

Meeting Minutes: Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

Date: January 19, 2024

Minutes prepared by: DHS Community Relations Staff

Location: WebEx and Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy (Hybrid)

Attendance

CECLC Members: Alex Abraha, Lizette Banini, Philip Gaye-Bai, Lashalle Campbell, Lolita Davis-Carter, Cratè Darden, Mozana Ebrahim, Shannon Geshick, Rebecca Graves, Josefina Geronimo, Chris Green, Foua-Choua Khang, Kimetha Johnson, Tonia Lofton, Abdirahman Mumin, Margarita Ortega, Joanna Rosa, Micaela Schuneman, Paul Slack, Farhia Said, Nelly Torori, Manuel Zuniga, Senator John Hoffman

DHS Staff: Elyse Bailey, Kelly Barnebey, Matt Burdick, DeAnna Conover, Misty Coonce, Cate Dymit, Helen Ghebre, Victor Gonzalez, Leigh Grauman, Nina Harris, Nicole Juan, Dr. Karen McKinney, Wendy Wilflower, Hli Vang

Public Attendees: Angela Fields

Agenda

12:00	Lunch and Community Networking / WebEx Opens
1:00	Open Public Meeting and Land Acknowledgement
1:05	Introductions and Welcome
1:20	Review and Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes
1:25	Community Celebrations and Shoutouts
1:30	Workgroup Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative & External Workgroup• Topics & Issues Workgroup• Internal Operations & Policies• CECLC Updates – Legislative Report / Administrative
1:45	Legislative Team Brief Session Preview
2:20	Break

2:25	Presentation from Office of Equity & Inclusion on its Initiatives/Priorities
3:10	CECLC prep for Day at the Capitol/Work on Revision of Legislative 1 Pager
4:00	Adjourn Meeting

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introductions

Shawn Sorrell welcomed everyone and led the council through a land acknowledgement and introductions.

Decisions Made

Review and approve December minutes and meeting agenda:

- Motion to approve meeting agenda and December minutes: Paul Slack
- Second: Kimetha Johnson
- The motion passed

Community Celebrations and Shoutouts

Shawn Sorrell opened the floor for members to share Community Highlights.

- **Residents of Color Collective [Community Love Midday Movie & More Event](#)**
 - February 10 at 11:00am
 - Thompson County Park in the Dakota Lodge, 360 Butler Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118
- **Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Holiday Get-Together**
 - February 2 from 1:00-5:00pm
 - Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Avenue E, St. Paul, MN 55106
- **[Symposium on Voting Rights: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future](#)**
 - February 1 from 8:30am – 12:30pm
 - Anderson Student Center, Woolfe Hall, 2115 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105
- **[Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives March](#)**
 - [Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center](#)
 - February 14 from 11:00am – 2:00pm
 - East Phillips Park, 2399 17th Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55404
 - Speakers begin at 11am, march begins at noon (will be held rain/snow/shine)
 - Please wear red
 - Everyone is welcome!
 - For more information, please contact **Naida Medicine Crow**, MIWSAC Community Engagement nmedicinecrow@miwsac.org or **Ana Negrete**, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office Community Planner ana.g.negrete@state.mn.us
- **Next Legislative Task Force on Child Protection Meeting**
 - February 9 from 9:00am – 12:00pm
 - People may attend in person to observe or watch online via Livestream. Individuals and organizations have also been welcomed to submit written comments that they would like the task force to consider related to our state's child protection system: Legislative Task Force on Child Protection Meetings: <https://www.lcc.mn.gov/tfcp/meetings.html>

- **Foster Youth Day on the Hill**
 - March 4 from 1:00-3:00pm
 - Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, St Paul, MN 55155
 - Registration is open; presented by MN Youth Leadership Council. It includes a march and rally in the afternoon. This is a youth-led event, and it is great to have other supporters join in!
 - Link with more information: [Home | FCYDH \(fosterchildandandyouthday.com\)](https://www.fosterchildandandyouthday.com)
- **Black History Month Celebrations**
 - The partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County for Black History Month events are upcoming, starting with a breakfast and resolution on Thursday, January 25.
 - For more information please open the link: <https://www.minneapolis.org/calendar/holidays/black-history-month/>

Office of Equity and Inclusion Job Postings:

- **Communications Project Coordinator – Application deadline January 30, 2024**
 - This position will provide business project management and coordination services for the Office for Equity and Inclusion (OEI) and Equity Directors. This work will be done through a lens that prioritizes equity and antiracism. As the Project Coordinator you will be responsible for project communication, managing teams, removing obstacles, facilitating prioritization within a project, escalating issues, and motivating team members.
 - If you have questions about the position, contact Jacob Day at jacob.day@state.mn.us.
 - Applicants who are not current state employees can apply through the state career with this link: [Job Id: 72808](#)
 - Current non-probation employees who are in the same class and seniority unit may bid [here](#) by searching for posting: **(1768# 128249)**
 - Current state employees not in the class or seniority unit or are on probation may apply via [self-service](#) by searching for **(Job ID # 72808)**
- **Director of Equity and Inclusion – Application deadline February 6, 2024**
 - The Director of the Office for Equity and Inclusion (OEI) will play a vital role in strategically planning for and obtaining legislative, stakeholder, and organizational support for advancement and implementation of the equity and inclusion strategic priorities. This position aims to foster an environment that embraces and values diversity, eliminate systemic barriers, and ensure fair and equitable opportunities. The Director is responsible for directing and managing the activities of the office by providing oversight and direction to four direct reports, two supervisors, a data analyst, and a policy lead. The office which the Director would lead conducts business to enhance understanding of equity and inclusion principles, develop comprehensive strategies, and implement programs that promote collective access, diversity, inclusivity, and equity in state policies, practices, and services. Through collaboration with key stakeholders, executive team, directors, and staff of DHS, the role will be working directly with senior leadership in setting strategy for creating more equitable outcomes for DHS. The incumbent will be responsible for creating enterprise-wide outcomes.
 - If you have questions about the position, contact Dr. Karen McKinney at karen.m.mckinney@state.mn.us.
 - Current state employees may apply via [self-service](#) by searching for **(Job ID # 73039)**
 - Applicants who are not current state employees can apply through the state careers website with this link: [Job Id: 73039](#)

Workgroup Updates

Legislative and Policy Workgroup

At its last meeting, Shawn Sorrell said the workgroup continued planning for the upcoming CECLC Legislative Meet and Greet. In that meeting, Nicole Juan provided a legislative update.

Joanna Rosa introduced herself as co-lead on this workgroup and described her background.

Topics & Issues Workgroup

At its last meeting, Paul Slack said the workgroup continued discussion on the workgroup's slate of priorities in 2024 and beyond, and continues to look at equity tools in the Department of Children Youth and Family (DCYF) implementation.

A council member asked how the workgroup will navigate in the new agency. Paul replied this is why they are looking at equity tools across the new department and why the workgroup has invited Jerad Green, DHS Equity Director in Children and Family Services, to present.

Internal Policies and Operations Workgroup

Foua-Choua Khang who is helping Cratè Darden co-lead said the workgroup continued discussion on renaming the workgroup, reviewing its scope of work, ways to engage DHS and support Community Relations, and equity metrics. Malissa Adams was invited to join a future workgroup meeting.

They are also focused on being supportive to our tribal nations and plan to invite tribal liaisons to future meetings. The workgroup has felt James Cooper's departure and hopes the momentum he contributed during his tenure continues.

The workgroup is seeking an additional Co-lead.

Administrative Updates

Helen Ghebre shared the draft 2024 CECLC Legislative Report is nearly complete and will help prepare for the Meet and Greet at the Capitol. Shawn Sorrell thanked the Community Relations team for their work on the report.

Legislative Team Brief Session Preview

Shawn Sorrell introduced Matt Burdick, DHS Director of Legislative Affairs, who provided a 2024 legislative session preview that included a 2023 legislative session recap, committees relevant to DHS, the 2024 legislative calendar, and a long-term budget outlook. The slide deck will be shared with the council following today's meeting. Staff from the Legislative team will continue to attend council meetings to give updates.

Presentation from Office of Equity & Inclusion on its Initiatives/Priorities

Shawn Sorrell welcomed DHS staff Wendy Wilflower, Hli Vang, and Victor Gonzalez who presented the Office of Equity and Inclusion's (OEI) initiatives and priorities: education, continued growth, culturally responsive communication, and engagement. The slide deck will be shared with the council following today's meeting.

CECLC Preparation for Day at the Capitol/Revision of Legislative 1 Pager

Draft materials were sent to the council in advance of this meeting:

- CECLC 2024-2025 Priorities Workshop documentation
- Draft CECLC One Pager with Strategic Priorities (handout)
- Draft CECLC Legislator Visit Script 2024

The council was invited to offer edits and feedback.

- Motion to approve the CECLC priorities as written: Lolita DavisCarter
- Second: Farhia Said
- The motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM