

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

February 4, 2016

Board Members Present

Howard Meyers (Chairperson)
Joshua Carden
Daisy Flores
Robert Garcia (by telephone)
Christopher St. John (by telephone)

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Theresa Rassas, Executive Director
Jennifer Larson, Legal Counsel
Tina Rohe
Rebekah Browder

I. Call to Order

Howard Meyers called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., with the Board Members present as listed above. The meeting took place at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Law Building, Lobby Conference Room, 1275 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion by Joshua Carden, which was seconded by Robert Garcia, the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes for November 4, 2015.

III. Elections of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson; Resignation of Board Members

It was announced that Elissa Graves resigned from the Board. Janet Bain's term with the Board expired. Daisy Flores nominated Howard Meyers for Chair and Joshua Carden for Vice Chair. Christopher St. John seconded the nominations and the selections passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business. Update on ACRAB's involvement in matter raised by Tracy Elise

Theresa Rassas informed the Board that Ms. Elise sent an email to the Division advising that she was seeking help from a federal agency and thanked the Board for their interest.

V. Discussion and Possible Action re: Planning for New Civil Rights Issues to address in future meetings

a. Human trafficking

Howard Meyers discussed human trafficking, generally, and discussed an article from the state board of nursing. The article will be disseminated to the Board and maintained on file for future reference.

Joshua Carden raised the issue of working toward recommending legislation that would create a civil remedy for victims of human trafficking, referencing a Texas statute. The Texas statute will be disseminated to the Board and maintained on file for future reference. Howard Meyers moved that the Board have a fact-finding forum with the purpose of considering recommending legislation that creates a civil remedy for trafficking victims. Robert Garcia seconded the motion and it passed.

1. Presentation

The presentation was canceled as the speaker became unavailable.

b. Gaps in Data

Theresa Rassas informed the Board that there are no general data needs for the Division to perform its duties. Data is needed case-by-case. Howard Meyers recommended the society of actuaries as a resource for as-needed statistical analyses.

c. Federal versus State law in age discrimination

Joshua Carden raised the issue that age discrimination protection may be greater under Arizona law than it is under federal law. Joshua Carden asked if the Board would ask the attorney general to publish an opinion to that regard.

Howard Meyers moved for a fact finding meeting on what efforts the Board should take regarding age discrimination and legal remedies and whether remedies are effective to impact the issue with possible request for an opinion from the Attorney General regarding whether age discrimination protection is greater under Arizona law than it is under federal law. This motion was seconded by Robert Garcia and it passed.

d. Other Topics

Daisy Flores raised the issue of same-sex couples being able to adopt children and receive DCS-placed children.

Howard Meyers moved that the Board explore the issue above to determine if the Board should act. Daisy Flores seconded the motion and it passed.

The priority of these topics was determined to be: human trafficking (Howard Meyers as lead), age discrimination (Joshua Carden as lead), and same-sex adoption/placement (Daisy Flores as lead).

Howard Meyers discussed coordinating a forum on human trafficking on either March 29 or 31, 2016.

At 1:50 p.m. Robert Garcia left the meeting for an obligation.

VI. Other Business

This topic was tabled as it was at the request of Robert Garcia, who was no longer present.

VII. Civil Rights Division Report including New Legislation and Litigation

Theresa Rassas reviewed pending legislation related to Civil Rights.

Rebekah Browder reviewed pending legislation related to Civil Rights.

Howard Meyers moved that an agenda item for an up-coming meeting be how the Board can encourage comment on pending legislation related to civil rights. Joshua Carden seconded the motion and it passed.

VIII. Summary of Current Events and Announcements

None offered.

IX. Call to Public

None offered.

X. Adjournment

The Board agreed to have a telephonic meeting for the sole purpose of discussing the human trafficking forum in early March. At 1:55 p.m., Howard Meyers moved to adjourn. Christopher St. John seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

March 16, 2016

Board Members Present

Howard Meyers (Chairperson) (by telephone)
Joshua Carden (Vice Chairperson) (by telephone)
Robert Garcia (by telephone) (joined meeting at 2:15 p.m.)
Christopher St. John (by telephone)
Kathryn King (by telephone)

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Theresa Rassas, Executive Director
Jennifer Larson, Legal Counsel
Tina Rohe

I. Call to Order

Howard Meyers called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., with the Board Members present as listed above. The meeting took place at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Law Building, Lobby Conference Room, 1275 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 4, 2016 Meeting

Upon motion by Christopher St. John, which was seconded by Joshua Carden, the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes for February 4, 2016.

III. Welcome New Board Member Kathryn Hackett King

Chairperson Howard Meyers welcomed newly appointed member Kathryn King, who introduced herself to the Board. It was announced that Daisy Flores' term was not renewed.

IV. Discussion Regarding March 31, 2016 Symposium on Human Trafficking

Chairperson Howard Meyers discussed the time, location, and speakers for the Symposium. Mr. Meyers discussed a proposed agenda. There being an anticipated quorum at the forum, Legal Counsel Jennifer Larson advised on the Board's duties. Upon motion by Vice Chairperson Joshua Carden, seconded by Kathryn King, having the Symposium be a Board meeting unanimously passed.

V. Call to the Public

None offered.

VI. Adjournment

At 2:39, upon motion by Kathryn King, seconded by Robert Garcia, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 6, 2016

Board Members Present

Howard Meyers (Chairperson)
Joshua Carden (Vice Chairperson)
Robert Garcia (joined meeting at 12:06 p.m.)
Christopher St. John
Kathryn King

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Theresa Rassas, Executive Director
Jennifer Larson, Legal Counsel
Tina Rohe
Eric Cascio

I. Call to Order

Howard Meyers called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., with the Board Members present as listed above. The meeting took place at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Law Building, Lobby Conference Room, 1275 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2016 Meeting

Upon motion by Joshua Carden, which was seconded by Christopher St. John, the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes for March 16, 2016.

III. Legislation and Litigation Update

Theresa Rassas offered an update on the Civil Rights Division, a Section of the Civil Litigation Division of the Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Rassas Updated the Board on the *Geo* case and answered the Board's question regarding case numbers.

IV. Announcements and Current Events

None offered.

V. Call to the Public

None offered.

VI. Old Business

Joshua Carden advised that the next effort of the Board regarding Human Trafficking will be to draft a legislative proposal offering a civil remedy to victims of human trafficking. The Board discussed others in the community who may want to eventually have input on this language, including the Attorney General, Maricopa County Attorney, and the Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force. Howard Meyers will work to set a Board meeting in the community.

Robert Griffiths suggests the Board create a public calendar where civil rights training and other events can be accessed.

Howard Meyers refreshes the Board on its work on inclusive housing topics.

VII. Planning Future Board Topics

Joshua Carden and Howard Meyers discuss the Board's next issue, Age Discrimination. This issue had been previously voted as the "on deck" issue to follow human trafficking. The goal will be to have an event in the community on this topic.

Following Age Discrimination, the Board may consider civil rights issues.

VIII. New Business

Howard Meyers reminds the Board that we are still waiting for two Board members to be appointed by the Governor.

Kathryn King raises the issue of outreach and the prospect of working with human resources-focused groups.

IX. Adjournment

At 12:43 p.m., upon motion by Robert Garcia, seconded by Kate King, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

ARIZONA CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting

October 6, 2016

Board Members Present by telephone

Howard Meyers (Chairperson)

Joshua Carden (Vice Chairperson)

Kathryn King (Member)

Robert Garcia (Member)

Staff Members Present

Rebekah Browder

Ariel Henderson

Tina Rohe

I. Call to Order

Howard Meyers called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., with the members present by telephone announcing. The meeting took place at 1275 W. Washington, FRS Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona.

II. Preliminary Remarks

None were made by the Board or Staff.

III. Minutes

Robert Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting. Kathryn King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Call to Public

No members of the public were present.

V. Division Report

Assistant Attorney General Ariel Henderson advised the Board of Civil Rights Division's pending litigation and investigation numbers. Specifically, over 9,000 complaints regarding AzDA violations were delivered to the Division. Joshua Carden moved that a discussion of and update on the AzDA complaints be added to the next agenda. Kathryn King seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Counsel to the Board, Jennifer Larson, has accepted a new position and will no longer serve the Board. Joshua Carden moved that the Board present Jennifer Larson a certificate of appreciation. The motion was seconded by Kathryn King. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Update on Pending Issues

Kathryn King moved that the pending issues (human trafficking legislation and age discrimination) be held over to the next meeting. Robert Garcia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board discussed asking Dominique Roe-Sepowitz to participate in a future meeting when human trafficking is addressed. Kathryn King offered to communicate the message of the issue before the Board to the Governor's Commission on Human Trafficking.

VII. Planning regarding Now and Pending Civil Rights Topics

Howard Meyers addressed the issue of criminal convictions. No motion was made.

VIII. Announcements and Current Events

None were made.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other announcements or matters, Kathryn King moved to adjourn the meeting. Joshua Carden seconded and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

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