

Minutes for the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights Office of the Governor

Call to Order

A commission meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights was held on March 21, 2019 at the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Beginning at 11:50 a.m., the meeting was presided over by Chairwoman Jacobson, with Dr. Leah Raby, as Executive Director.

Attendees

Commissioners ■ – Denotes Absent		
Tamara K. Jacobson, Chairwoman	■Commissioner Angela Faulk	Commissioner Terry L. Jackson
■Commissioner F. Clayton Latimer	■Commissioner Julie Mendez Achee	Commissioner Roxanne Foret
Commissioner Courtney L. Hunt	Commissioner Richard Perque	
Staff		
Dr. Leah Raby, Executive Director	Christa Davis, MPA	Desha Gay, Esq.
April White, JD		

Approval of Minutes

A motion is made by Commissioner Hunt to approve the minutes of the previous October 25, 2018 meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Foret. Chairwoman Jacobson acknowledged that she is serving as Commissioner Richard Perque's proxy.

Chairwoman's Remarks

Chairwoman Jacobson reminds everyone about the annual Ethics Financial Disclosure form. Chairwoman Jacobson renews her usual comment on her appreciation for all that the staff does in making the Commission shine. She asks that staff inform the Commissioners of any assistance needed.

Sidebar: Dr. Leah Raby mentions to everyone to take the sexual harassment training class online, as she is a featured guest. Commissioner Foret mentions not receiving a tax statement. Dr. Raby states she would contact Connie Nelson, Director of Finance and Administration in the Governor's Office.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Leah Raby presents the Executive Director's report.

Excited about seeing everyone, Dr. Raby acknowledges the many personal challenges that staff, which left the Commission with limited functionality.

Congrats were extended to April White, Law Clerk for her educational accomplishment in completing her Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center.

LCHR is working to meet its mid-term contractual obligation with the EEOC, by currently closing 41 cases of the 42 needed by April 30, 2019, staff are confident in achieving that goal. Intake has met its goal of three.

Five new computers have arrived! Governor's Office approved the request, in December LCHR received the new computers, and the computers were installed January 3.

Louisiana Commission on Human Rights receives commendations from the New Orleans Human Relations Commission in their annual report. Likewise, LCHR will contract with Erin Dowell to complete LCHR's annual report soon.

Community Engagements

- October 31, LCHR participated in the Trick or Treat with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, where staff served over 100 families with treats and brochures.
- November 7th and 8th, LCHR conducted Sexual Harassment training for the Teacher's Retirement System.
- November 7, Dr. Raby participated in City Year's annual networking event. It was set up like speed dating. Dialogue facilitation occurred about life after City Year and allowed the AmeriCorps members to meet and network with leaders who are established in their career.
- November 28, the staff participated in the Gold Awards hosted by Disability Affairs.
- December 12, the team participated in a training offered by the EEOC entitled "Identifying Systemic Cases" as a part of the series of training for FEPAs.
- January 9, Dr. Raby attended the Children's Cabinet – Think Prevention – Human Trafficking meeting.
- January 23rd, 24th, and February 7, LCHR conducted sexual harassment training for the City of Gonzales employees and the Fire Department.
- February 15, LCHR conducted sexual harassment training for IMPA-HR (International Public Management Association for Human Resources).
- February 20, staff met with Baton Rouge's City Attorney and Progressive Social Network. The City of Baton Rouge is attempting to devise a local commission. We shared some aspects about the inner workings of LCHR, and gave ideas on how to overcome some challenges.
- February 25, Ms. Davis, EEOC and Dr. Raby participated in DECA – LA DECA Career Development Conference as Judges, wherein critiques and engaging conversations with high school youth regarding a specific field of study scenario were discussed. I.E., Business, H.R., Hotel Management, etc.

Scheduled and Pending Activities

- This legislative session convenes April 8 and ends June 6. The Governor's agenda, unofficially, was shared with the Commissioners.
- April 17, 100 Black Women of Metropolitan Baton Rouge is having their first 100-day at the Capitol. As the Public Policy Chair, Dr. Raby is tasked with organizing this event.
- LCHR is slated to conduct training for the City of Shreveport on June 20, 2019, and for the City of New Orleans on April 4.
- June 18th and 19th – Training with the EEOC for and at Grambling State University.
- Commissioner Jackson asked Dr. Raby to contact her to assist with the training at Grambling State University.
- There are several mediations in May and June.

This concludes the Executive Director's Report.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business

- Chairwoman Jacobson asked the Commissioners to vote on taking fees for outreach for self-generated funds.
- Dr. Raby shares LSA RS 51:2235 (7) which allows the Commission to charge fees for conference/training.
- Commissioner Hunt motioned to approve charging a fee for conference/training. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.

Announcement(s)

The next tentative meeting date is July 16, 2019.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Jacobson accepts a motion by Commissioner Jackson adjourning the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.