

**MCC Attendees:** Aden Batar, Dr. Marc Babitz, Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox, Julie Fisher, Nathan Hanamaikai, Ze Min Xiao, Claudia Nakano, Jon Pierpont, Byron Russell, Dr. Jacqueline Thompson

**MCC Excused:** Benjamin Au, Lucy Cardenas, Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rollin Cook, Dr. Kimberly Henrie, Dean Hirabayashi, Anapesi Kaili, Len Novilla, Jeremy Peterson, Tami Pyfer, Dr. Kyle Reyes, Paul Tsosie, Ann Williamson

**MCC Unexcused:** Pamela Atkinson, Steven Ha, Lavanya Mahate, Jean Mills-Barber

**Guests:** Brian Somers, Mark Thomas, Stephen LeFevre, Ming Wang, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Jenny Hor

---

**Welcome - Lt. Governor Spencer Cox**

Lt. Governor Cox welcomed all attendees to the MCC Commission meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** (*A full quorum was not available for the meeting*)

- Approval of August meeting minutes were postponed for the next MCC meeting, due to the lack of a quorum at today's meeting.

**Recap of November 2015 meeting –**

*Byron Russell*

Past MCC meetings, attendance has been low which has resulted in a lack of an official quorum. A solution needs to happen to increase attendance. However, even with low attendance MCC has engaging discussions and a trust of sharing ideas has been developed. In the November 17, 2016 meeting, topics discussed were Pam Perlich's presentation, moving forward with MCC's mission, and developing a multicultural youth council. Encouraged members to bring up topics they felt was important. Addressed Nathan Hanamaikai's question of members being able to attend meetings through telephone and said it has to be written in MCC's bylaws. Agreed with Lt. Governor to explore this option.

**MCA Updates –**

*Claudia Nakano*

Recognized and thanked MCA team's work and commitment to MCA and the ethnic community. Reviewed MCA's 2015 Year in Review report.

- MCA partnered with Midvale Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Law Enforcement, and Midvale City to create a mural wall art at Cooperview Recreation Center. In Spring 2016, a mural wall art is set for Ogden on 25<sup>th</sup> Street, "The Gateway to the Historic 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Partners include Ogden City, the Arts Council, Weber State University and a developer.
- MCA held their Multicultural Youth Leadership Summit (MYLS) at South Town Exposition Center with 2000 youth in attendance. Thanked Governor and Lt. Governor for speaking at event. Attendance capacity for MYLS 2016 will be lessened. Recognized Dr. Thompson and Davis School District Parent Equity for their continued support and for continually bringing students.
- MCA helped coordinate the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the capitol rotunda with 600 individuals attending.
- Rozanna Benally-Sagg shared that in August 2015, MCA partnered with the Christian Center of Park City and organized a water campaign to assist communities in southeastern Utah affected by the river contamination from the Gold King Mine spill. Over 300 cases were delivered to Halchita, Utah.
- Jenny Hor shared that MCA is hosting Multicultural Youth Leadership Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 in the State Capitol Rotunda. Six hundred (600) 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and educators will be invited. Program includes remarks from state leaders and youth speakers. Also included are lunch, capitol tours, and a Student/Educator awards program. The

purpose is to increase civic engagement among youth. Registration is available on MCA website, for further questions individuals reach out to MCA.

- MCA helped sponsor the Ogden Weber Applied Technology College's (OWATC) Multicultural Youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Day, patterned after MYLS. In early 2015, Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) President, Rob Brems, reached out to MCA to initiate a meeting with Ogden Weber ATC to launch a Summit. Three hundred (300) students from Ogden and Weber School District attended. The program included remarks from Lt. Governor and Ernesto Mejia from CoolSpeak. Another youth summit may take place at a different ATC campus.

Thanked Lt. Governor and Multicultural Commission for their continued support towards MCA. In addition, review meeting dates and let Rozanna know if the first Tuesday or the third Tuesday of the month works.

### **Refugee status in Utah –**

*Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox*

Proposed to MCC to discuss topic of the refugee status in Utah. Over the last two months, this issue has been getting a lot of attention within Utah and nationally. Recently, the issue has lessened in attention.

*Aden Batar*

About thirty (30) state governors in the United States have expressed great opposition in allowing Syrian refugees into their states, only a few have entered Utah. This has created much issue for organizations and individuals working with the refugee community. Jon Pierpont is an integral part in assisting stakeholders within the refugee community. Acknowledged that Utah handled the issue well and carefully, and many community members have reached out to support the refugee community by offering a place to stay. Housing is a concern within the refugee community. Recognized and thanked Jon's leadership in bringing all communities and organizations together. Utah is one of the higher ranked states in successfully working with refugee communities.

*Byron Russell*

Tax credits are available for developers who are building within the city. This would allow refugee families to stay within city limits. This is a potential opportunity for MCC to be involved. Recognized Aden and Ze for helping the refugee community.

*Jon Pierpont*

Several community stakeholders voiced their support in assisting refugees through media sources. An Op-ed piece was featured in the Deseret News by Jon Pierpont. A video will be issued out to social media soon and encouraged MCC to share. The video features 6-7 community leaders who discuss supporting the refugee community. A meeting is set with Representative Paul Ray who is the Appropriations co-chair to assist him with understanding the refugee challenge and screening process to be a voice on the hill.

*Ze Min Xiao*

Need to address the treatment in schools of refugee children and children born to refugee parents. They tend to be singled out and bullied. Suggested doing more proactive trainings within schools and talking to kids about how refugees arrive to the country and possibly develop a training curriculum.

*Claudia Nakano*

The rise in racism has become another issue across the nation, and many campuses have had anti-racism protests. Commissioner Squires has a great interest in building relationships between law enforcement and the ethnic community in Utah. A meeting on December 2, 2016 took place with MCA, Department of Public Safety and MLK Commission members to discuss ways in how to bridge those relationships. The meeting also included seven (7) chiefs of police, two (2) FBI agents and youth from the V(i)llage program. Multicultural Commission members are welcome to join the discussion in terms of building relationships with the refugee and ethnic community. If interested, contact Claudia.

*Jon Pierpont*

Department of Workforce Services is going to meet with Commissioner Squires and his staff to discuss concerns within the refugee population's concerns.

*Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox*

Acknowledged and supported Governor Gary R. Herbert's strong supportive stance in assisting with the refugee community. Governor Herbert stood apart from all other Republican Governors when others said not allow any Muslims into the county. A recommendation that came forward was to have a state layer of screening where Commissioner Squires and his Department of Public Safety staff work with Utah's refugees and would be assigned two (2) individuals to work with them. On a positive note, building relationships with the refugee community will increase trust and lessen any negative actions towards refugees.

Addressed the refugee and affordable housing issue and how it impacts Utah economically. Meetings with the housing groups have taken place and a proposal has been developed. Back in the 90s, an advisory committee came together to discuss affordable housing issues. Currently, after several meetings there is now a proposal. Governor Herbert is in support of the proposal and this issue needs to be addressed. The affordable housing issue is a concern for other communities and affects Utah's minority community disproportionately. The intent is to not push a certain population further and further away, which impacts businesses, and families across the board. Recommended to stay attentive about this issue during the legislative session.

*Jon Pierpont*

Suggested bringing in Commissioner Squires to an MCC meeting to present about the framework of the plan to assist with the refugee community.

A previous survey done by DWS housing division showed 44,000 units short in the state, and it is difficult to manage because it becomes very costly. Bricks and mortar is costly. Small investments get a small number of units. So, investments into the state need to be made to make a dent to try to make a dent or Utah will continually struggle.

*Ming Wang*

Attended on behalf of Ann Williamson from the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS has been impacted by the cultural and refugee community issues. DHS addresses areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health and substance abuse, and disability. The disparity issue needs to be addressed in relation to access, outcome and impact. Acknowledged Lt. Governor's office for being helpful with the issue.

### **Restructuring of Coalition of Minority Advisory Committee (CMAC) –**

*Dr. Jacqueline Thompson*

The State Office of Education is planning to restructure CMAC. CMAC advocates for minority children at the state level and has been in existence for many years. The restructuring creates challenges for minority voices to be heard. CMAC is a strong voice for the ethnic community. Community members reach out to CMAC to be an advocate for children of color. CMAC has been that strong voice at the state level for many years.

*Ze Min Xiao*

CMAC provides advice to the State Board of Education regarding issues affecting minority students. The intention for this change is unclear, but the State Board of Education is restructuring many committees. The CMAC chair is Dr. Roderic Land. Three (3) representatives for each of the 5 ethnic groups are represented on CMAC. But, there is also a representative from the refugee community, The proposal includes other disadvantaged groups, which would diminish the voices of the minority students and other groups, as well. The groups added to the proposal are children with disabilities, students of the LGBT community, and other groups who are marginalized. Although the groups share similar needs there are so many differences within each group. CMAC has made great impacts, such as volunteering to read through school textbooks for cultural biases and sensitivity. Another example is educational testing in how educators are being sensitive to the needs of minority students. Those are examples of what CMAC does for the State Board of Education. An one-page informational sheet was created to example the role of CMAC. An Op-Ed piece in the Salt Lake Tribune was written by Kim Birmingham, a former Representative and retired State Board of Education member discussing the role of CMAC for minority students.

The next State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 7 at 8:00 a.m. and there will be time for public comment. Dr. Forest Crawford (MLK Commission member) and other advocates will provide statements during the public comment time. Support and attendance is welcomed and would be helpful. Thanked Claudia's office for their continued support in assisting with the CMAC committee.

The person to contact about raising concerns and questions is the school district administration who sits on the State Board of Education. Ultimately, the State Board of Education makes the decision to approve the restructuring, the state superintendent does not have a role in it.

*Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox*

Encouraged MCC members to attend the State Board of Education meeting. The meeting is a great opportunity to activate communities to attend the State Board of Education meeting to show that community members are paying attention. Suggested developing tasks for each MCC member to go to their individual constituents to request for support.

*Dr. Jacqueline Thompson*

Agreed that many community members need to show up at the State Board of Education meeting. An example of community support is when the public showed up to the Salt Lake School District School Board meeting, concerning Dr. Kathleen Christy's job position. An overwhelming amount of community members attended the school board meeting to support Dr. Kathleen Christy, and they still continue to attend meetings. Suggested to get meeting information to Lt. Governor. Thanked Ze for serving on CMAC.

*Byron Russell*

Suggested MCC share the Op-Ed and disseminate that amongst community members and representatives.

*Claudia Nakano*

The Op-Ed link will be sent to commission members and will be included in MCA's weekly media report. Contact Rozanna if there are media links to share with the MCC Commission.

### **Governor's Healthy Utah plan –**

*Byron Russell*

Requested Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox to open up the discussion of Utah Governor's Healthy plan before departing for Lt. Governor has to leave for his next meeting. Requested for Governor and Lt. Governor's position and insight about how MCC can assist with Governor's Health Utah plan.

*Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox*

Several attempts have been made to move the Governor's Healthy plan forward and the Senate Committee is supportive, however it continues to stop at the House of Representatives. Governor Herbert is supportive of any work completed for the Healthy Utah plan. Members of the House of Representatives have expressed interest in addressing the plan again. Since the Healthy Utah plan has not been passed, the challenge is the financial aspect. There is no clear cost, so there financial support for issues to address criminal justice reform or mental health concerns are halted. Encouraged MCC to support and help in pushing the plan forward, when the time comes to help move it forward.

*Byron Russell*

Proposed to MCC to generate a system in place to activate community responses and activity. MCC has the capacity to become actively engaged in issues and concerns with the help of each member's community involvement. Potential activity is to collaborate and work with the MLK Commission to endorse various topics. MCC could assist state leadership in support of various issues and concerns. An example is when the refugee issue escalated, MCC could have supported the Governor's leadership in writing an Op-Ed. Encouraged members to review the Healthy Utah plan and suggest ways to address supporting the plan.

### **State Agencies/Communities Update –**

*Ming Wang*

The Department of Human Services has a unique challenge because of the population served. When DHS is covered by media, it tends to be more negative because of the juvenile justice system, child welfare, and mental health concerns. The approach for DHS to look beyond just serving individuals within a system, but prevention and early intervention is key. DHS has a committee to address cultural competency issues. Workforce developments are ways to help the system. The challenge sometimes is how services are generated so the same framework is not duplicated. DHS staff are developing standards to create a system for the community and later community members will be brought into the conversation. Feedback is encouraged from community once the plan is finalized.

Integrated health in the behavioral health clinic has been proven to be very effective for the multicultural population and lessened stigma of behavioral health issue and eased of access. A few clinics have started the integrated model.

Acknowledged DWS's great work in dealing with inter generational poverty. One concrete collaboration is with San Juan Foundation in San Juan County to address inter generational poverty.

*Dr. Marc Babitz*

There are many community programs that deal with multicultural issues and the goal is to connect them, as a result the 'Bridging to Communities Program' was developed to address issues together rather than in silos. This program targets local communities that lack access to health care. The program holds community health fairs, and develops links with a community health center. The program helps individuals with health problems, and appropriately directs them to a primary healthcare center to address their issues.

Health funds from the Utah Office of Health Disparities allowed for an infant mortality reduction program to be developed. The target populations are African Americans and Pacific Islanders, who both have significantly higher infant mortality rates. Currently seeking more funding to make it bigger.

The Office of American Indian/Alaskan Native Affairs is very active. They have a Utah Indian Health Advisory Board who meets monthly and are very active in planning and supporting the needs of the tribes. Preparedness training and disaster relief has been important for tribes in rural and isolated areas of Utah. Assistance with training and developing plans is being provided. This covers a lot of programs, such as public safety, emergency management, hospital preparedness, and infectious disease preparedness. There is a health part of the course. The large grant is from CDC to help fund that. We get the large grant from CDC. Emergency preparedness for children is also available.

The department strategic plan includes goals to help Utah become one of the healthiest in the nation. Recognize the need to focus on areas where individuals can improve their health status.

Integrated mental health has been very effective and plans to expand to Ogden and Provo clinics. Cornerstone Counseling center asked to bring physical health into their mental health facility. Intermountain Healthcare are the leaders on integrated mental health and have shared information. Classes have been set up to teach people so they have knowledge of Intermountain health's system.

*Ze Min Xiao*

Focus groups were developed to address mental health perceptions within the Asian communities and thanked Dr. Babitz for reaching out to the Asian communities.

*Nathan Hanamaikai*

Hawaiians are less particular in sharing health related information than some other Pacific Islander communities. What input was received from the Pacific Islander community about the infant mortality rate?

*Dr. Marc Babitz*

The issue of infant mortality is not medical. Pacific Islander communities has always considered pregnancy and child birth to be a natural phenomenon and therefore totally non-medical and not need medical intervention. The greatest source of information of the care of a pregnant mother comes from grandmother. Statistic presented, for every one thousand (1000) child born, every ten (10) do not survive in the Pacific

Islander community. The approach of getting medical advice is helpful with early prenatal care, was presented to the community to help them understand.

*Jon Pierpont*

The issue of inter generational poverty in Utah may require a bit more time on a future agenda. Beginning to engage local communities to have a discussion. Suggested to have a presentation at the March MCC meeting. The presentation would include work done over 4 years of research and sheds light on challenges for several Utah families fifty three thousand (53,000) kids. Two hundred thirty (230) kids are at risk of being in poverty as adults. There is a difference between situational poverty and intergenerational poverty and DWS has been successful with situational poverty when there is a life changing event that occurs in somebody's life and come in for services. Assist with getting a job and become independent. Some families have been stuck in poverty that goes 4 generations back. If twelve (12) consecutive months as child are spent on public assistance, the child has a 50 to 60 percent chance of being on public assistance as an adult and a high chance of passing it to the next generation. Four focus areas with much research and evidenced-based recommendations address intergenerational poverty group. Beginning March or April ten (10) Utah rural counties will come together with local leaders to understand status between each county and data snapshots will be developed. The focus will be on the children to provide opportunities for success. Grants to San Juan County, intercity Ogden (James Madison Elementary), Kearns Junior High, provides technical assistance.

*Byron Russell*

Proposed for the MCC members to attend meetings in those particular locations. Media coverage would bring awareness to various topics such as intergenerational poverty, especially with the presence of Governor or Lt. Governor. Suggested May 3 as meeting date, but keep in mind Lt. Governor's schedule.

*Jon Pierpont*

Governor wants to help drive the issue within the ten (10) counties identified as rural counties.

*Julie Fisher*

Suggested to MCC to make a tentative meeting plan right after legislative session to go to Washington county.

*Dr. Jacqueline Thompson*

The Utah Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education is hosting their Utah NAME Conference on Saturday, February 27 at Salt Lake Community College. Keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Gorski who will talk about teaching and reaching students in poverty.

### **Announcements from MCC Members –**

*Dr. Marc Babitz*

Medicaid staff and former executive are working in support of the Governor's Healthy Utah plan. Overwhelming support from communities within the state for the plan, but a small group of individuals stopped the plan. Unless there is a proposal from the House of Representatives, nothing is going to happen. Senate Committee passed it.

*Julie Fisher*

The dialogue started about 2008 about air quality, Representative Edwards pushed the bill and was dismissed. Now, there are multiple bills from multiple legislators trying to support better air quality.

*Byron Russell*

Business community decided air quality was their initiative. The University of Utah created a Coalition of Business Leaders and discussed the impact of business growth and presence. The discussion was air quality had an impact on revenue cost. Suggested MCC Commission align information about Utah's growing population. In October, the state's population will reach 3 million, and posed the question, "are we recalibrating our representation of the minority communities?"

*Ze Min Xiao*

Launching an initiative of a partnership between Mayor McAdams, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce to measure the economic impact of immigrants and newcomers into the state and will include studies. Posed question, “how are the diverse populations affecting a person coming into the city?”

Action Items –

- Need to determine meeting date in St. George with the Lt. Governor. Also determine meeting date for Jon Pierpont’s inter generational poverty presentation.
- Reminder to read *The Resilience Breakthrough* and is required reading for the next MCC meeting.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION: A quorum was not available.**

---

**Action Items**

- The next MCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Capitol Board Room.