

Louisiana Commission on Human Rights'
Minutes
Meeting Held: Louisiana Workforce Commission
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
11:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Tamara Jacobson, Chairwoman
Marshall Brumfield
Willie Littleton
Kirby Verret
Karen Ashford
Alvin Roche, Jr.
Angela Faulk
Scott Schmieding

Members Absent:

Eursla Hardy

Staff Present: Loyce Pierce Wright, Christa Davis, Leah Raby, and Lauren Grundy,

Guest Present: Courtney Jackson, Attorney, Louisiana Board of Ethics

Chairwoman Tamara Jacobson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and requested a roll call. Roll call was taken by Christa Davis. There was a quorum.

Chairwoman Jacobson began the meeting with a welcome to the newly appointed Commission members who introduced themselves. Thereafter she proceeded with the agenda by introducing Attorney Courtney Jackson from the Louisiana Ethic's Board who gave a presentation on the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program. Attorney Jackson particularly discussed the new referendum that requires financial disclosure from the appointees. A copy of the reporting form due May 2009 was provided to each commission member. To conclude her presentation Attorney Jackson responded to many questions and concerns regarding the financial disclosure laws (See the attached presentation by Attorney Courtney Jackson).

The next item on the agenda was a review by Chairwoman Jacobson of the duties of the Commission Members as provided in Louisiana Revised Statute 51:2235 (See attached). After Chairwoman Jacobson discussed the duties of the Commissioners, she turned the floor over to Mrs. Wright for the Executive Director's Report, the next item on the agenda.

Mrs. Wright proceeded with the Executive Director's Report beginning with a brief historical review of the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights (LCHR). She indicated the Commission began in 1988 and that it did not receive state funding until 1992. Mrs. Wright discussed LCHR's FEPA status (Fair Employment Practices Agency) for the state of the Louisiana and indicated that LCHR has held that designation since 1993 when a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She reported that in 2003, after developing effective policies and procedures and demonstrating the ability to fully investigate cases that met the standards set forth in the EEOC

Contracting Principles LCHR entered into a contract with the EEOC to investigate employment discrimination complaints. Mrs. Wright stated that due to the time absorbed by the Ethics Presentation she would provide more information about LCHR's relationship with EEOC at the next meeting.

Next, Mrs. Wright briefly discussed processes used by LCHR to investigate cases. She indicated that the previous Commission members had delegated to the executive director the authority to render final determinations on cases/complaints rendered by LCHR. In keeping with that decision it was moved by Commissioner Marshall Brumfield and seconded by Commissioner Angela Faulk that the executive director be delegated the authority to render final determination on cases/complaints rendered by the LCHR. The motion passed. Thereafter Mrs. Wright indicated that she was requesting approval from the Commission to continue working on the rebuilding of the YWCA of New Orleans. It was moved by Alvin Roche' and seconded by Kirby Verret that the Commission continue working with the rebuilding efforts of the YWCA of New Orleans. The motion carried. Mrs. Wright concluded her report with a review of the 2008-2009 budget; stating that the general fund appropriation is \$240,000, with a spending authority of up to \$75,000 in federal funds, however; approximately \$42,000 would actually be received in federal funds.

Mrs. Wright then indicated the need for Commission members to complete forms necessary for the reimbursement of travel and per diems. Ms. Davis distributed the forms. Several commission members indicated that due to the limitations of the budget, they are opting not to file for travel reimbursements and per diems.

The last item on the agenda was approval of next meeting dates. A motion was offered by Commissioner Roche' and seconded by Commissioner Brumfield accepting the meeting dates of July 14 and October -13, 2009 and with time and place to be determined. The motion carried. Commissioner Faulk requested that the meetings not be so lengthy and asked if they could be scheduled at an earlier time. Chairwoman Jacobson responded that the 11 o'clock hour is the best time considering those who travel from a distance. She further reiterated that the meeting was extended due to the Ethic's presentation.

With no further business to be discussed; the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.