

Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Katherine Cobb-Holmes

Stacey Taylor

Zelda Yoder

Karima (Karen) Archie

Richard T. Wagner

Barbara Coffin

Lisa Blount

Absent:

Valerie Phelps-Robinson

Staff Present:

Kimberly Talbot

Guest

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Yoder. The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Yoder moved and Commissioner Wagner seconded. The minutes were approved.

Executive Director's report

The E.D. discussed having another landlord forum which is tentatively scheduled to occur in August. The topic will be habitability issues.

The rental assistance program is going well. The RHRC has 979 cases for rental assistance total. 630 applications with evictions, 245 without, 17 cases are for utility assistance and 88 applications were for county residents that had to be referred elsewhere.

There will be an immediate need for additional staff. Commissioner Cobb-Holmes has 2 staff from the BCIU that are off for the summer. She will talk to them for me. The office will advertise on Indeed and make a connection with Careerlink.

The E.D. reviewed information about the upcoming EEOC training and will send registration information out to all Commissioners. Those that want to participate can register.

Commissioner Wagner moved to accept the E.D.'s report. Commissioner Archie seconded. Motion granted.

Old Business:

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that the BCIU job fair on 6/24 went well. The BCIU is also making major renovations at Centre Avenue location. As a result, the child care center will be closed all of June.

New Business:

Commissioner Cobb-Holmes reports that there has been an increase in COVID cases in infants/toddlers as reported by a nurse from a local pediatrics office.

- There will be another job fair sometime in September. BCIU needs bus monitors & drivers.

- The BCIU needs 695 kids for Headstart but currently have less than 300.

- BCIU also has an opening for a mental health supervisor

Commissioner Wagner reports that Pride is August 22 from 12-6.

- Reading Pride is starting a same/sex parent group to be held at the Goggleworks from 6-8 p.m.

Commissioner Archie reported on their (Commissioner's Yoder & Archie) participation in the diversity task force with the police department. Both Commissioners were encouraged about the discussion.

Commissioner Taylor informed D.C. Ruiz that Cheyney University graduated 9 individuals from their police academy.

Training:

The EEOC scheduled the annual national conference from July 19th – 21st. Once the registration information is disseminated, the E.D. will forward to Commissioners.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021