

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.