



Council Teleconference

Date of Meeting: 12/8/2008

Minutes Prepared By: Travis Dudley/ Fredrica Doctor

1. Purpose of Meeting

- 2008 Annual Report
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2. Attendance at Meeting

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Christopher Norwood (Chair)	Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Dr. Anthony McCoy (Vice-Chair)	DCF, Office of Mental Health Services
Levi Williams	Fertig & Gramling
Representative Perry Thurston	Florida House of Representatives
Torey Alston	DMS
Dr. Billy Close	FSU
Lillian Lima	DCF
Dr. Emile Commedore	DOH
Dr. Shari Turner	DJJ
Janice Sullivan	USF, David Anchin Center
Iris Wilson	DOE
Fredrica Doctor	OAG
Travis Dudley	OAG



3. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

- Due to exigent circumstances, Chairman Norwood informed the council that the release of the 2008 annual report would be postponed until January 15, 2009. In addition, he requested that a letter be sent to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate requesting an extended deadline of the aforementioned date.
 - Council members, Levi Williams and Lillian Lima, concurred with Chairman Norwood's sentiments about the postponement of the annual report due to the fact that the council needed an opportunity to thoroughly review the report in its entirety.
 - Ms. Sullivan emphasized that additional revisions will need to be made to the final report. Submission of the report prior to today's teleconference was delayed as a result of the document file needing to be resized and separated into 3 parts.

- Mr. James Garrett Jr., Executive Director for the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, gave an overview about the Indiana Commission and the relationship between the statewide commission and local commissions. He discussed the following :
 - Local commissions are deemed as separate entities from the statewide commission.
 - Each commission addresses the underlying conditions that are most prevalent to their community which may differ from the statewide commission. In addition, local commissions are established within the confines of the local government i.e. the Offices of the Mayor and the City Commission.
 - Currently, there are ten local commissions and nine that are operational.

- Mr. Garrett expressed that the obtainment of funds and other resources for local commissions has been problematic in recent years.
 - Dr. McCoy inquired as to whether or not local governments provide coverage for operational expenses?
 - Mr. Garrett responded by indicating that in certain scenarios local government has provided commissions with administrative support.

- In addition, Vice-chair Dr. McCoy inquired if any of the commission's recommendations had been given any serious consideration from the state legislature



and/or state agencies.

- The Indiana Commission was able to get the Department of Education to disaggregate statistical data into specific race categories in an effort to assist with the commission's research endeavors. However; in their quest of bringing awareness about the correlation that exist among education and employment opportunities for black males has not received a overwhelming response from state and local leaders.
- Like the Florida Council, the Indiana Commission is required to submit their annual report to the Governor and state legislators. In addition, local commissions submit their findings to their local municipalities.
- Council member, Lima, inquired if local commissions are required to submit their findings to the State Commission.
 - Mr. Garret indicated that local councils do provide them with their findings; however, this is not a mandate imposed by the state commission. In addition, the Indiana Commission has no authority over local councils; they are locally driven pursuant to their community and local municipality.
- Vice-chair Dr. McCoy inquired about the Indiana Commission funding endeavors and what funding initiatives would he recommend for local councils?
 - The Indiana commission has been successful in receiving funds from their conferences and initiatives. In addition, they solicit funds from local mom and pop shops.
 - With regards to funding initiatives for local councils, Mr. Garrett suggested that there should not be a membership fee. Due to the fact that people will ask what do I get for my membership?
 - In addition, he indicated that a point of contact person for each local council was listed onto the state council's website since most of them could not afford to create their own website.
 - Over the past 14 years, the Indiana Council has raised a little over \$200,000 in funds which primarily went toward their conferences. When making budgetary requests from the legislature, they usually request a small percentage to fund their conference. The commission cannot raise funds for programs that the state already allocates funding for in order to avoid a conflict of interest.
- Dr. McCoy inquired if local councils were eligible for United Way Funds?
 - Mr. Garrett replied that local councils are eligible to receive funds from United



Way.

- Dr. McCoy reiterated and agreed with Mr. William's original plan of local councils being housed within the confines of a public facility; in order to provide financial oversight to local councils. Upon an audit, a financial report would be submitted to the state council.
- Dr. Close inquired if planning for the commissions activities the primary focus throughout the year.
 - Mr. Garrett responded that planning is a part of it; however, research and the annual report is the primary focus.
 - In addition, Dr. Close inquired as to what extent is that effort embellished by the actual conference.
 - Mr. Garrett responded that they try to combine everything that is relevant to their annual report research efforts in their conference and at the conference they usually would like to have experts or persons of interest who can help to improve the problem or alleviate the problem.
- Dr. Close inquired if researchers and presenters of the conference received funding from the proceeds of the conference.
 - Mr. Garrett responded by stating that they were paid through grant money received from different foundations that provided them with funding to in their effort to proceed with conducting research.
 - Indiana Commission submits a proposal to researchers that request their services as well as outline what the commission is seeking to address in its annual report.
- Dr. McCoy inquired if the Indiana Commission advocates for certain causes that they feel affect the status of black men and boys.
 - Mr. Garrett responded that they have done some advocating for certain causes due to the fact that in order to lobby members of Congress in Indiana you have to be a registered lobbyist. The Commission cannot go over and formally lobby any members of Congress; however, they can respond to questions from the Congress if asked.
- Ms. Lima ask what if one of the Local Council in the State of Indiana decided to apply for a grant from the same foundation as the State Commission and they both are requesting funds addressing same the issue(s), how do you ensure that this does not



cause a conflict of interest.

- Mr. Garrett responded that the foundation would let each council know that they are both applying for grants and that they should try to come together on specific issue and work out what they want to do with the money.
- Dr. Close inquired if strategically conducted research is implemented in order to have an influence on policy. Mr. Garrett responded that it has been a positive by - product from the questions that they were being asked by Congress, required more in depth research and studies.
- Mr. Williams inquired as to how the Florida Council can get involve with establishing and participating in national conventions in the future.
 - Mr. Garrett says that it is possible and the next meeting of the National Council will meet in 2009.
- Mr. Dudley asked how many members are a part of the Indiana Council and what organizations do they represent?
- Mr. Garrett responded that there are 19 commissioners which include four state legislators and 6, members of the Governor's cabinet, and Members-At-Large.
- Dr. McCoy and Mr. Williams both thanked Mr. Garrett for his presentation and expressed how resourceful he was to today's teleconference.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.

4. Action Items

<i>Action</i>	<i>Assigned to</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Status</i>
2008 Annual Report Final	Ms. Sullivan	ASAP	In Progress
Send letters to legislative designees of the annual report	Ms. Doctor	ASAP	In Progress



5. Next Meeting

Target Date:	1/5/2009	Time:	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Location:	Teleconference - Tallahassee
Objectives:	Final Annual Report				