



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Strategic Planning Session I of II Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 26, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm

I. Commissioner Attendance

Donna Abbott	Member	N
Sherry L. Ayers	Madam Chair	Y
Claude A Bowen	Vice Chair	Y
Peter Brooks	Member	N
Kerry Hawk-Lessard	Member	Y
Tiara Thomas	Member	Y
Stanley Thompson	Member	N
Guy Wells	Member	Y

GOCI/MCIA Staff:

E. Keith Colston, Director Ethnic Commissions/Admin Director of MCIA
Winston Wilkinson – Chief of Staff
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions

I. **Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA Sherry Ayers**

Madam Chair Sherry Ayers called meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. **Invocation – Madam Chair Ayers requested Commission Kerry Hawk-Lessard**

III. **Chief of Staff – Winston Wilkinson** spoke on communication. Madam Chair Ayers inquiring about meeting in person and the Mr. Wilkinson's outcome was hopefully near springtime. Director Colston requested that we bring all the Chairs from each Commission together to work more closely to help one another out. He also would like to see more statistical information provide from Maryland Department of Health for the Native American Indigenous People.

IV. Administrative Director E. Keith Colston provided the following:

<u>COVID Statistics</u>	<u>Cases/Deaths</u>
Confirmed cases	1,562,000
Testing Positive	2.78%
Total testing volume	18,767,949
Daily testing volume	39,000
Confirmed deaths	13,828
Probable deaths	263
Current hospitalized (Adult + Pediatric)	459 (443+16)
Acute care (Adult + Pediatric)	370 (360+10)

<u>By Race and Ethnicity</u>	<u>Cases/Deaths</u>
African-American (NH)	328,487/442
Asian (NH)	33,631/433
White (NH)	389,519/7,459
Hispanic	128,478/101
Other (NH)	48,468/128
Data not available	71,981/65

Madam Chair Ayers inquired if anyone has been keeping track of the vaccinations by Ethnicity and Director Colston replied that he guesses that they are. Commission Lessard said that MDH does have raw data, but they don't report it.

Ongoing initiatives with Anne Arundel County Food Bank. There hasn't been a lot of activity with Susan Thomas due to COVID, but we need to activate the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with them. AACOFB worked with us to obtain two storage areas in Baltimore City that are free of charge that still contains items. Madam Chair Ayers wanted ideas on how to get tribal communities to partnership with non-profit organization, like (AACO Food Bank vs. CIAA Basketball Tournament) to obtain opportunities. Vice Chair Bowen asked how funds can be spent. We can accept any source of funding for the MCIA commission. We could develop "Friends of MCIA". The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives would oversee these funds.

V. Open Meetings Act – Director E. Keith Colston

OMA - <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/OpenGov/OpenMeetings/training.aspx>

It is the policy and procedures of Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, Ethnic Commissions-including MCIA for the Chair and Vice Chair to take this training. During meetings the public has no legal right to interject or speak, unless they were invited as a presenter, or they made a proper appointment with the Director of Ethnic Commission or the Chair or Vice Chair. Closed Sessions are vital for us to cover ourselves in a legal and procedural manner and to protect the Administration-Governor-MCIA Administrative Director. There is a procedural process to have a closed session meeting. You need to have a Motion and 2nd Motion to close the meeting. The public does have the right to audio or video record the meetings, without any disruption of the meeting. There must be a Quorum to hold a meeting.

VI. 2022 Theme (Year Long Theme)

Suggestions: **Commission Lessard** – Strength of Unity and Being of One Mind
Director Colston – Tribal Language, Preservation, the 7 words to go with the 7 tribal communities.
Madam Chair Ayers – Missing Indigenous Women and Children, Footprints on a road
Commissioner Thomas – Building Bridges-with our tribal communities, with our community partners, with our State
Vice Chair Bowen – Strength & Unity for Health-Diversity, White Sands Footprint photo, Dignity and Hope
Commissioner Wells – Past to the Future

The Seven Words	The Seven Tribal Communities
Strength	Accohannock Indian Tribe
Unity	Assateague Peoples Tribe
Heal	Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians
Protect	Piscataway Conoy Tribe
Past	Piscataway Indian Nation
Future	Pocomoke Indian Nation
One Mind	Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians

Request Motion to use the concept of circle-words -footprints of tribal communities and language that promotes growth in our 2022 Theme:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Approval of the Concept of Footprints of Tribal Communities/Words in a Circle	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	Tiara Thomas	5 to 0 (those in Attendance) Abstain: 0

VII. American Indian Heritage Month Kick-Off

Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: University-TBD

St Mary’s College of Maryland – Saint Marys City, MD
 Claude’s contact is Julia King and Tiara’s contact is Travis Parno.
 Washington College – Chestertown, MD
 Claude’s contact is???
 Frostburg State University – Frostburg, MD
 No Contact
 Loyola University of Maryland – Baltimore, MD
 Keith’s contact is???
 Towson State University – Towson, MD
 Claude’s contact is Bob Wall and Sherry’s contact is???

Request that the College present a paper each from a Professor and Student based on our theme.

Commissioner Kerry Hawk-Lessard suggested donation of a blanket or start quilt.

Youth of the Year -This will be based on K – 12 for the time frame 11/2021 through 09/2022. Possibility 7 awards and one from each tribal community. The criteria would be using the words from our theme. They need to have more rolls in the communities.

Initiative of showcasing Art. One suggestion was having a 2023 calendar with the student’s art.

Adult of the Year – Time frame 11/2021 through 09/2022, no age limit.

Volunteer of the Year – this will be chosen by the administrative side of the commission – Director Keith Colston.

New Initiative: Highlight Native American Veteran
The Advisory Committee will oversee this working group to build relationships with the Maryland Veteran Administration.

Request Motion to create a working group under the Advisory Committee that will highlight American Indian Veterans in the State of Maryland.

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	
Approval to create a working group that will highlight American Indian Veterans in the State of Maryland.	Sherry Ayers	Guy Wells	5 to 0 (those in Attendance) Abstain: 0	

Lunch Break: 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

VIII. Indigenous Peoples Day

Sherry –Delegate Branch mentioned that more involvement from MCIA and Tribal Leaders would be beneficial to us to keep the Indigenous Peoples Day going. Come up with ways to showcase our presence during this day. Work with Port Discovery to get free or discount tickets for the tribal communities.

Kerry – It’s hard to get people to come due to the holiday. I will contact HBO concerning free admission vouchers. HBO wants a partnership with non-profit organizations in Baltimore City.

IX. Bylaws-Updates and Discussions

Updates needed to be made to the Bylaws:

ARTICLE II – Section 1 – on the first line change the word monthly to bi-monthly.

ARTICLE II – Section 2 – remove “not less than fourteen days” and insert “Open Meetings Act”.

ARTICLE V – Section 4 – Change “Special Committees” to “Working Groups”. Second line, change the word “work” to “goals” and remove the words “special committee or” and change the word “work” to “working”. Third and fourth lines, remove the words “special committee or”.

ARTICLE V – Section 8 – This is a **new section** to be added and it will be named “Archeological Environmental Issues Committee”. **Still need description.**

ARTICLE VI – Second line, remove the word “so”, change the word “upon” to “on,”, remove the word “mailed” and insert “provided by official correspondence”.

Request Motion – MCIA accepts the changes to the bylaws that were discussed and agreed upon during this SPS meeting on 02/26/22.

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Approval on Bylaw changes that MCIA discussed and agreed upon at the SPS meeting on 02/26/22.	Sherry Ayers	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	5 to 0 (those in Attendance) Abstain: 0

X. Committees: 3-5 Goals

Claude Bowen

Evaluate new technologies concerning human remains.
Environmental issues in Central Maryland – Patuxent Wildlife & Plants.
Look at other non-profits concerning animal and plants and see if we can support them.

Kerry Hawk-Lessard

Data collection processes
Food Security
Access to Care

Tiara Thomas

K-12 Curriculum and Indian program.
Higher Education Partnership
Strengthening the partnership with State of MD – Dept of Ed.

Sherry Ayers

Advocating on a State level for committee for support
Reconnect with tribal communities to create a database that can be used for many purposes.
Building federal relationships with agencies to help with youth.

Guy Wells

Sweat Lodge – Director Colston will provide an update later.

Request Motion to go into a Closed Session:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Approval to go into a closed session.	Sherry Ayers	Tiara Thomas	5 to 0 (those in Attendance) Abstain: 0

XI. Adjournment

Request Motion to go adjourn:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote
Approval to go into a closed session.	Claude Bowen	Guy Wells	5 to 0 (those in Attendance) Abstain: 0