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## COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

Date of Meeting: **12/7/2009**

Minutes Prepared By: **Fredrica Doctor**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

- 2009 Annual Report draft
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### 2. ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Name	Agency
Torey Alston, Vice-chair	DMS
Earnest Brewer	AHCA
Richard Davison	DOC
Gypsy Gallardo	The Power Broker Magazine
Lillian Lima	DCF
Lois Scott	AWI
Andre Smith	DOE
Rep. Perry Thurston, Jr.	Florida House of Representatives
Levi Williams, Esq.	Fertig & Gramling
Ron Henderson	DOH
Pastor Carl Reeves	Community Participant

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David Denson	Community Participant
Perri Demps	Community Participant
Rick Nuss	OAG
Dr. Anthony McCoy	DCF, Absent (Excused)
Dr. Billy R. Close	Absent
Dr. Eddy Regnier	Absent
Rep. Julio Robaina	Absent
Ana Maria Sanchez	Absent
Rev. Dr. Albert Simpson, Jr.	Absent
Senator Frederica Wilson	Absent
Senator Stephen Wise	Absent

### *3. MEETING NOTES, DECISIONS, ISSUES*

- **Agenda Item 1: Call to Order**
  - Meeting called to order by Vice-chair Alston at 2:10 PM
- **Agenda Item 2: Roll Call**
  - Quorum not established.
- **Agenda Item 3: Reading of Minutes**
  - Deferred until next full council teleconference.
- **Agenda Item 4: Old Business**
  - None



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- **Agenda Item 5a: New Business - 2009 Annual Report discussion & final vote**

- Vice-chair Alston opens the floor to discussion about the annual report draft submitted by Dean Friday.
- Council member Lima indicates that in the past the executive summary was placed in the beginning of the report and all supplemental information followed. Council member Lima inquires if the aforementioned format will be adhered to for this year's report?
- Staff indicates that in the past the executive summary has been placed after the letter from the Chair; however, the order could be reverse to reflect the executive summary being placed before the "About the Council" section of this year's report.
- Council member Lima indicates that upon further review, this year's executive summary appears to be extensive resulting in 17 pages. Additionally, it seems to reiterates information that has already been iterated in each committee report.
- Staff indicates that they believe the intent of the executive summary submitted by Dean Friday was to summarize the entire report and in essence the 17 page summary can be deemed as the 2009 annual report with the committee reports being placed in the appendix section.
- Council member Lima indicates that she understands the intent of SBI; however, the revelatory information from the foster care and family issues' committee report was not included. For example, recommendations from other committees regarding best practices and programs worth duplicating are not included in the summary making the format inconsistent.
- Council member Lima inquires what the rationale was for SBI leaving out the other committees' references of best practices and model programs and highlighting all of workforce's committee best practices and model programs.
- Council member Scott indicates that the summary is not inclusive of all the workforce's best practices and model programs.
- Chairman Alston indicates that he believes that it was SBI's initial intent to provide a



shorten report and include all of the information that was received. Additionally, Chairman Alston asks each committee chair to review the report and address any concerns they have regarding information that needs to be added from their committee report to the summary.

- Council member Lima indicates the project profiles (pg. 45 – 47) in the foster care and families issues’ report that justify the data were left out of the summary.
- Council member Scott reiterates Council member Lima’s concerns of the summary not being consistent with all areas of the report.
- Vice-chair Alston encourages Council member Lima to express her concerns and questions to Dean Friday once she joins the call.
- Council member Scott indicates that the updated AWI report has not been replaced in the annual draft submitted by SBI.
- Council member Davison reiterates that due to the substantive information found in each report he is not sure that it is wise to regulate such information to the appendix section of the report. The substantive information should be the essence of the report.
- Additionally, the executive summary should consist of 1 to 2 pages and the committee reports should be included in the body of the report.
- The quality of the report should not be sacrificed for the sake of time. Council member Davison recommends that the Council asks Dean Friday and her staff to reconfigure the report.
- Council member Gallardo concurs with Council member Davison’s sentiments.
- Council member Smith inquires what the schedule / time commitments are for designated individuals who will be revisiting the annual report.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that Chairman McCoy’s intent was to produce a quality report and adhere to the Council’s statutory deadline in submitting the report on time. However, after hearing the concerns of several members, it is evident that these concerns have to be addressed prior to moving forward with the report.



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- Council member Scott indicates that the information provided is more so a layout of the report. Additionally, there seems to be redundancy in terms of the information provided in the summary and in the appendix.
  - The underlying issue is the format and flow of the report. Labeling maybe a quick fix to setting up / structuring the information.
  - Council member Lima's concurs with Council member Scott's sentiment.
  - Additionally, Council member Scott indicates that the appendix section appears to be disjointed instead of the committee report flowing into the overall report.
  - Council member Lima inquires if it was the vision or goal to make the executive summary the annual report?
  - Vice- chair Alston indicates that this vision was not articulated to him.
  - Again, Council member Lima indicates that she understands the vision of condensing the report; however, there needs to be a balance among the focal areas of each committee report being presented in the executive summary.
  - Council member Williams inquires if the report will be viewed 70% online as oppose to 70% in print.
  - Staff and Vice-chair Alston concur with Council member Williams' sentiment.
  - Council member Williams indicates that the report should be distributed in an electronic version. The executive summary does not have to be in a traditional format. The Council may want to consider inserting a power point presentation in the context of the executive summary. This allows for the summary to be presented to members of the public and it would shorten the time of referencing the data within the context of the annual report.
  - Additionally, Council member Williams indicates that information / data in the report could be instrumental in applying for grants.
  - Staff inquires if the Council would consider submitting the executive summary to its



statutory entities and indicate that the report is forth coming.

- Council member Davison indicates that he does not believe that the Council will achieve its best outcome by meeting the deadline at this time. Additionally, he suggests submitting a letter to statutory entities indicating a date that the report will be submitted.
- Council member Davison indicates that the goal of producing a quality report is for members from the legislature to acknowledge the relevancy of the report.
- Council member Williams indicates that the Council has submitted a letter to its statutory entities requesting an extension of time. Council member Williams suggests that the Council votes to extend the deadline for submitting the report.
- Council members Thurston and Brewer concur with Council member Williams' suggestion.
- Mr. Henderson indicates that he believes that the Department of Health can enhance the "Best Practices" section of the Foster Care and Families Issues' committee report. Although, he is not an official member, he agrees with asking for an extension in order to have time to flush out the aforementioned section.
- Council member Lima addresses Mr. Henderson's concerns by indicating that the committee's recommendation referenced the Office of Minority Affairs within the Department of Health as a model to be replicated within the Department of Children and Families.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires with staff how soon the Council can have a second meeting. How many days are required to announce the meeting to the public?
- Staff indicates that FAW notices are submitted a month in advance and that the next meeting the Council will need to have will have to be in January.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires if noticing the meeting onto the Council's website would fulfill the public receiving proper notice.
- Staff indicates that meetings have to be advertised in the Florida Administratively Weekly.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that there seems to be a consensus to postpone the submission



of the report until January in order for continued edits.

- Council member Williams suggests that the Council have two teleconferences in the month of January. One to finalize the annual report and another to plan for the annual report presentation / organizational meeting for the upcoming year.
- Council member Davison indicates that the Council needs to address the fundamental issue of its failure to achieve a quorum since August.
- Council member Scott agrees with Council member Davison and indicates that if each member of the call approved the report; it still would not be enough to move the report forward due to a lack of a quorum.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that he understands and agrees that the issue of the Council not being able to retain a quorum has been an ongoing issue.
- Council member Williams inquires whether the quorum was dictated by the Council's bylaws or the statute.
- Council member Davison indicates that the quorum is established by statute with the participation of 11 members.
- Council member Williams indicates that the Council may want to consider working with its legislators to change what statutorily constitute a quorum.
- Council member Thurston indicates that there were discussions during the full council meeting in August about appointing members who will actually attend meetings. However, he is willing proceed with the recommendations of the Council regarding the aforementioned issue.
- Council member Davison indicates that it is a sad state if the Council has to adjust the way its votes due to a lack of a quorum from its members.
- Staff inquires if the Council wants to have its organizational meeting in January.
- Council member Williams indicates that the Council will need a teleconference in January to approve the final report. And in the unforeseeable case that the Council may need



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additional time, then the Council can have a second meeting.

- Vice-chair Alston recommends that the full council have two teleconferences in January one to finalize the report and the second teleconference will be optional.
- Council member Smith inquires about the time line for committee members to submit revisions or edits.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires from the Council if Tuesday, December 15, 2009 would be ample time to submit any changes to the draft submitted by SBI.
- Council member Davison recommends that original draft needs to adhere to a traditional format. For example, the executive summary should contain salient points as well as the committee reports should be removed from the appendix section and incorporated in the body of the report.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires from the Council if there is any dissent with Council member Davison's recommendation.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that staff will ask SBI to utilize a traditional format for the report inclusive of a condense executive summary.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires with the Council if Tuesday, December 15, 2009 a reasonable time frame to submit any edits to SBI.
- Staff expresses their concerns about SBI's availability in fulfilling the Council's request due to fact that they may be out of school for the holidays.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires with committee chairs if Thursday, December 17, 2010 is ample time to submit any edits to SBI.
- Committee chairs indicate that their reports have been approved (AWI) and are completed.
- Vice- Alston asks staff to articulate the concerns of the members regarding the design of the report and the recommendations proposed by Council member Davison.
- Council member Gallardo indicates that she can be of serve crafting the executive summary.



- The Council accepts Council member Gallardo's contribution to the report.
- Council member Davison inquires if the report can be distributed to the Council five days prior to the meeting.
- Vice-chair Alston inquires if the Council could meet via teleconference Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 2 PM to 4 PM. Additionally, an optional teleconference will be scheduled Monday, January 25, 2010 in the unforeseeable case that the report is not finalized by January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Council members agree with the aforementioned date and times.
- Council member Davison inquires about the organizational meeting in February.
- Staff indicates that the organizational meetings in February are usually held in Tallahassee. Last year's presentation was held in the Cabinet Meeting room at the Capitol. The Council presents its report to the Attorney General followed by the full council organizational meeting during which time officers are elected.
- Council member Davison inquires about attendee during the past annual report presentations.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that elected officials and community leaders have attended the past presentation. Additionally, during the Orlando meeting it was suggested that the Council consider inviting such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, NAACP, the Urban League, and local organizations to this year's presentation.
- Council member Davison suggests that the Council identify a location that would maximize participation from the community.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates that the past rationale for the Council having its presentation in Tallahassee was because it was deemed as a central location and easy accessibility for General McCollum and other public officials. Additionally, the majority of the Council's membership resides in Tallahassee which helps to form a quorum; the location helps to deter travel costs to members and deter fees associated with reserving a meeting location.
- Vice-Alston concurs with Council member Davison's sentiment about rising the visibility of



the Council is important by visiting various communities throughout the state.

- Council member Lima inquires if the rationale for the Council's presentation being held in Tallahassee was a result of General McCollum being housed there.
- Council member Williams indicates yes as well as the Governor and the Speaker of the House.
- Council member Lima recommends the Council partner with such organizations as the Urban League, NAACP, or DJJ's Minority Contacts in an effort to get the community to attend the Council's presentation.
- Council member Davison suggests that the Council considers rolling out its report in conjunction with an event being sponsored by Senator Wilson in January in an effort to increase the visibility of the Council.
- Council member Scott suggests the Council consider rolling out its annual report during the Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference.
- Council member Lima indicates that the conference takes place in May which surpasses the annual report submission deadline.
- Council member Lima suggests partnering with those identified communities who host Martin Luther King, Jr.'s breakfasts in the month of January.
- Council member Scott and Davison concur with Council member Lima's suggestion.
- Council member Davison comments that the report title page is incorrect.
- Staff indicates that the pdf version contains the correct title.
- Council member Lima inquires if the 2009 recommendations will be a separate page in the report.
- Vice-chair Alston indicates during the Orlando meeting it was suggested that no more than 2 pages be allocated for this year's recommendations.
- Council member Lima inquires if the recommendations would be found in both the



recommendations' page as well as within each committee report.

- Vice- Alston and staff indicate that they will be.
- **Agenda Item 5b: 2010 annual report strategic plan discussion**
  - Vice-chair Alston commends Council member Gallardo's efforts in submitting an annual report proposal for the Council's consideration.
  - Council member Gallardo inquires if she could be given time to discuss the strategy behind the proposal during next month's teleconference.
  - Vice-chair Alston asks staff to forward this request to Chairman McCoy for approval.
- **Agenda Item 6: Announcements**
  - Thursday, January 14, 2010: Full Council teleconference
  - Monday, January 25, 2010: Full Council teleconference (optional)
- **Agenda Item 7: Adjournment**
  - Meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.

#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action</i>	<i>Assigned to</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Status</i>
Submit edits / recommendations for the annual report to Dean Friday	Staff	12/15/2009	Complete



**5. NEXT MEETING**

Target Date:	1/14/10	Time:	2 PM - 4 PM	Location:	Tallahassee
Objectives:	2009 Annual Report				