



Human Services Department

Human Resources Department, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Section

115 S. Andrews Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7851 •

Draft

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

Racial Equity Task Force

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2024

Destination Sistrunk

1033 NW 6th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Hybrid

Natalia Allen, Chair

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair: Natalia Allen, at 10:09 a.m. Staff present at the meeting: Human Services Department, Deputy Director: Keith D. Bostick, Office, County, Human Resources Department (HRD), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer: Delwynn Freeman, HRD/DEI staff Anna Gibbs, , Equity and Community Investment (ECI) Administrator: David Watkins, ECI staff: Janie Chandler Edmondson, and Cultural Center Council staff: Grace Kewl, and University Student Practicum Program student: Kevin Herrera.

2. Roll Call:

Member Name Present/Absent Member Name Present/Absent

Akiti, Melida	Present	Holness, J. "Jeff"	Present
Allen, Natalia	Present	Koch, Katherine	Present
Barry-Smith, Marcia	Present	Lindblade, Daniel	Present
Bright, Mimi	Present	Lonergan, Tim	Present
Campbell, Robert	Absent	Norris-Weeks, Burnadette	Absent
Cannon, Kathleen	Absent	O'Flannery-Anderson, Jennifer	Absent
Carter, Adrian	Present	Peterson, C. Renee	Absent
Clark, David	Present	Romero, Christina	Present
Combs, Bertisha	Absent	Spragg, Susan	Present
English, Norma	Present	Valenzuela, O. "Otto"	Present
Faulk, Regina	Present	Walker, Patrice	Absent
Gallagher, Sue	Present	Weekes, Gordon	Absent

Guest:

Name	Agency
Jasmin Shirley	NAACP
Carl J. Grant	
Janyse Edouard	BCPS

3. Approve November 17, 2023, Minutes

Chair, Ms. Allen, asked members to review the draft meeting minutes for the November 17, 2023, meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes for the November 17, 2023, meeting minutes.

First: Katherine Koch

Second: Daniel Lindblade

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

4. Destination Sistrunk Overview

Staff member: Grace Kewl, from Broward County Cultural Council presented the history of how Destination Sistrunk came about and answered questions.

5. 2024 Meeting Dates

11:00 a.m. Tim Lonergan joined the meeting.

Members discussed possible meeting dates and times for the remainder of 2024.

MOTION: To keep the last year's schedule of meeting on the third Friday, every odd month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Staff will continue to secure locations around Broward County.

First: Melida Akiti

Second: Christina Romero

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

6. Staff Report

11:15 a.m. David Clark left the meeting.

Staff shared that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), confirmed that they received the Interim Report submitted by this advisory board.

11:20 a.m. Marcia Barry Smith left the meeting.

Members discussed the importance of reaching out to the BOCC, especially if you were appointed by a commissioner, ask them for their thoughts on the report or if they have any follow up questions.

MOTION: To create an Executive Summary to accompany their Interim Report.

First: Melida Akiti

Second: Susan Spragg

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

11:25 Daniel Lindblade left the meeting.

Members decided to have an additional meeting in February. This will allow subcommittees to meet and create their respective sections of the Executive Summary. Staff will coordinate dates and times for subcommittee meetings and the additional advisory board meeting.

Board members discussed meeting dates and times with staff.

11:35 a.m. Adrian Carter left the meeting.

The quorum was lost at 11:35a.m. and the meeting became a workshop.

7. Committee Chair Reports

Ad-Hoc: No report was given.

Education: Ms. Koch shared legislative issues that are having a negative impact on both K-12 students and college students.

Employment and the Economy: No report was given.

Healthcare: Ms. Akiti shared legislative issues that are having a negative impact on public hospitals by reducing the number of services being offered to the community.

Housing: Ms. Romero shared that the committee had not met since they finalized their portion of the Interim Report and highlighted that the cost of homeownership and rent continues to be on the rise. Homeless shelters are at full capacity, and this problem is not going away anytime soon.

Law Enforcement and the Legal System: Ms. Faulk shared that information previously shared with the committee on bond schedules has been impacted by legislative changes and similar to what they were five years ago. Also, two Diversion programs that the State Attorney Office partners with: Broward College and OIC of South Florida continue to grow and has seen their first graduate of the program.

8. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

9. New Business

Members discussed programs in the community that have lost funding and the impact it will have on certain communities if it dies out entirely.

10. Public Comments

Members of the public thanked the advisory board for the work they are doing for the community.

11. Good of the Order

Continue to identify racial gaps in our community and work towards eliminating them.

12. Adjournment

The workshop ended at 11:55 a.m.

These minutes were approved at the Racial Equity Task Force Meeting dated, January 19, 2024, as certified by:

Racial Equity Task Force Secretary