

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 12, 2019**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:37 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Adrienne Breitfelder Gerald Hammel	Jason Keeler Kate Parks Jay Schiesl, Vice-Chair
Absent:	Erin Muenster Nicole Borovic	Miquel Jackson
Staff:	Kelly Larson Temwa Phiri	Carol Spinoso

Kelly introduced Temwa Phiri, the Department's new Community Outreach Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2019

Motion by Parks, second by Breitfelder to approve the meeting minutes of July 8, 2019. All in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as submitted.

Reports

Caseload Report

The July 2019 caseload report was received and filed.

Old Business

New Business

Select Date for Goal Setting

Commissioners discussed holding the session following the Race Conference later in the fall or early spring. Proposed dates are November 2 or March 7, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff will poll commissioners to determine availability.

Standing Items: Goals

Goal #1: Education

Commissioner Shiesl shared that there is a group of residents that are petitioning to change the structure of the Dubuque Community School Board to ward positions. They need 3,300 signatures by August 25th in order to be placed on the ballot for the November 5th school board elections.

Goal #2: Housing – Alexis Steger, Housing & Community Development Director

Alexis provided an update on Source of Income. The full Source of Income report has not been updated due to their software host losing the data that supports the SOI information, along with the HCV waiting list applicants.

Staff is seeing fewer complaints and requests for extensions to find rental units as there are more rental units available. They have started tracking where the HCV have been used in the past and where they are now compared to the school district boundaries. They are also

working to remove barriers for those who have substance abuse or mental health issues, and for those who are incarcerated for more than 30 days, that risk losing their vouchers. They are now opening the HCV waiting list on a monthly basis on the second Tuesday, and accept applicants based on the current vouchers available that month.

Related to rebranding of the HVC program, she stated that they have been working behind the scenes looking for ways to change things internally to make a greater impact. They know they need to focus on landlords to get the acceptance of the program. She stated that HUD is also addressing some of the barriers by offering public housing authorities an opportunity to apply to become part of a cohort. HUD will then study flexibility, rent reform, work requirements, and landlord incentives in an attempt to remove barriers to the program.

Goal #3: Employment

Update on Race Conference Planning

Commissioner Parks reported that the Conference website is live, and that she has been working with Loras on conference logistics. Commissioner Allen reported that the Public Forum Planning Committee will meet Wednesday to discuss the structure of that event.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Parks motioned and Commissioner Breitfelder seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 9, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____