

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

STUDY SESSION

March 17, 2022

Commissioners Present: Mason Culbertson, Courtney Acoff, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Verda Washington, Laurie Lynch, Michealea Lemons, Anita Snyder, C. Ivan Johnson, Amanda Westbrooke

Call to Order: Opened meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Feedback from Community Member Panel on the State of Mental Health Presentation:

- Presenters were phenomenal.
- It was sad to be affirmed that services are not inclusive as it should for those who are Trans. Trans are grouped with gay and lesbian.
- The information about Stress Fatigue was helpful.
- Wanted more time to have a conversation about Mental Health, Let's do it again.
- The Sub-Committee of Outreach & Education came from that session with things they can do.
- The stories were very impactful; maybe next time have a "families panel".
- The discussion prompted a Commissioner to get an appointment with a Therapist.
- That session with a Therapist happened and it was the best conversation that Commissioner ever had.
- Would like to compensate the speakers with an honorarium.

Outreach & Education's Tentative Plan in Three Areas

1-pager, "What is the HRC?"

1. Act as a bridge to City Council
2. Organize and advocate around causes.

Social Media

- It would be great to have a social media presence. If HRC had a webpage, it must be sustainable.
- Social Media could be a way to do outreach.

Have a Mental Health Link Tree

Dr. Harris shared having a list of resources related to assisting those with mental-health struggles. The Link Tree could have Mental Health Providers that are taking new clients—and possibly share the insurance they accept.

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BUSINESS MEETING

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Roll Call

Approval of Business Meeting Agenda: A motion to approve the Meeting Agenda was made and passed.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the February Meeting Notes was made and passed.

Public Comment—No public comment

Staff Report: Andreta Armstrong reported the HUD Investigator position is open, due to Wes Taylor resigning that position.

Outreach & Education Communication Strategy- Commissioner Lynch shared the same report as she did during Study Session— below:

1-pager, “What is the HRC?”

3. Act as a bridge to City Council
4. Organize and advocate around causes.

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Conversation with Tacoma Police Chief Moore Although Chief Moore, scheduled to share at this HRC Meeting, he did not show. Topics that were approved by the Chief were:

- Chief’s vision for Tacoma,
- Manual Ellis—How do we deal with the horrific situation as this?
- 21 Century Policing Report
- Reallocation of Funds
- Independent Review Board/Strengthening CPAC (Community Police Advisory Committee)

Announcements:

- **Laurie Lynch appointed as Educational Director for Anti-defamation League**
- **Great documentary about Hilltop, a Historical view. Link placed on chat.**
- **Commissioner Lemons is stepping down from Housing Equity Taskforce, and Commissioner Kim Washington-Watson will be replacement**

Adjournment