

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
February 8, 2021**

Commissioner Allen called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:31 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Anthony Allen	Jerry Hammel
Present:	Pamela Birch	Miquel Jackson
	Michael Durnin	Kathy McCarthy
	Mallory Gardiner	
Absent	Ashley Regan	Klanea Evans
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Approval of January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Hamel second by Durnin to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2021 as submitted. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The January 2021 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

The 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Breakfast Celebration this year was virtual with presentations from six past Ruby Sutton Award recipients. Sunday's tribute event was also virtual, and participants included entries from local students as well as businesses.

The NAACP recently held their goal setting session.

Director's Report

The State of Iowa is seeking applicants for several commissions. If anyone is interested in applying, please contact Kelly later than Monday, February 15, at noon.

The end of the year Equity Report will be presented to the Council at their February 15th meeting.

Old Business

New Business

Communication from Sarah Brandsen asking for support in advocating for residents with disabilities at the Glenwood Resource Center

Kelly had provided Ms. Brandsen with advocacy resources related to disability rights and has shared the information with the League of Iowa Human Rights Agencies.

A report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice found evidence of unsupervised human experiments and inadequate health care at this state-

run facility for people with disabilities and claimed that the State of Iowa violated the Constitution and federal law by putting Iowa's most vulnerable people in danger at the Glenwood Resource Center. Civil Rights litigation may follow based on the findings of that report.

Commissioner Gardiner agreed to do some additional research on this issue and will report back at a future meeting.

Standing Items: Goals

Objective 1: Race in the Heartland Conference – Jackson, Allen
Nothing new to report.

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Gardiner

This group met with the Educational Justice group. They felt it would be beneficial to invite representatives to a commission meeting to share primary objectives and discuss possible collaboration in areas where the commission is focused.

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy, Allen

No update. Commissioner Allen will contact Alexis Steger to schedule a time to discuss offering support to the Department as well as the Housing Commission and Friends of Fair Housing.

Objective 4: Employment – Hammel, Birch

No update. Commissioner Birch agreed to join this committee.

The Chair asked that discussion on selecting a date for goal setting be added to the March agenda. The election of officers will also be held in March.

Adjournment:

Durnin motioned, and McCarthy seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 8, 2021.

Minutes approved as submitted:_____

Minutes approved as corrected:_____