

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 1, 2018

Board Members Present

Joshua W. Carden (Chairperson)
Kathryn Hackett King (Member)
Tarah L. White (Member)

Staff Members Present

Rebekah Browder
Tina Rohe

Staff Members Present by Telephone

Vincent Sottosanti

Board Members Present by Telephone

Robert M. Garcia (Vice-Chairperson)

I. Call to Order

Joshua Carden called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m., with the members present announcing. The meeting took place at 2005 North Central, Arizona Attorney General, Third Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona.

II. Preliminary Remarks

Joshua Carden greeted the members. Brief discussion was held to skip the July 2018 meeting due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Carden said the State Bar Association revealed from an internal survey 40% of all lawyers respondents and 70% of all women respondents have been subject to sexual harassment in the workplace. Mr. Carden concluded the sexual harassment issue is not going away any time soon. Kathryn Hackett King mentioned a pending rule of professional conduct before the Arizona Supreme Court to specifically prohibit sexual harassment. After an inquiry from Mr. Carden to see if the comment period was still open, Rebekah Browder informed the Board that public comment closed on May 21, 2018.

III. Minutes

Kathryn Hackett King moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2018 meeting. Tarah White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Division Report

Rebekah Browder informed the Board the Arizona Civil Rights Division still has five pending cases in litigation, and the Division is getting close to settling one case. Ms. Browder noted that a large number of Division employees attended the Arizona Fair Housing Seminar in April, "50 Years of Fair Housing."

V. Update on Pending Issues

- a. Robert Garcia asked if any of the Board was aware of the large age discrimination case involving the company Intel. Vincent Sottosanti informed the Board the case is being litigated by the EEOC.

VI. Law Enforcement Survey and ACRA B Surveys Email Account

- a. Rebekah Browder reported the azag.gov email address is set up: acrabssurveys@azag.gov. Ms. Browder said that she, Tina Rohe, and Mr. Sottosanti will have access to the account. Ms. Rohe said that she had been working on a list of law enforcement contacts for purpose of distributing the survey. No Board members had the opportunity to discuss the draft survey with their law enforcement contacts. Joshua Carden suggested the members of the Board vet the draft survey with their law enforcement contacts and get feedback. Kathryn Hackett King and Robert Garcia said they would talk to their contacts before the next meeting.

VII. Status of Report on Homelessness

- a. Tarah White updated the Board on the homelessness survey. Ms. White informed the Board regarding the Phoenix Cares program, where a person can call the number with information regarding a homeless person and someone would respond within 3-5 days. The Phoenix Cares program has received over 1,200 calls in the last three months and has identified over 500 homeless encampments. Of the 399 cases referred to the Human Services Department, 277 cases accepted help, and 10% moved into permanent housing. Ms. White advised Maricopa County does a point in time survey to count the number of homeless. The statistics revealed:

2017: 5,605 homeless individuals in Maricopa County, with 3,546 sheltered.

2018: 6,298 homeless individuals in Maricopa County, with 3,680 sheltered (increase of 12% homelessness rate).

An increase in youth and family homelessness was also noted. From 2015 through 2017, there has been an increase in homelessness by 59%. Issues that are unresolved: (1) Are people being turned away from shelters? If so, why?; and (2) are there any barriers for people not getting their basic needs (food and water) met? Ms. White plans to reach out to the Human Services Director to find out if services are equitable and accessible to everyone. Ms. White also mentioned that some shelters will not take men or boys over a certain age due to the issue of domestic violence.

- b. Joshua Carden mentioned that he was curious to find out what the genders were for the sheltered vs. unsheltered. Kathryn Hackett King was wondering what type of population of the homeless were increasing and where they came from. Ms. King mentioned that the Mayor in Albuquerque has a program where individuals drive around looking for homeless people and offered them a job. Robert Garcia said the City of Phoenix contracts with Community Bridges, Inc. ("CBI") who makes contact with individuals and may have information helpful to the Board. Mr. Garcia said he would get Ms. White the contact information for CBI.

VIII. Mid-year review of potential and current project ideas

- a. Joshua Carden commented the Board has made progress on and/or finished three of the seven projects the Board had initially wanted to work on. Mr. Carden wants to prioritize the Human Trafficking Legislation. Kathryn Hackett King suggested setting up meetings with the legislators after election season. The Board agreed to think up proposed language and put proposed language on a future meeting's agenda. Discussion about potential stakeholders was held. The Board's goal is to make proposal to legislators and then get stakeholders involved. Discussion was held to add to the next Board meeting's agenda an item for any other project ideas the Board may want to address.

IX. Call to Public

No members of the public were present.

X. Announcements and Current Events

- a. Rebekah Browder discussed an upcoming event:
 - i. Religious Liberty CLE at the State Bar Conference on June 29, 2018.Ms. Browder also mentioned that she will be attending the annual EEOC conference in June. Due to the understaffed EEOC, Ms. Browder mentioned the Division has seen an uptick in charging parties using our Division to file discrimination charges. Unit Chief of the Division, Angelina Nguyen, will be attending the annual HUD conference in September.
- b. Joshua Carden suggested skipping the July meeting due to lack of a quorum, and therefore the meeting would be on August 3, 2018. There was no opposition. Mr. Carden requested staff to send the Board unapproved minutes when typed up.

XI. Adjournment

There being no other announcements or matters, Tarah White moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 p.m. Robert Garcia seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

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