

Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, May 11, 2022  
12:00-1:30 PM  
Indiana Government Center South  
Conference Room 17  
302 W. Washington St, Indianapolis

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by chair Dr. Lindsay Weaver at 12:06 PM EST.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Christine Altman [**present**], Commissioner Sen. Vaneta Becker [**not present**], Commissioner Cyndi Carrasco [**not present**], Commissioner Kori Chambers [**in-person/present**], Commissioner Molly Chavers [**in-person/present**], Commissioner Kayevonne Dailey [**virtual/present**], Commissioner Sharon Jackson [**in-person/present**], Commissioner Rep. Sheila Klinker [**not present**], Commissioner Rep. Peggy Mayfield [**in-person/present**], Commissioner Stephanie Moore [**virtual/present**], Commissioner Sen. Shelli Yoder [**not present**], Chair Dr. Lindsay Weaver [**in-person/present**]. **Quorum was established at 12:06 PM EST.**

**STAFF:** Jordan Teske-Harrison, Director of the Indiana Commission for Women

**GUESTS:** Amber Terry (Director of WeConnect at Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Inc), Julie Ashmore, James Garret (Director of The Social Status of Black Males), Stephanie Slone (Program Director for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Molly Chavers motioned to approve the meeting minutes for April 13, 2022. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kori Chambers. The motion carried unanimously.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Sen. Vaneta Becker [**in-person/present**]

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Commissioner Christine Altman motioned to approve the review and approval of the financial report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Molly Chavers. The motion carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Jordan Teske-Harrison deferred her full report for the next subsequent meeting on July 20, 2022 and provided some documents to the commissioners to view ICW's social media insights and progressions since September 2021. **Due to time constraints and securing an establishment of quorum from April 13, 2022 to conduct business, the Chair called a motion to approve the Director's report from April 13, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Sen. Vaneta Becker motioned to approve the Director's report from April 13, 2022. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kori Chambers. The motion carried unanimously.**



**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman's report was deferred for the July 20, 2022 subsequent meeting date.


**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Subcommittee meetings for infant and maternal mortality, financial independence and literacy, and increasing women in public service are set for June 8, 2022. Director Jordan Teske-Harrison presented a Radio One Partnership and Outreach Proposal for each subcommittee to consider as ways to help inform and educate Hoosier women that works within their personal, family, and work life timeframe. The proposal also included ways as to expand statewide outreach and awareness for the commission and the Torchbearer Awards.


Guest speaker, Amber Terry, is the Program Director for WeConnect and oversees the Bridges out of Poverty Program at the Goodwill Industries of Michiana Inc. Goodwill acquired the Bridges out of Poverty Program, that served as an Employer Resource Network around five years ago. Since merging the two programs, Goodwill teaches the aha! Process for the Bridges out of Poverty Workshops based on the works of Ruby Payne. That explores what it is like to for someone living in daily instability. From the workshops, Goodwill was able to center on financial needs and what that looks like for an individual. Thus, the class titled, Getting Ahead, conducts 10 sessions of 10 modules that covers everything in an individual's life when they are living in daily instability.

The classes discuss every aspect of their life, especially the 11 essential resources like social capital, finances, support groups, family, childcare, and their past life to discover how to move forward responsibly. Further elaboration in the classes focuses on financial stability when it comes to affordable housing, how to use a checking and savings account, how to pay bills, the hidden rules that exist between daily instability, stability, and wealth. Individuals proceed through the process undergo different levels of self-reflection and they sit together with a facilitator called investigators. The goal is for individuals to complete the 10-week program, however since the class deals with self-reflection it can at times be triggering for individuals to review these areas. The program encourages and supports individuals who face this scenario and provide options and a facilitator for them to finish the program, step away from the program for a bit, or continue at their own pace.

For additional support on this initiative, Goodwill has partnered with the Michigan City Salvation Army to run Getting Ahead workshops and address what is holding individuals back within the community and how can they support them to move forward. At the end of the Getting Ahead workshops, the investigator asks the individual to write a future story and what they've learn over the last 10 weeks. The individuals are then checked on over a six-month and a year period to survey how the future story and progress is going. The data from the surveys continues to better reflect on ways to help the community and better support people to make sure they are in a great place financially.

An additional program under WeConnect is the Success Coach Program, where they partner with companies across 16 counties that Goodwill Industries of Michiana serves. The program works with employees while they are at work with anything that they have going on outside of work, such as: food assistance, affordable childcare, affordable housing, education, and FAFSA. The Success Coach then meets with them one on one to ensure all their needs are meeting met and connect them with community resources to make sure they are provided the essential needs. Success Coaches will additionally meet with the employers of the companies to help the employee stay retained at work. For example, if employee has an issue with transportation and the bus route doesn't run close to the employer, and they're having to take two buses to take their child to childcare. The Success Coach will help the employee communicate with their employer to seek an accommodation.





Furthermore, they work directly with employers on an educational piece called Workplace Stability. Four and a half hours are spent with the employers in the community to discuss the 11 essential resources and what it's like for an individual who is under resourced. These discussions are connected directly with the aha! Process to inform employers as to how they can help employees stay and get financial peace. While also observing the health insurances and premiums and investigating whether an employee can afford them. Likewise, if an employee can not afford the medical coverage what financial impact and burden it be for the individual if a medical emergency occurs with them on or off the work site.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Rep. Sheila Klinker **[in-person/present]**

**Commissioner Sen. Vaneta Becker motioned to approve the subcommittee report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rep. Sheila Klinker. The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion overviewed the 2022 Torchbearer Awards event timeline, nomination, and sponsorship packages, as well as the Council of Judges meeting. For the Council of Judges to have enough time to review nominations and meet, with the closing of nominations on July 1, 2022. The Council of Judges will meet on July 18, 2022 to finalize award winners and present them to the Board for a final vote. The original public meeting set for July 13, 2022 will now be moved to July 20, 2022. Further discussions centered on the finalized 2022 Torchbearer Award budget and date. **Commissioner Rep. Sheila Klinker motioned to approve the 2022 Torchbearer Award budget, date, and Torchbearer Award Sponsorship Package. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kori Chambers. The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:** no comments from commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** no comments from public.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was called to adjourned by Chair Dr. Lindsay Weaver at 1:22 PM EST.

**Next Meeting:** July 20, 2022

**Subsequent Meeting:** August 10, 2022

