS

**Louisiana Success Council on the Success of Black Men and Boys  
Wednesday, January 9, 2019  
Minutes**

**Success Council Members Present:** Kenneth Burrell, Matthew Butler, Ryan Clark, Reginald Devold, Dr. J. C. Dyson (for Rev. Eric Alexander), Rep. Ted James (Chair), Raymond Jetson, Dr. Roland Mitchell, Terri Ricks, Rev. Eric Williams, James Windom, and Dr. Adren Wilson.

**Success Council Advisors Absent:** Sen. Wesley Bishop, Sen. Yvonne Colomb, Rep. Royce Duplessis, Rick Gallot, Dr. Walter Kimbrough, Victor Lashley, Judy Reese Morse, and Rep. Barbara Norton.

**Success Council Advisor Present:** Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell

**Success Council Advisor Absent:** Niiobli Armah IV

**Call to Order**

State Representative Ted James (Chair of CSBMB) called the meeting to order at 12:38 PM.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Success Council members and advisors were asked to give formal introductions to open the meeting. There were twelve members present constituting a quorum.

**Opening Remarks**

Chair James thanked CSBMB advisor, Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, for her continuous work with the Success Council. Several other members recognized Chaunda for her consistency and constantly keeping members updated on work being done in regards to the Success Council.

**Review and approval of minutes**

Chair James reminded everyone that minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to them. Representative Royce Duplessis sent in a correction which was edited and incorporated into the updated minutes. Success Council members were then asked to review the minutes for any additional corrections. Following, Raymond Jetson made a motion to approve; Kenneth Burrell seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote for the approval of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

### **Statement of Purpose**

Chair James reminded the Success Success Council of their previous discussion on using an “asset based framework.” Raymond Jetson was emphasized adding this framework to the Statement of Purpose. Chair James informed members of the revised statement and also reminded members of the updated documents that were sent to their emails.

There were no recommendations or comments to change to the statement of purpose. A motion was put into place by Chair James, moved by James Windom and seconded by Matt Butler. Success Success Council members then proceeded to vote in favor of approving the Statement of Purpose.

### **Update: Pathways**

CSBMB Advisor, Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, was asked to review the Pathways of the Success Success Council and to explain a clear path/goal for each Pathway. Dr. Mitchell informed members that she, along with Dr. Adren Wilson had a conference call with Raymond Jetson in regards to the Pathways where all previous recommendations for Pathways were taken into consideration.

Dr. Mitchell informed the Success Success Council of recommendations from other CSBMB members. Victor Lashley spoke on Health and Wellness, which was added as a Pathway. Co-chair, Terri Ricks, recommendations on adding foster care to the Reentry and Reintegration Pathway were taken into consideration and added. Dr. Mitchell also informed members that the Community Pathway was expanded to Community Mobilization/Community Ownership.

Success Success Council member, James Windom, suggested adding mentorship to the Reentry and Reintegration Pathway. There were no additional recommendations to the modification of the Pathways.

Dr. Adren Wilson stated that outside members are necessary in hopes of being effective in each Pathway. Dr. Mitchell also mentioned that the updated eight Pathways are now solidified and set in stone. However, she noted that information within each Pathway is subject to change. Dr. Wilson made a suggestion that Senator Bishop become co-chair of the Higher Education Pathway while also focusing on his work within the “HBCU Success Council.” Chair James was in favor of this recommendation and also informed members that several individuals contacted him about working within particular Pathways.

Success Council member, Eric Williams asked, “How to engage being in Workforce Development with community outreach?” He proceeded to also ask the Success Council, “How can black men understand how to build relationships with individuals outside of the black

community?” Chair James noted that these concerns could fall into the work of the Identity/Self Image Pathway.

Dr. Roland Mitchell also asked if individuals from other ethnicities would work under the respective Pathways. He suggested that there should be a diverse group of individuals in each Pathway in order to familiarize young African American males with different groups of people.

After the recommendations for each Pathway were stated, Dr. Chaunda Mitchell confirmed the changes to both the Reentry and Reintegration Pathway and the Identity/Self-Image Pathway. Changes to both Pathways were approved.

### **Pathway Leadership (Chairs)**

Chair James asked members to make suggestions and nominations in regards to Success Council members that would work best under each Pathway. Vice-Chair Terri Ricks expressed that she would like to potentially chair the Health and Wellness Pathway. She also recommended that each Pathway work heavily with other Success Councils to enhance their work.

Dr. Roland Mitchell’s work in his respective field was highlighted and taken into consideration for his leadership of the Higher Education Pathway. Ted James noted that members outside of the Success Council were eligible to serve as co-chair or vice-chair to maintain a medium within each Pathway.

Vice-Chair Terri Ricks and Ryan Clark agreed to serve as Chair and Co-chair of the Health and Wellness Pathway. Success Council member Kenneth Burrell was nominated by multiple members to serve as chair over the Workforce Development Pathway. Additionally, Ryan Clark was selected to chair the Identity/Self Image Pathway.

Raymond Jetson was nominated as Community Mobilization/Community Ownership chair. Matt Butler agreed to chair the Wealth Literacy Pathway and also suggested that he could co-chair K-12 Mentorship Pathway along with Identity/Self Image.

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell announced that members who were not present could be nominated and reached out to in hopes of serving as a Pathway chair/co-chair. Chair James also included that we would meet with Dr. Mitchell at a later date to discuss members who were absent but fit to serve as a possible chair/co-chair.

### **Pathway Member Recommendations**

CSBMB members were asked to recommend possible members that would be willing to work heavily under a particular Pathway. Dr. Adren Wilson stated that individuals who were not

present could possibly be engaged in serving on a Pathway with recommendations being open to any qualified individual.

Chair James recommended that the NAACP and Urban League be placed under the Community Mobilization/Community Ownership Pathway. He also stated that information regarding the Pathways could be sent out in hopes of reaching those who may be interested in working with the Success Council.

Dr. Mitchell recommended drafting an email and sending it out to Success Council members to help reach out to those who would like to work under a Pathway. Success Council members were all in favor of this idea and also suggested that CSBMB should be diverse and regional.

Success Council members discussed expanding the scope of the Council to ensure that its efforts not just be centered around the Baton Rouge area but statewide. Dr. Mitchell went on to encourage Success Council members to speak with qualified individuals who would serve a Pathway effectively.

Chair James stated that several members of the Black Caucus were interested in working with the Success Council and suggested that both Success Councils work together to promote a diverse environment. Although the goal is to reach multiple qualified individuals, there should be a limit on the amount of members under each Pathway.

### **Pathway Working Calendar**

Dr. Mitchell gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the calendars that each member were provided with, which is to provide members with an opportunity to reach a large mass of individuals who may not be active at meetings. She informed the chairs that the calendar is subject to change, therefore it may be difficult to follow it on a weekly basis. Dr. Mitchell also stated that the Success Council has an end-goal to have a report from the chairs in April in hopes of having a informative discussion at May's meeting.

### **Monthly Expectations**

- **January**

Dates may shift slightly due to there being open nominations for a Pathway committee. During January, each Pathway is expected to select a certain age group to target their work towards and focus on.

Narrative shifting was discussed as a potential Pathway. Dr. Mitchell stated that although it was not included as a Pathway, chairs and co-chairs should still focus heavily on how to shift narratives within their Pathways.

- **February**

Dr. Mitchell expects to communicate heavily via email to keep each member informed on work that is being done within each Pathway. She also mentioned that conference calls are expected to ensure that everyone is updated on work in the Success Council.

*A policy focus should be selected- What is the focus of your Pathway?*

- **March**

Members are expected to create an implementation plan for their Pathways.

Dr. Mitchell reminded members that at the inaugural meeting, Mr. Armant challenged members to condense their work to ensure that the Success Council is progressing effectively.

- **April**

Final reports from the previous meeting are expected to be completed. Any additional conference calls or communication through email should take place during this time period to ensure that all information can be discussed at the meeting in May.

Raymond Jetson expressed his concern about the level of support in the expectations of each Pathway by mentioning that it is extremely difficult for one individual to chair such a demanding Pathway.

Dr. Mitchell informed the Success Council that the Diversity and Inclusion will work with the Success Council and that she plans to hire a qualified student-intern to assist as well. Dr. Adren Wilson also stated that the Governor's Office will look into working with college students to assist with the Success Council. He ensured Mr. Jetson that the office will handle all logistics of CSBMB.

Chair James informed members that the Success Council will be submitting its documents to the legislature no later than February 1, 2019. The documents shall outline the overall goals of the Success Council and will be sent out to members for confirmation and potential recommendations/changes.

### **Public Comments**

Makesha Judson congratulated CSBMB members on their work within the Success Council. She proceeded to recommend a male from the media to work heavily within the Identity/Self-Image Pathway. Ms. Judson also suggested that a local male should work heavily in the Pathways to push the work more and serve as an advocated for the Success Council.

Ryan Clark agreed by stating that he would like to incorporate his work with sports and the media to help benefit each Pathway but also incorporate black men from various backgrounds.

Chair James suggested that young student leaders should be included in each Pathway to provide the Success Council with different perspectives.

**Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Mitchell spoke in regards to a possible meeting schedule that would run on a quarterly basis. Meeting dates were announced as: May 8, 2019, August 7, 2019, and November 6, 2019.

She proceeded to thank each member for their attendance and also mentioned that she would send out electronic information and phone-calls to those who were not present.

Terri Ricks suggested that in the future, there should be a way for members to listen in on meetings to ensure that everyone is updated and on the same page.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Chair James announced that the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.