

# New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

**April 4, 2019 at 5:00 PM**

### MINUTES

**ATTENDANCE:** **Commissioners: Matthew Mayberry (chair), Harvey Keye, Alex Samuel, Douglas Palardy, Nancy LeRoy and Jose Luna by phone until approximately 5:40 PM**

**Absent: Sheryl Shirley**

**Commission Staff: Executive Director, Ahni Malachi and Assistant Director: Sarah Burke Cohen Administrative Assistant: Lois Monette**

**Assistant Attorney General: Jill Perlow**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayberry at 5:16pm.

Commissioner Luna participated by telephone. He was unable to attend the meeting in person because it was not reasonably practical due to him needing to be present at a meeting at the Executive Council Chambers in Concord of the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion to which he is the Commission's appointed representative. Commissioner Luna was participating by phone in his car.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES:**

Commissioner Mayberry moved pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, III to withhold minutes of the non-public session minutes from the March 7, 2019 meeting until such time as the majority of the Commissioners are of the opinion that it was no longer likely that the divulgence of the information in the minutes would affect adversely the reputation of any person not a member of the agency, or render the proposed action ineffective. This was seconded by Commissioner Leroy. The Motion passed with a Roll Call Vote of Matthew Mayberry – Yay, Harvey Keye – Yay, Alex Samuel – Yay, Douglas Palardy –and Nancy LeRoy – Yay.

Commissioner Samuel moved and Commissioner Leroy seconded to accept the March 7, 2019 minutes with the revisions discussed. Motion carried.

**2. OFFICE UPDATES:**

Executive Director Malachi has been notified that the time to present the Commission's State FY 20/21 budget before the Senate Finance Committee is Monday, April 22, 2019 at 11:15 AM. The Department of Justice will present its budget at the Senate Finance Committee on April 23. Executive Director Malachi will confirm if the HRC will be presenting separately or with the Department of Justice.

Executive Director Malachi was informed that the Federal FY 19 budget for the EEOC has been approved and the contract should be sent shortly for signatures. The FFY19 Budget has increased the full credit case reimbursement from \$700.00 per case to 800.00 per case. The FFY19 reimbursement for intake is increasing from \$70.00 per intake waived to the EEOC to \$80.00 per intake.

Executive Director Malachi stated that the National EEOC Conference will be held in San Diego this year in June. Executive Director Malachi and Assistant Director Burke Cohen will be attending. The Annual Fair Housing Conference will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> in Springfield MA. It is one day event this year instead of -2 days in the past. All five investigators will be attending.

Executive Director Malachi and Assistant General Perlow discussed formalizing the appointment of the mediators participating in the Commission's Mediation Program as Volunteer Mediators. Executive Director Malachi presented a current list of Volunteer Mediators to the Commissioners for the Commissioners to appoint. Commissioner Mayberry moved to adopt the volunteer mediator list as presented and appoint those on it as Volunteer Mediators for the Commission. It was seconded by Commissioner Palardy. The Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Malachi and Assistant General Perlow suggested a letter of appointment be sent to the mediators, the letter will be drafted and presented to the Commissioners for approval prior to it being sent.

**3. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL 2018 REPORT:**

Commissioner Luna updated the Commissioner relative to some of the work of the Diversity and Inclusion Council. He said the Council has been holding concentrated listening sessions in various locations throughout the state. There are to be 3 more concentrated sessions before the final report is created. Once the report is created, a subcommittee of the council will review the report to find issues that can be brought forward for legislation. Another subcommittee will work on the financial costs of the legislation. With this council's work, the state has given the people a platform to bring forth issues and for their voices to be heard.

**4. REVIEW OF INVESTIGATOR CASE LOAD:**

Assistant Director Burke Cohen discussed that the two new investigators have a full case load as of today. Assistant Director Burke Cohen reminded the Commissioners that the Investigators are willing to answer any questions they may have when reviewing a case.

She also stated that charges are still coming in at a steady pace and the investigators are doing their best to close cases as efficiently as possible. .

**5. HEARING SCHEDULE UPDATE:**

Assistant Director Burke Cohen discussed the Hearing Schedule, upcoming hearings and need for Commissioners to serve as panelists for hearings.

**6. HEARING PANEL TRAINING DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Mayberry motioned to table the Hearing Panel discussion until all Commissioners are present. Commissioner Palardy seconded. The Motion carried.

**7. HRC ADMINISTRATIVE RULES DISCUSSION:**

Remained tabled from the March 7, 2019 meeting.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

No Other Business brought forward.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Mayberry moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Palardy. The Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.