

Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 5, 2022 12:00 p.m.

| Members Present | Members Absent |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Premadonna Braddick | Dr. Nadia Khan Janjua |
| Susan Bynum | Carmella Hill |
| Mary Quinn Cooper | Amy Mariska |
| Susan Crenshaw | Dr. Swarna Singhal |
| Ashleigh Frohrip | Jennifer Loren |
| Betsy Jackson | Janet Levit |
| Deidra Kirtley | Martha Zapata |
| Dr. Orlenthea McGowan | |
| Dr. Meg Myers Morgan | |

- I. Call to Order and Introductions**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12 pm by Chairwoman Myers Morgan.
- II. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Quorum not present
- III. Guest Speaker: Aaron Merchen, Director of Policy and Programs, US Chamber of Commerce**
 - a. Aaron works on the Chamber Foundation's early childhood education portfolio leading efforts to educate policymakers, state and local chambers, and early education advocates on business' role in early education to promote investments in the workforce of today and tomorrow.
 - i. Vice Chairwoman Cooper invited Aaron to specifically discuss The Chamber's "Childcare Solutions for Working Parents Roadmap" (linked here: [Untitled \(uschamberfoundation.org\)](https://www.uschamberfoundation.org)), and what factors the commission should consider in creating a similar roadmap for Tulsans.
 - b. Aaron describes the employer roadmap as a tool for employers to be more responsive to employees and empower employees to discuss what they need for childcare. The ultimate goal is for employees to confidently be able to go to work, rejoin the workforce, receive higher credentials, be more eligible for promotions, etc.
 - i. Commissioner Cooper asks for the best practices or recommendations within the entire map.
 - 1. Aaron replies that it varies based on the organization. Digital suggestion boxes, community forums, direct surveys of working parents, onsite childcare, childcare vouchers, subsidies, and flexible hours are all significant actions.

- ii. Chairwoman Morgan states that one of the main concerns they're having is finding solutions to recruit childcare providers, and asks what other states are doing to alleviate it.
 - 1. Aaron recommends removing and lessening the financial burden for entry into the sector ie. e tuition forgiveness, creating tax-exempt strategies, and lowering fees for registration.
- c. Aaron finishes by explaining that one of his department's biggest values is connecting people, and he'll be forwarding articles, contacts, and resources for the commission to review.
 - i. The commission thanks Aaron for his time.
- d. Commissioners discuss and decide that the next person they'd like to invite will be Casey Moore, from CSC, to collect information on their childcare resource research.
 - i. Commissioner Myers Morgan suggests that they look into Kentucky and Michigan's childcare programs, which had been mentioned by Aaron during his presentation.
 - ii. Commissioner Bynum says that she'd like to know more about utilizing organizations' HR system's as a childcare resource from a benefits point of view. If the commission could wrap up childcare as a benefits package i.e. FMLA, flex spending account, or tax break - she believes it'd be well recieved.
 - 1. Commissioner Myers Morgan suggests they discuss this model with CSC, Trishare, and the chamber of commerce's HR department.
 - 2. Commissioner Bynum suggests they also invite OK DHS and see what they're already doing so that the commission knows how to connect those dots.

IV. Chairwoman's Report

- a. Commissioner Jackson requests that the commission consider moving the date of the next commission meeting to the Thursday before Labor Day, to avoid Labor Day vacation conflicts.
 - i. Commissioner Myers Morgan agrees and informs the commission that the commission hasn't had a quorum for the past few meetings.
- b. Chairwoman Morgan reports:
 - i. Oklahoma was ranked last for quality of life for Women in the United States. It was an awful report, but when that came out an NPR affiliate reached out to Chairwoman Myers Morgan, and she did an interview with them to discuss what the commission would like to do to improve that. She's hoping the interview and report will inform more people, and encourage them to begin having discussions.

V. Work Group Reports

a. Education and Outreach

i. No report

b. Workforce

i. Commissioner Cooper reports that the committee has been exploring the chamber’s roadmap, and are working to pull together manageable actions for employers. The committee was able to invite the chamber of commerce to speak, and their next step is to look at creating a map similar to the pay equity pledge for larger companies.

1. Commissioner Myers Morgan affirms that at this point in their research, the commission could easily put something together for Tulsa.
2. Commissioner Frohip suggests that if employers had internal task forces – it’d be helpful to delegate a task like this to them.

c. Storytelling

i. Commissioner Jackson informs the commission that Dr. Latta showed her a rough cut of the videos and interviews she’s conducted.

1. She shares that one of the things an interviewee said would be helpful would be if HR could provide a list of resources for childcare.
2. Editing is still being completed, and in the committee’s next meeting– she’ll be showing the video to everyone.
3. Dr. Latta will present the video at the October commission meeting. Commissioner Jackson explains that she’s hoping the video can be used to illustrate the struggles of childcare from real people, instead of a spreadsheet or bullet points.
4. There are 4 interviewees, and the video is only 15 minutes long.

ii. Commissioner Myers Morgan remarks that the progress of this committee is impressive and that she’s grateful for their work.

VI. Childcare Next Steps discussion

a. Commissioner Myers Morgan confirms that the next steps will be viewing the interviews in October, getting in contact with DHS, and inviting Casey to the September 1st meeting.

VII. New Business

a. None

VIII. Old Business

a. None

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

a. Commissioner Jacksons asks if there are any updates on 918 day.

- i. Krystal Reyes informs the commission that the theme this year will be “Honoring Tulsa’s First Responders”, and will take place on a Sunday.
- ii. Krystal reminds the commission of the city’s career fair coming up on August 17th at cox business center and requests that the commissioners share the posts on Facebook

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1 pm