

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACK MALES  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 9, 2017  
5:30pm  
Hooker Conference Room #245 City Hall  
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN

AGENDA

**Members Present:** Cornelius Wright, Seth Debro, John McCluskey Jr., Byron Turner, Brian Richardson Jr., Fred Darko, David Hummons, James Sanders

**Guests:** Casey Green, Indiana University; Dexter Griffin, Bloomington South High School student; Sunny Lu Williams, Telamon Corp.; Christi McBride, Hoosier Hills Career Center; Markay Winston, MCCSC; James Garrett Jr, Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males; Farida Falke, Larry Brown, NAACP, Nicole Bolden, City of Bloomington City Clerk; Geoffrey Bradley, Monroe County Deputy Prosecutor

**Staff:** Rafi Khalid Hasan II, City of Bloomington Liaison

Cornelius Wright called the meeting at 5:32pm.

**1. Introductions**

**2. Request for Additional Agenda Items**

**3. Presenter: Christi McBride, Director Hoosier Hills Career Center**

- a. Earning a high school diploma from the Monroe County Community School Corp.
  - i. 19 career “pathways” targeted to student interests. Goal is to impart marketable, transferable skills.
  - ii. Indiana diplomas
    1. General diploma – there are currently discussions about whether this degree is adequate. HHCC believes students pursuing a general degree shouldn’t be made to feel their degree is diminished just because they are on a different track.
    2. Core 40 – some HHCC hands-on science courses count toward science requirements
    3. Technical Honors is now equivalent to Academic Honors in determining future financial aid.
  - iii. Students apply by submitting the enrollment form. HHCC doesn’t reject anyone. There is no GPA requirement.
    1. An interventionist and multiple assistants are available to help with learning modifications and monitoring.
    2. Students can stay a 5<sup>th</sup> year to graduate, if needed.
  - iv. YES (Youth Employability Skills) partners with employers to instruct students on sought after skills as well as participate in mock interviews to assist students in job acquisition skills.

- v. Given that many counselors are only seeing students when there is a problem, how can counselors be involved to identify kids?
  - 1. There is a counselor deficit in schools. HHCC has tear sheets for each program to give students. There has been high recruitment success when HHCC comes into English classes, etc. HHCC is working on marketing to parents.
  - 2. Early outreach may yield better results. Currently, there is some outreach in elementary schools and middle schools do tours. HHCC is looking to work with Boys & Girls club for additional outreach.
  - 3. North has more options for 9&10 grade; South has some introductory courses but students are primarily bused during 11 & 12 grade. Students are bused from 5 schools for either a morning or afternoon session, so transportation is not an impediment.
- vi. Higher education
  - 1. HHCC provides assistance with FAFSA and other higher education funding resources. WorkOne partners with Ivy Tech to help with funding for children in foster care.
  - 2. Achieving certifications: Placement tests for some apprenticeship programs are offered. Fees are covered so there is no cost prohibitor, as would be the case with certifying after High School.
  - 3. Students can earn dual credit. Focus on empowering all students, not just those on CORE 40 track. Ivy Tech program, ASAP, accelerates associates degree.
  - 4. Adults can attend evening programming at the HHCC facility through Work Indiana.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Motion by Seth, second by James

Minutes approved at 7:02pm

#### **5. New Business**

- a. Post-event evaluation
  - i. 2017 Million Father March at Arlington Heights Elementary
    - 1. Goal for event was to open event to the entire community, show large supportive presence at schools. Delays in communication between multiple points of contact inhibited organization efforts; CBSM settled on focusing on Title I school.
    - 2. Event went well despite administrative hoops requiring background checks to participate. Attendance declined from approx. 50 people to 10-15 people.
    - 3. There is a need for clarification on the general background check policy and application.
      - a. Are background checks needed for football rallies, etc.? No sense of enforcement. Is it be okay to forego checks if BPD is present at event?

- b. What is background check form flagging? Form questions don't enable accurate identification of specific persons.
    - c. Rafi to have letter of inquiry regarding these questions sent to CSBM for review by next meeting.
  - 4. 2018 MFM – CSBM plans to make arrangements with district at end of this year for next academic year.
- b. Bookmarks proposed by Dan Enslow for distribution
  - i. Preliminary discussions about the content, creation, and distribution of outreach bookmarks to be taken up at September CSBM meeting.

## **6. Liaison report**

- a. Action Items: July minutes

## **7. Old Business**

- a. Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Awareness
  - i. IU Health Statewide Colorectal Cancer Screening Program
    - 1. The program is doing tests regardless of whether men have docs or not. Target audience is ages 55+ or younger with family history.
- b. Bicentennial Real Men Read Program
  - i. Byron is taking lead for roll out in fall 2018.
- c. Financial Literacy program
- d. Black Male Summit at City Hall
  - i. IU formerly held Men of Color leadership conference, which became Diversity Leadership Conference. Target for reviving a Black Male Summit is Fall '18. David will be the point person.
- e. Request to Common Council for two affiliates to CSBM
  - i. John wrote letter for four affiliates. Two, Dexter and Caleb, will go through until others are specifically identified.
- f. Bloomington Housing Authority "Back To School Fair" 8/2
- g. Media Bias reporting group
  - i. The goal is to have written report.
- h. Action committee reports
  - i. EDUCATION
    - 1. Real Men Read (see above)
  - ii. HEALTH AND WELLNESS
    - 1. Barbershop Health Initiative April 2017 tested 896 men across 16 communities.
    - 2. High risk results among younger men, 18-29 and 30-39. Nationwide this trend is accelerating. The goal is to pre-connect with hospital and clinics the day of the event in high-risk areas. If results are very elevated, they are referred immediately to resources.
    - 3. Bloomington has low turnout historically. Discussion of how to integrate IU fraternities in order to use already organized entities to pull in people. No physical location for black fraternities would mean procuring locations for the event if barbers are to go to the fraternities.

- a. A better time needs to be selected for Bloomington - NOT 9a on Saturday. Could the event be Sunday after Church, Monday for barbers?
  - 4. Is there an action list of goal-oriented solutions? Yes, but resources are not available to all vulnerable populations. Current strategy employs the evidence-based correction of front-end educational model. This helps people understand health metrics to make better decisions within their own abilities.
  - 5. Given that there is a focus on integrating the fraternities, what is the intended role for the CSBM? Take lead in Bloomington community with 30-39 demographic and non-college students.
    - a. What is the rollout timeline? Hoping to get fraternity support approx. August, with hope of hosting event around October.
    - b. This will be revisited when a formal proposal is sent to Rafi and the CSBM to run by the city.
- iii. EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
  - 1. Financial literacy
- iv. CRIMINAL JUSTICE
  - 1. Media Bias reporting group
    - a. CSBM will consult with Geoffrey utilizing his expertise as Deputy Prosecutor to identify criminal justice issues.

## **8. Adjournments**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

## **9. Announcements**

- a. Jimmy Ross Memorial Annual Fish Fry Friday  
August 11 IU Football Stadium  
The Northside Exchange Club Jimmy Ross Memorial Annual Fish Fry  
Friday, August 11th  
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- b. 10/9-10 State Conference on Social Status of Black Males
- c. Janet Cheatham Bell  
Coffee with Friends:  
MCPL  
Sunday Aug. 27  
2pm-3pm