



Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Committee on Criminal Justice
Meeting Minutes
7/21/2008
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attendees:

Mr. Levi Williams, Chair
Representative Perry Thurston, Jr.
Senator Frederica Wilson
Ms. Deborah Crawford
Ms. Janice Sullivan
Ms. Betty Burney
Pastor Benny Cedeno
Mr. Willie Miller, Jr.
Mr. Charles Calaman
Ms. Corraine Mealing

Staff:

Ms. Fredrica Doctor
Mr. Rick Nuss

Item #1: Call to Order at 2:13 PM

Item #2: Chairman's Welcome

Item #3: Roll Call

Item #4: Old Business

- 2007 Annual Report Overview
- Criminal Justice Subcommittee Overview

Item #5: Further discussion of committee goals

- Gang ties
- Gang impact in surrounding cities
 - Ft. Myers
 - Jacksonville
 - Chairman Williams: "Why are school districts reluctant to report gang activity?"
 - Suggestion(s)
 - School officials have a misconception about gangs existing in their districts.
 - Chairman Williams: "How can gang activities be identified at the district level?"
 - Recommendation(s)

- Conference with School Officials (Principal, board members, etc...)
 - Conduct surveys in order to collect data about disciplinary actions that are gang related
- Mental Health Courts
 - Refer to Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren's Tampa presentation
 - State-wide expansion
 - Fiscal impact to the state
 - Recommendation
 - Committee needs to examine the disparity that exists among African American youth who make up 60% of the state adult courts yet only make up 22% of Florida's population.

Item #6: Discussion of research strategies

- DOE/DJJ: Submit comparative data disaggregated by race, gender, and region for the total number of youth being direct file into the adult system who demonstrated a history of school base disciplinary problems under the Zero Tolerance policy
 - Senator Wilson requested available reports and comparative statistical data from 1999 through 2007 for students attending "F" ranked high schools in Florida. Requested data and reports should be disaggregated by gender, region, and race within each school district, and minimally include the following: certificate of completion recipients, high school diploma recipients, dropout rates, SRO's disciplinary actions and expulsions
 - In addition, request comparative statistical data of children who repeatedly failed the FCAT compared to those children who drop out of school. Requested data and reports should be disaggregated by gender, grade levels, and race within each school district.
 - Subcommittee on Improving Educational Outcomes should examine the delivery of the FCAT within certain communities.
 - "Which department / individuals determine where the test is delivered?"
- Awareness of the validity of the Certificate of Completion

Item #7: Adjournment at 3:15 PM.



**Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Legislative Review Committee**

Meeting Minutes

7/23/08

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Attendees:

Dr. Emile Commedore, Chair
Mr. Christopher Norwood
Ms. Lillian Lima
Senator Julio Robaina
Senator Frederica Wilson
Representative Perry Thurston
Dr. Barbara Cohen-Pippin, Community Participant
Dr. Donna Elam, Community Participant

Staff:

Mr. Rick Nuss
Ms. Yata Caine

Item #1: Call to order at 10:05 AM

Item #2: Chairman's Welcome

Item #3: Roll Call

Item #4: Old Business

- Reading of prior meeting minutes
- Reviewed recommendations from last meeting
 - Sealing and expunging of juvenile records
 - Study of the Blue Print Commission Report
 - Partnering with universities to assist in the Council's research endeavors

Item #5: Discussion of committee goals

- The committee will identify three key issues in which the CSSBMB will address.
- The committee will conduct a survey among the committee chairs to formulate agenda.
- The committee will review all passed, proposed, and opposed bills that effect black men and boys.
 - Suggestions included:
 - Zero Tolerance Bill
 - Work before restoration of rights bill
 - HIV/ AIDS testing bills
 - Medical Services gap for mentally ill prisoners bill

- Once the bills are identified that the CSSBMB would like heard, letters will be submitted to the:
 - Criminal Justice Committees in both the House and Senate
 - Senate President
 - Speaker of the House

Item #6: To do...

- Dr. Commodore and Mr. Norwood will draft a letter to FLDE requesting additional research and data on the sealing and expunging of juvenile records.
- The committee will submit a letter to the Department of Juvenile Justice, addressed to Secretary Frank Peterman requesting an update on the progress of the Blue Print Commission Report recommendations.
- Dr. Barbara Cohen-Pippin will assist the CSSBMB with establishing partnerships with universities to assist with research endeavors.
- Dr. Commodore and Rep. Thurston will research HIV/AIDS testing practices within other states (upon entry and exit).
- Mr. Norwood will contact CSSBMB committee chairs to determine what issues they would like the legislative review committee to address.
- An invitation will be extended to Dr. Thomas Liberti to present during the Miami meeting on HIV/AIDS testing.
- Dr. Barbara Cohen-Pippin has been identified as the CSSBMB lobbyist move forth with this assignment.

Item #7: Adjournment at 11:15 AM



**Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Health Outcomes Committee**

Meeting Minutes

7/24/08

9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Attendees:

Dr. Eddie Regnier, Chair
Mr. Christopher Norwood
Mr. Charles Calaman

Staff:

Mr. Rick Nuss
Ms. Alexis Lambert
Ms. Yata Caine

Item #1: Call to order at 9:09 AM

Item #2: Discussion of the 2008 Annual Report

- Last year's focus- Outlining prevalent issues faced by Black men and boys
- This year's focus- Offering solutions to some of these prevalent issues
- Dr. Regnier will begin to draft the committee's section of the report but is requesting volunteers.
- The committee will also seek assistance from Dr. Elam.

Item #3: Old Business

Continued discussion of committee's goals

- School based health services
 - Some schools are cancelling health service programs (i.e. school nurses).
 - A representative from the Children's Trust of Miami Dade County will make a presentation at the August full Council meeting.
- Impact of untreated and unnoticed health problems as it relates to education
 - Many children are attending school with health problems because they are uninsured.
 - Result- Poor educational achievement, behavior problems, etc.
 - Dr. Regnier: "If children had access to healthcare, what would be the location?"
 - Solution- Schools
 - Problem- Schools nurses are not available at every school
 - Dr. Regnier: "What resources are available that provides screening and medical services for children?"
 - Problem- Screening is often minor and there are no follow-up services.

- How do we get earlier screening and management for known health problems?
- Health and Nutrition
 - Who can assess school breakfast and lunch programs?
 - Many children experience poor nutrition at home and have little access to healthier food selections.
 - Result- Obesity, high blood pressure, etc.
- Learned helplessness among young black boys
 - Someone can learn helplessness if every avenue results in failure and they stop working towards the achievement of any goal.
 - Problem- Lack of awareness and opportunity for black males
 - Solution- More black male role models and expand opportunities
- HIV/AIDs Training
 - Lack of training and awareness leads to mass suicide.
 - HIV/AIDS awareness will increase the life expectancy of black males.

Item #4: New Business

- Senate Bill 2532- Effective 10/1/08
 - The bill will allow fathers to take a more active role in parenting and include a court appointed psychologists in the decision-making process of custody cases.
 - Dr. Regnier: “How can we use this new law to help fathers take a more active role in our schools?”
 - The committee would like to promote community awareness of the new bill by including the issue in the 2008 annual report.
 - The committee would like to extend an invitation to a family law judge to come and make a presentation during the August full Council meeting.
- Lobbying for CSSBMB
 - Rick Nuss and Alexis Lambert informed the committee of the following pertaining to lobbying:
 - CSSBMB is a research body and is not to advocate for Bills.
 - By law, CSSBMB does not have the authority to lobby individually or as a whole on behalf of the Council, or appoint an outside person to do so.
- Legislative Review Appointee
 - Committee Chairs with particular legislation interests should relay this information the Legislative Review Committee.
 - Christopher Norwood will be the Health Outcomes designee on the Legislative Review Committee.

Item #5: To do . . .

- Locate an expert witness in the field of nutrition to presentation during the next full Council meeting.
- Locate an expert witness to present on learned helplessness during the next full Council meeting.
- Locate a family law judge to present on Senate Bill 2532 during the next full Council meeting.

Item #5: Adjournment at 10:35 AM



**Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Foster Care and Family Issues Committee**

Meeting Minutes

7/24/08

2:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Attendees:

Ms. Lillian Lima, Chair
Mr. Charles Calaman
Ms. Brandy Sladek
Dr. Adela Beckerman

Staff:

Mr. Rick Nuss
Ms. Yata Caine

Item #1: Call to order at 2:05 PM

Item #2: Chairman's Welcome

Item #3: Roll Call

Item #4: Old Business

- **Review of committee's goals**
 - Father Initiatives
 - Foster Care Support Services
 - Relative Care

Item#5: 2008 Annual Report

- A draft of the Foster Care and Family Issues section of the report was submitted by Ms. Lima
- Ms. Lima provided an overview of the draft
 - Father Initiatives
 - A request for additional data has been submitted to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research
 - Model programs
 - Real Dad, Real Men
 - Inside Out Dad- National program
 - All Pro Dads
 - IMOB.COM
 - Family First. Net
 - Fatherhood initiatives in prison

- Senate Bill 2532
- Relative Care
 - Research shows that licenses caregivers have received cost of living increases, but relative caregivers have not.
 - The committee will make a recommendation that relative caregivers be given cost of living increase.
- Foster Care Support Services
 - How can we assist youth aging out of foster care?
 - Model program
 - Operation Full Employment (Department of Children and Families)

Item #7: New Business

- There has been a six percent increase in children transferred from juvenile system to the adult criminal justice system.
- As a result, they are unprepared for release and have not employability skills.

Item #6: Adjournment at 2:20 PM



**Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Improving Economic Outcomes Committee**

Meeting Minutes

7/24/08

3:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Attendees:

Mr. Torey Alston, Chair

Dr. Brittany Birken

Karen Preen

Staff:

Mr. Rick Nuss

Ms. Yata Caine

Item #1: Call to order at 3:05 PM

Item #2: Chairman's Welcome

Item #4: Old Business

- **Review of committee's goals and selection of goal to conduct in-depth research**
 - Encourage public institutions to provide job opportunities for individuals with criminal histories. (*Dr. Birken*)
 - Where are the gaps?
 - Promotion of economic opportunities with public dollars and outreach initiatives. (*Mr. Alston*)
 - Identify access to capital for black men and boys, thus modeling financial literacy programs. (*Mr. Alston*)
 - Identify employment and training for black men and boys and identify barriers to entry in both urban and rural areas. (*Dr. Birken*)
 - Barriers
 - Employment opportunities
 - Training Functions

Item#5: Research Strategies

- Committee members assigned to each goal will dictate their own research strategies.

Item #6: Discussion of first draft of committee report

- Initial outline due date- August1, 2008
- Deadline for first committee draft- September 1, 2008

Item #6: Adjournment at 3:15 PM



**Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
Educational Outcomes Committee**

Meeting Minutes

7/25/08

11:15 AM- 12:15 PM

Attendees:

Dr. Billy Close, Chair
Dr. Adeola Fayemi
Mr. Christopher Norwood
Rep. Perry Thurston
Sen. Frederica Wilson
Mr. Charles Calaman
Dr. Timothy Beard
Ms. Kathleen Harris
Suraj Nayee

Staff:

Mr. Rick Nuss
Ms. Yata Caine

Item #1: Call to order at 11:19 AM

Item #2: Chairman's Welcome

Item #3: Roll Call

Item #4: Old Business

- **Review of committee's goals**
 - Career Academics
 - MDRC Report – "*Career Academies impact on labor market outcomes and education attainment*" - shows that career academics improve the labor market
 - Training and Recruitment of Black male teachers and Cultural Competency for all teachers
 - Disciplinary Outcomes
 - Juvenile Justice education for black males
 - After-school care system for black males and Summer School funding

Item#5: Discussion of research strategies

- Dr. Fayemi will obtain additional data from DOE and provide the Council will copies of her presentation given during the Miami meeting
- Dr. Fayemi will facilitate the Miami committee meeting in the event of Dr. Close's absence.

Item #6: Discussion of draft deadlines

- Deadline for first committee draft- Last Friday in September

Item #7: Guidelines for committee report

- Create a template with the following criteria
 - Historical background
 - Florida background
 - Model Programs
 - Statistical Analysis
 - Identify and compare what other states are doing to address and correct the underlying conditions that affect black men and boys.
 - What needs to be done in Florida?

Item # 8: Community Participants

- Dr. Beard, Vice-President of Hernando Community College, expressed an interest to become a community participant.
 - Establish a community participant on line form via Fredrica Doctor.

Adjournment at 12:25 PM