

**State of Connecticut
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
Regular Commission Meeting
Legislative Office Building – Rm 1A
Hartford, CT 06106
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
2:00 P.M.**



**Minutes
Regular Commission Meeting**

Commissioners Present

Edith Pestana –Acting Chairperson
Edward Mambruno – Secretary
Tracey Gove
Cesar Noble
Andrew Norton
Dawn Niles

Commissioners Absent

Gary Collins – Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT

Charles Krich, Principal Attorney
Monica H. Richardson, Executive Secretary
David Teed, Assistant Attorney General
Alvin Bingham, AA/CC Supervisor
Jim O’Neill Legislative Liaison
Neva Vigezzi, HRO Rep
Donna Wilkerson- Brilliant, Regional Mgr.

Alix Simonetti, Atty. III
Sue Hom, HRO Rep
Paul Gaynor, Regional Mgr.
Robin Fox, Atty. III

I. **Chairperson:** Edith Pestana, Presiding

Acting chairperson, Edith Pestana, convened the meeting at 2:01 pm. Chairman Gary Collins was not present and Commissioner Pestana presided in his absence. Commissioner Norton arrived at 2:10pm. Commissioner Niles arrived at 2:18pm.

II. **Secretary:** Edward Mambruno

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 19 Regular commission meeting was made by Commissioner Mambruno. It was seconded by Commissioner Noble. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Gove abstaining.

III. **Affirmative Action Recommendations – Vote Required**

- A. Staff Recommendations : Approved
1. Department of Developmental Services

Representing the agency were Commissioner Terrance Macy, HR Director Gerry Daley, EEO Director, Carl Jordan, and Renee' LaBarge.

The Affirmative Action plan of the Department of Developmental Services was recommended for approval based on compliance with the following: it contained all elements required; the agency demonstrated good faith effort to achieve its goals; the agency has not met all its hiring and promotional goals but has substantially met its program goals. There were two deficiencies in the prior plan review. These were addressed. The five year filing history is as follows, 2008, 2009, and 2010 approved, 2011, conditional approval, and 2012 it was approved.

There were no questions or comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Macy of the Department of Developmental Services thanked the Commissioners and CHRO.

A motion to approve the plan was made by Commissioner Gove and seconded by Commissioner Noble. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), with Commissioner Mambruno abstaining.

IV. **Division Reports:**

A. Executive Director's Report

This report was presented by Charles Krich in the absence of Director Hughes. The report mentioned case processing in the Regions in which we are working to bring the numbers up. EEOC case processing is similar. IClass training with HUD especially during the month of April. April is Fair Housing month. Senate Bill 385 was in legislative session, looking to find some agreement on this. Employee recognition was a success in which the Director gave pizza and gift cards. Referee Ellen Bromley is resigning from OPH. We need an appointment made to that position to not fall behind in case processing. It is a priority to hire another Referee.

B. Outreach Report

This report was presented by Robin Fox of our Legal department in the absence of Cheryl Sharp. She spoke of CHRO's 5 year strategic plan and the survey response, the training in schools regarding harassment and anti-bullying. Also, a statewide information session regarding CHRO role to be held in Waterbury on

March 27, the 'N' word symposium to be held on April 30, a successful program called KidSpeak to begin in May and Operation All Hands on Deck. Comment was made by Commissioner Norton of the time slot of 5-7pm for the Informational Session in Waterbury or any event was not a good time for him and others who work their jobs until 5:30pm. Not familiar with the time of 5-7 for a public event

C. Legislative Report

There was no formal report given. The Legislative Liaison, Jim O'Neill was in Senate session for Bill 385 happening as we were having our Commission meeting.

V. Executive Session:

(Requires a two-thirds vote of Commissioners Present and Voting – Staff and Guests Invited to attend Must Be Noted)

No Executive Session was held.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Gove and seconded by Caesar Noble. The vote to adjourn carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 2:25pm.