

April 21, 2022 - 4pm-6pm

Seattle Disability Commission Minutes

Commissioners Present: April Snow, Kaitlin Skilton, Kristina (Tina) Sawyckyj, Christine Lew

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Williams-Hall, Dawn Dailey, Taylor Woods, Khazm Kogita

Leave of absence: Heyiwot Amare

Commissioners pending appointment: Taylor Ladd – Get Engaged Commissioner

OCR Staff: Janet Stafford, Helen Gebreamlak, Kyana Wheeler, Derrick Wheeler Smith, Meredith Stone

Guests: Margo Iniguez Dawes, Deborah Witmer, Kiana Parker

Captioner: Darlene Rodella

Public: Autumn Harris, Holly Delcambre, Julia Ismael, Sanja Stegich, Silas James, Jill Watson, Brett Pepowski, Nathaniel Higby

Topic

- Call to Order Kaitlin
- Roll Call / Commissioner Introductions
/Announcements April
- Welcome OCR staff Facilitator
- Interaction Agreements Kaitlin
- Universal Design April

Co-Chair Update

Working on recruitment and hope to have new Commissioners soon.

Office Civil Rights Update

Final deliberations for new Commissioners are upcoming. Two Commissioners leaving the Commission Khazm Kogita and Jessica Williams-Hall. Current Commissioner Kristina Sawyckyj is seeking reappointment and Commissioner Heyiwot Amare is on leave. Tayor Lad, Get Engaged Commissioner,

will be reappointed on April 25 and then will be fully on board. The reappointments will be broadcast on Seattle Channel for those who want to watch.

Reminder the Five Chair Commission Meeting will be May 11, 5:30-7:30.

Seattle Department of Transportation Pilot Project Ride Now

Margo and Kiana presented. A voucher program for eligible riders. It is a demonstration project to assess the viability of the program. The program includes capacity for wheelchair users. They will return in May to share the lessons learned.

Approval of Minutes

- March 2022 Minutes
 - Kaitlin moved, April seconded
 - Yes 4; No 0; Abstained 0

**Celebrating Continued Awareness April In honor of
Autism Awareness Month/Celebrate Diversity
Month/Earth Day Month/Arab American Heritage
Month Day**

**Presentation on how the City plans to meet the
needs of people with disabilities impacted by
disasters with Deborah Witmer, Vulnerable
Populations Planning Coordinator.**

Ways to get involved:

- Come to City meetings to give feedback
- Reactivate Public Safety Committee
- Reach out to the Seattle Office of Emergency Management – Community Engagement
- Get involved with the Seattle Emergency Communications Hubs

See email for contact information and additional ways to get involved.

Presentation and Discussion - how can Disability Commission partner with OCR new Director, Derrick Wheeler- Smith and what do we want him to know about our commission?

To summarize Derrick shared about how he collaborates not from a deficit model but from a opportunity mindset.

Resource Shared: The Pedagogy of Pathologization
Dis/abled Girls of Color in the School-prison Nexus
By Subini Ancy Annamma

Closing Comments, Adjournment & What we'd like to celebrate for the next two months

May is National Asian American Pacific Islander/Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. Plan is to promote local/online celebrations happening.

June is Pride. Plan is to collaborate with LGBTQ Commission and table at Pride.

There will be virtual and in-person opportunities. There is an idea for a collaborative budget of \$800 between LGBTQ, Human Rights, and Disability Commissions to cover event sign up, cut outs for photographs, and water. There will be an upcoming meeting with the LGBTQ Commission to talk more about collaborating.

- Email will be sent with details.
- Decisions about collaborating will be made at the May 19 Commission Meeting. The LGBTQ Commission will email details ahead of time.
- Feel free to reach out to Brett with questions

brett.lgbtq.commission@gmail.com

Announcements

Artists with disabilities, Consortium Connections, "Join us to learn about building

inclusive experiences from an Artist's perspective" www.seattlecac.org, April 27, 12-1pm.

Disability Resources for Students University of Washington is currently putting pressure on the University to provide more funding and staffing for the department. There are four positions open at the moment that people can apply for. Please share about this advocacy by dispersing this article [UW celebrates diversity and inclusion while failing disabled students | Opinion | dailyuw.com.](#)