**LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**Monday February 4, 2015**

**11:30 A.M.**

**LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

**1001 NORTH 23RD STREET**

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

Members Present: Member Absent:

Tamara K. Jacobson, Chairwoman Terrence Ginn

Angela Faulk Kirby Verret

Willie Littleton

Staff Present: Loyce Pierce Wright, Christa Davis, Natalie Blackman, Marlene Miller, Desha Gay

Chairwoman Tamara Jacobson called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. and requested a roll call.

Mrs. Wright began her report by thanking everyone for their attendance at the meeting. She expressed that it had been a challenge achieving a quorum and that she was hopeful the administration would appoint some Commissioners in the near future. She proceeded with acknowledging her report will be brief and the majority of the time being spent on presenting cases.

She then announced that staffing changes had occurred at the Commission and that Courtney Heard and Attorney Caroline Barnes had departed to pursue an LLM degree and due to time constraints, respectively. Two new 3rd year law students, John Allen and Desha Gay had joined the team.

Mrs. Wright stated that outreach efforts were progressing. Natalie Blackman represented LCHR at Southern University, “Know your Rights” rally as well as Louisiana State University Civil Rights Symposium. Both events focused on informing the community of their Civil Rights in various regards. The Commission was also slated to participate in the Greater Baton Rouge Society for Human Resources Management meeting in February 19, 2015.

Next, Mrs. Wright stated that the Commission attended a recent training regarding the FBI Community Relations Executive Seminar on January 21, 2015. The discussion prefaced investigation procedures of the FBI and NOPD.

Thereafter, Mrs. Wright discussed that the Commission had contracted Happy Johnson to travel and lecture at eight state and/ or parish prisons or jails containing a re-entry population of a least 900 inmates to implement the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights leadership series; promoting job readiness and reducing recidivism. She stated the purpose of the program is twofold; (1) to prepare re-entry inmates for successful societal matriculation; produce effective examples and techniques for utilizing federal and state civil liberties in reference to employment applications, practices and procedures. The program should be fully operational within a month. She indicated that there will be an opportunity to observe the presentation should any Commission member wish to do so.

Mrs. Wright communicated that planning had begun for outreach to immigrants. Presentations would be crafted and presented in partnership with organizations that specialize in working with immigrants such as Catholic Charities in Lake Charles, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. This outreach is in concert with the engagement plan established in the EEOC’s 2012-2016 strategies plan. EEOC has extended funding of $1000.00 to facilitate the outreach.

Then she stated that the Commission planned to hold a symposium in May entitled “From History to Fate: Protecting the Rights of all Citizens.” Mrs. Wright stated the conference will focus on Civil Rights, Voting Rights, LGBT Rights, Immigration and Racial Profiling. She stated the concept of the conference consists of a plenary session, panel discussion, breakout discussion sessions. She mentioned the conference speakers will be invited from a list of notable speakers from the local, state and national level. A scribe will be available and Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) will be provided.

Mrs. Wright apprised, the target audience for the conference is the legal community, Human Resource professionals, academia, community-based organizations and social advocates, such as the NAACP, Urban League, Eracism. She stated that conversations are being held with the Ritz Carlton and Hyatt Hotels as the potential venue site. She hopes that all Commissioners will be able to participate in this event.

Subsequently, Mrs. Wright discussed case status. She stated that 82 cases were currently pending in the inventory and 66 are assigned to investigators, 12 were pending position statement and 4 were ready for investigation. She stated that the goal was to close 47 cases by April 30th.

Mrs. Wright concluded the Executive Director’s Report stating the 2015 motto is to “Finish Strong” through Courteousness, Accountability and Preparedness (CAP) . Following her report Ms. Blackman and Mrs. Miller presented cases.

Following, the aforementioned presentation, Chairwoman Jacobson stated that next on the agenda was unfinished business. There was none to discuss. Commissioner Angela Faulk spoke on new business and asked for the meeting to be held on the second Monday of the month at 9 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55p.m.