

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Members Present

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green
Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.)
Gilbert T. Bland
Robert Barnette Jr.
Xavier L. Beale

Zyahna Bryant
Hope F. Cupit
Keren Charles Dongo
Shirley Ginwright
Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant
Toria Edmonds-Howe
Gaylene Kanoyton
Yvonne J. Lewis
Eduardo Lopez, Esq.
Dr. Monica Motley
Precious Rasheeda Muhammad
Monica L. Reid
Dr. Van C. Wilson
Eldon Burton

Members Not Present

Cameron Patterson,
Precious Rasheeda Muhammad
Larry D. Boone

Staff from the Office of the Governor

Deputy Secretary Traci Deshazor, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Suzanne Holland, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Other Staff Present

Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Dr. Ivey Green called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. Following some open comment she turned the meeting over to Suzanne Holland who provided roll call and asked for a motion which was provided by Hope Cupitt with a second from Rev. Cozy Bailey. Following the Roll Call the meeting was turned over to Dr. Ivey Green who proceeded with approval of the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was provided by Yvonne Lewis with a second from Dr. Van Wilson.

Roll Call

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Present
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Absent
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Present
- Gilbert T. Bland – Present
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Present
- Xavier L. Beale – Present
- Larry D. Boone – Absent
- Zyahna Bryant – Present
- Hope F. Cupit – Present
- Keren Charles Dongo – Present
- Shirley Ginwright – Present
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Present
- Toria Edmonds Howe – Present
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Present
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Present
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Present
- Dr. Monica Motley – Present
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Absent
- Monica L. Reid – Present
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Present
- Eldon Burton – Present

Agenda Approval

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair – Approved
- Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary – Absent
- Rev. Cozy Bailey, USMC (ret.) Vice Chair- Approved
- Gilbert T. Bland, Chair – Approved
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Approved
- Xavier L. Beale – Approved
- Larry D. Boone – Absent
- Zyahna Bryant – Approved
- Hope F. Cupit – Approved
- Keren Charles Dongo – Approved
- Shirley Ginwright – Not Present
- Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant – Approved
- Toria Edmonds-Howe – Approved
- Gaylene Kanoyton – Approved
- Yvonne J. Lewis – Approved
- Eduardo Lopez, Esq. – Approved
- Dr. Monica Motley – Approved
- Precious Rasheeda Muhammad – Absent
- Monica L. Reid – Approved
- Dr. Van C. Wilson – Approved

- Eldon Burton – Approved

Nobody was present to participate in public comment. Suzanne provided an update related to meeting etiquette. Dr. Green invited Dr. Monica Motley to provide an update as it related to the survey. Dr. Motley mentioned that we were ready for a full lunch. She mentioned that we would be hosting two information sessions and wanted to encourage every board member to share an informational template and flyer to individuals so that we could present the survey to potential participants and to introduce the Board. June 17, 7 p.m. for the second survey meeting. The first survey meeting needed to be rescheduled, the proposed new dates were May 25th or 26th. The Board chose to go with May 25th. The survey will be available beginning May 25th and it will go through July 31st. Data will be collected beginning in July and the Chair's will receive reports as it relates to the data. Each board member has been asked to recruit 10-15 people to complete the survey as we work towards our goal of 250. Dr. Motley mentioned needing help with social media. Ms. Bryant mentioned that she will be willing to assist with social media. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned being able to assist with getting the survey out.

Rev. Cozy Bailey mentioned the next date of our meeting which is June 17, 2021. Dr. Ivey Green thanked everyone for the work that they did in their committee meetings as we work to prepare our annual report. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned finalizing reports in June and July and submitting reports no later than September. Then internal meetings will be scheduled as it relates to the report and a briefing document will be prepared as we prepare for a meeting with the Governor. Dr. Ivey Green also mentioned the Black Table Talks and gave a shoutout to Gaylene Kanoyton for leading the first table talk. She mentioned that it was very well received and that we got positive feedback. The next Table Talk is from the Education Committee led by Dr. Ingrid Grant followed by the Public Safety Committee and Small Business. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that it was a great way to get our name out there. Dr. Ivey Green thanked the Black Table Talk Committee that put the framework together along with the staff that assisted.

Outreach Update

Deputy Secretary Deshazor offered an outreach update. Deputy Secretary Deshazor spoke regarding AAPI Heritage Month and a listening tour held across the Commonwealth in partnership with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Secretary of Education, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team. There were a total of five discussions from Loudon County down to Virginia Beach. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned the marijuana legalization legislation signed on April 21, 2021 by the Governor. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned that the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board legislation was signed on April 26, 2021 by Governor Northam. Applications are currently being accepted. Deputy Secretary Deshazor mentioned April 23, 2021 as Barbara Johns Day and the unveiling of the historic marker at the Moton Museum. It was also mentioned that work continues regarding Restoration of Rights. The One Virginia Plan and Equity Dashboard has been made available for use in the public and private space. The Virginia Department of Education is hosting the Education Equity Summer Institute on June 15th – 17th. Deputy Secretary Deshazor highlighted vaccination outreach efforts and gave a detailed overview. Some of the Vaccination Outreach efforts include work with Green Street Communications who has provided a number of assets including an Interfaith Toolkit, Our Shot Virginia Campaign, and a number of digital assets. She also ended by mentioning the May 18, 2021 It's Our Shot, Virginia: Statewide Day of Action.

Board Administrative Update

Suzanne Holland, shared a Board Administrative Update and Overview. Those updates included Virginia receiving \$4.3B in American Rescue Plan funding, \$63.7 Million in Virginia LEARNS Education

Recovery Grants, Governor Northam declaring a state of emergency after the Colonial Pipeline Ransomware Cyberattack. Suzanne mentioned an agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railway to expand passenger rail to Southwest, Virginia and the investment in the Support Clean Transportation Projects. The Governor also released the maternal health strategic plan with a goal of eliminating racial disparities in maternal health outcomes by 2025. Suzanne also mentioned using social media as a tool for outreach and hope that it will continue to be a goal for the Board. Suzanne mentioned that committee meetings will be scheduled during the week of June 7th ahead of our June 17, 2021 Board Meeting.

Committee Reports

Criminal Justice

Rev. Bailey laid the ground rules as it relates to the reports. Monica Reid offered a report on behalf of the Criminal Justice Committee. Three issues for the committee that have come forth center around policing, pre-trial justice, and mandatory sentencing. Under policing there was a recommendation around the January 6th capitol riot and the participation of law enforcement in that event. Another issue relates to the lack of regulation for K-9's, and declaring gun violence as a public safety crisis. Under the pre-trial banner some issues that arose relate to cash bail, and carrying over a recommendation related to defense council. Under the third theme we are looking at mandatory sentencing appeal. This died in the legislation session this year, but the committee wanted to make sure we bring it back and recommend it again. Dr. Ivey Green ask a question related to the presence of defense council. Monica Reid brought forth language from last year's report and mentioned providing council at the earliest possible moment and mentioned some nuances related to cost and other issues. Rev. Bailey asked if there was any additional data needed.

Education & Workforce Committee

Dr. Wilson presented on behalf of Dr. Ingrid Grant. Dr. Wilson mentioned that a good amount of time was spent planning the Black Table Talk event. The focus was addressing learning lost and mental health during a pandemic. Invited guest includes Rodney Robinson, RCPS, Secretary Atif Qarni, several mental health professionals, and they will follow the template used by the Health Committee. As it relates to the report to the Governor there was 2 items of focus. The first was access to post-secondary opportunities and taking advantage of all the opportunities available. The second was the admission processes related to the Governor School. Rev. Bailey mentioned Thomas Jefferson and the lack of diversity representation.

Health & Environment

Gaylene Kanoyton presented regarding legislation and partnerships. Talked about Youth Vaccination efforts and how the committee could help whether it be a white paper or legislation. They also are working to understand if booster shots will be needed. School Nutrition was an issue of concern along with Transportation as it relates to individuals getting vaccinated and meeting other health needs. There was talk about partnering with the Education Committee regarding getting more blacks into the Health Field. Also discussed mental health post-pandemic. Everything continues to unfold. Rev. Bailey spoke about black doctors bringing up issues of vitamin d deficiency in people of color. Gaylene Kanoyton echoed this along with some other items. Gaylene also talked about the Myth Buster tool offered by the Virginia Department of Health that we can be using within our communities.

Small Black Owned Business

Keren Charles Dongo shared a report. She mentioned that some Chamber members were present along with business leaders. The feedback was that the federal funding was not nearly the need. Black

businesses are not accessing the money. Applications are not being completed. One ask from the community of black owned businesses was to do something regarding sole proprietorship. Also wanted to do something in the area of procurement and to do something to educate regarding the procurement process. The recommendations will likely fall under two categories including Rebuild and asking for additional support to help folk's complete applications and follow-up with applications. Additionally the under Rebuild some sort of information session about being a part of SWAM. Want to be proactive in pushing out information and making sure that individuals know about the resources offered. Also want to push collecting data and finding ways to see who is out there and what individuals needs are.

Chairman Bailey thanked the committed and reiterated that things are moving in the right direction. He also mentioned that the next committee meetings would take place during the week of the 7th.

Visioning & Board Discussion

Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that she wanted us to be focused on engagement with the community and creating a brand within the community. Yvonne Lewis asked about the possibility of having a telephone hotline where people could engage with the Board. Suzanne mentioned the Board's email as being one of the ways to connect with the Board. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned pop-up vaccine clinics all over the state and the possibility of partnering to help do that outreach and share our information. Rev. Bailey mentioned that everyone is known in their individual communities for a variety of things and now we have the opportunity to bring our affiliation with the VAAAB into that conversation as well. Rev. Bailey mentioned the Manassas African American Festival which isn't occurring this year, but is representative of the type of events that we could be participating in moving forward. Secretary Deshazor mentioned taking advantage of events that are sponsored by the Office of the Governor. Keren Charles Dongo mentioned that we could put forth a video for Juneteenth. She also mentioned the need of serving as a one stop shop. Rev. Bailey mentioned the need of increasing the visibility and brand. Yvonne Lewis mentioned that she serves on the Community Services Board and that she was going to share information related to the Vaccine. She said it was important to put out things once they are shared. Dr. Ivey Green asked for volunteers to create a business card. Tori Edmonds Howe volunteer to design it. Robert Barnett mentioned veteran's issues as something that we should be focused on. Dr. Ivey Green asked us to send any additional recommendations to the VAAAB board email address.

Closing Comments

Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the survey and encouraging individuals to take that. She mentioned the upcoming Table Talk from the Education Committee on May 20th. She challenged us to encourage 10-15 individuals to join for the Table Talk program. She thanked everyone for the recommendations. Justin Bell closed by reminding folks to view the Commonwealth Calendar and join in on a meeting.