Coalition of Minorities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2015

A regular meeting of the Coalition of Minorities Advisory Committee was held March 26, 2015 at the Utah State Office of Education, 250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Chair-elect Roderic Land conducted.

CMAC Members Present:
Chair-elect Roderic Land
Past Chair Ike Spencer
Member Hiram Alba
Member Analis Carattini Ruiz
Member Jeanie Groves
Member Jean Tokuda Irwin
Member Hema Katoa
Member Charlene Lui
Member Edie Park
Member Ceceilia Tso
Member Jo Ann Wong
Member Ze Min Xiao

CMAC Members Excused:
Chair Freddie Cooper
Member Clayton Long
Member Nephi Prime

State Board Members Present:
None

Staff Present:
Ben Rasmussen, UPPAC & Spec. Counsel Director
Jo Ellen Shaffer, Assessment & Accountability Dir.
Richard Gomez, Ed. Equity Coordinator
Chuck Foster, Ed. Specialist Title VII
Lillian Tsosie-Jensen, Counseling & Guidance Ed. Spec.
Jennifer Slade, Equity Ed. Specialist
Roxana Orellana, Social Media Specialist
Amanda Charlesworth, Ed. Equity Program Specialist

Others Present:
Ingrid Andromidas, Alpine School District
Bonnie Philips, Golden Rule Foundation
Michael Hall, Golden Rule Foundation
Samantha Kilpack, Golden Rule Foundation

Opening Business:
Chair-elect Land called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Chair-elect Land then turned the time over to Dr. Chuck Foster for his report.

March 26, 2014 Agenda

Update HB 33 American Indian-Alaskan Native Education Amendments—Dr. Chuck Foster, Title VII Ed. Specialist, USOE
Dr. Foster reviewed HB 33 in detail including the process that will create the American Indian-Alaskan Native Public Education Commission, which indicates that the State Superintendent will chair the commission. Dr. Foster outlined the four pieces of the recommendation: curriculum, parent participation and engagement, partnerships between the tribes and the USOE, and data sharing.

Dr. Foster then explained there will not be a funding source for this commission. The information will be shared through multiple venues, meetings, trainings, etc. Chair-elect Land asked how CMAC can assist the Board and the USOE with this legislation. ***Dr. Foster would like CMAC's support to in requesting the Superintendent to use his discretionary funding to fund this commission.*** Member Lui was curious as to why a fiscal note was not attached. Ms. Tsosie-Jensen explained that a fiscal note was left off intentionally to get the legislation passed, ***but she suggested that CMAC could be a voice to lobby for funding next year.*** Mr. Rasmussen added that a fiscal note of $37,000 was requested, but it was not funded

by the Utah Legislature. Mr. Gomez reminded the members that any fiscal information must be approved by the State Board before CMAC acts. Mr. Gomez then reviewed the history of CMACs involvement in the Title VII position at the USOE, which is currently the position Dr. Foster holds. He suggested the Executive Committee should address this issue but remove the emotion from it before presenting it to the Board.

Chair-elect Land asked about the proper channels of communication and steps to take at this time. ***Mr. Rasmussen suggested that CMAC get in touch with the Board and USOE staff members who are involved in these issues.*** *Ms. Tsosie-Jensen believes that Deputy Superintendent Sydnee Dickson would be the first contact for expressing concerns.* ***Then CMAC members should learn more about sovereignty, and then report, or have Dr. Foster report, to the Board.***

Cultural Reverence—Member Jean Tokuda Irwin and the Gold Rule Foundation Reps
Member Irwin introduced the members from the Golden Rule Foundation and then shared some of the highlights of the program. Member Irwin then turned the time over to Ms. Bonnie Philips, Mr. Michael Hall and Ms. Samantha Kilpatrick.

Mr. Hall explained the spirit of the golden rule and the non-profit organization created around the golden rule. The foundation has created a poster that translates the golden rule into several languages, and is hoping to complete additional translations. Ms. Kilpatrick added that the foundation has created an educational presentation for the schools. The golden rule message is combined with anti-bulling techniques and magic to captivate the children's attention. The foundation has been to over 60 schools and presented to over 35,000 students in Utah. Ms. Kilpatrick reviewed the research that has been conducted around the golden rule, and shared some photos from school assemblies. She indicated that research has found that teaching kids social skills reduces bullying.

Mr. Hall then briefed the committee on the Jane Home, which is a non-profit community gathering space. He also invited the CMAC members to participate in a presentation at Rowland Hall on April 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Past-Chair Spencer shared positive feedback about having this assembly done at his school for the past few years. He feels it helps the school come together and provokes thought.

Summary of Legislative Bills—Ben Rasmussen, UPPAC Director & Special Counsel, USOE
Mr. Rasmussen presented on behalf of Deputy Superintendent Dickson. He started with an overview of SB 175, which sets up a School Safety & Crisis Line. Mr. Rasmussen explained that there will be a phone line and a device app called Safe Tips. The Safe Tips app allows students to report through their devices. Mr. Rasmussen then explained that SB 175 requires the University of Utah's (U of U) Neuropsychiatric Institute, within the U of U Hospitals and Clinics, to establish a statewide School Safety and Crisis Line. Member Lui asked how the reporting ended up being sent to the U of U. Mr. Rasmussen's assumption was that they have the appropriate expertise to handle these reports. Member Lui's concern is that a quick response to the schools be initiated when reports are made. ***Member Lui asked Mr. Rasmussen to follow up on these issues and report back to CMAC.***

Mr. Gomez explained that the SB 175 outlines that a School Safety & Crisis Line Commission will be created to help decide on these logistical issues. He suggested that since the CMAC was instrumental in promoting a tip line as a part of the National Anti-Bullying "Best Practices" Seminar it hosted August 29, 2013, CMAC should be more assertive as a group about what kind of representation that CMAC should have on the commission. Mr. Gomez suggested that CMAC could make a request that the State Office's representative be a CMAC member.

Member Lui asked whether the bill indicates who will chair the commission. Mr. Rasmussen explained it is the Attorney General's designee who will chair the commission. Mr. Gomez then encouraged the CMAC members to engage with the State Board and ask to be that representative, or have the assigned USOE staff member report to CMAC. Member Lui liked the idea of CMAC working closely with whatever staff person is assigned.

Member Xiao wondered whether CMAC could write a letter expressing interest in being involved. Chair-elect Land was concerned about whether CMAC would be putting a CMAC member up against USOE employees. Mr. Gomez and Mr. Rasmussen agreed that having CMAC representative on the commission would not be working against USOE staff. The USOE staff can contribute and advise the commission regardless. Chair-elect Land suggested that CMAC lobby to get a

seat at the table, as well as lobby for a say in who gets the public education seat that will be appointed by the State Board.

> ***Motion*** *was made by Member Wong and seconded by Member Groves that CMAC write a letter to the State Board of Education Chairperson as a reminder/outline of CMACs involvement and history related to this legislation, and ask to have a representative from CMAC fill the public education position on the School Safety & Crisis Line Commission.*
>
> *Motion passed unanimously*.

Discussion*:* Mr. Rasmussen and Ms. Tsosie-Jensen felt that the Chair of the commission will have the ability to lobby for representatives.

Member Lui asked whether CMAC could make its interest known to the Attorney General's (AG's) office to ensure they are aware that CMAC is very interested in having a representative on this commission. Chair-elect Land asked the CMAC members whether they want to lobby if CMAC does not get a position from the State Board. Member Alba feels that if the State Board does not appoint a CMAC representative, CMAC making direct contact with the AG's office may be seen as circumventing the State Board to participate. Past-chair Spencer suggested that such a letter could go to the Board and AG's office at the same time, addressing both at once. Member Irwin echoed Member Spencer's comments.

Member Lui would like CMAC to be involved in who from the USOE is appointed. She would like to see Jennifer Slade be the USOE representative because of her knowledge of the Title IX Dear Colleague letter, equity issues involved, etc. Member Lui feels strongly that the USOE representative must have the proper background and knowledge.

Member Alba feels that CMAC needs to either amend the motion or put up a second motion to address the State Board and AG's office at the same time.

> ***Motion Amendment*** *was made by Member Xiao and seconded by Member Lui to send a letter to the State Board Chairperson and Attorney General's office at the same time*.

Additional Discussion: Mr. Gomez explained that Ed. Equity is not lobbying for any representation on this Commission. He then reminded the CMAC members that Board Member Castle has counseled having the CMAC present to the State Board on these types of issues.

> *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Rasmussen moved on to HB 360, which affects CMAC's representation on the State Board of Education. HB 360 "*removes nonvoting members from the State Board of Education and requires the State Board of Education to meet quarterly with certain individuals."* This means the six of the non-voting members are removed from the State Board of Education. Mr. Rasmussen added that Superintendent Smith intends to maintain the chain of communication with this committees. Mr. Rasmussen would be willing to take recommendations from CMAC back to the Superintendent on this issue.

Chair-elect Land sees this as the beginning of dismantling these committees. There is concern that if the committees' voices are not at the table, the Board will no longer see these committees as necessary.

Member Alba feels that CMAC should approach the other committees that were removed and create a unified voice.

Member Lui explained that it was retired Board Member Kim Burningham who lobbied to add a CMAC member to the State Board, so that the voice could be heard. Past-chair Spencer shared his experiences from participating in the Board meetings. He saw several areas in which, without CMAC's involvement, the schools and minority children would have be affected. Chair-elect Land asked the CMAC members to submit feedback for Mr. Rasmussen to take back to the Superintendent. Mr. Rasmussen asked what CMAC would like to have in place until this issue change be resolved.

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Member Xiao suggested that the Board representative who is the CMAC liaison report back and forth and create a better dialogue between CMAC and the Board members.

Mr. Gomez reminded the CMAC members that Chair Cooper was invited to participate in a meeting with LaVar Christensen, who sponsored this bill. Mr. Gomez also shared that Board Member Castle has made some recommendations on how CMAC could report to the Board. Mr. Gomez thinks that Chair Cooper's meeting may have ramifications for the actions CMAC takes today. ***Chair-elect Land indicated that the CMAC Executive Committee will move on this issue.***

Mr. Rasmussen then discussed SB 60—the American Civics Education Initiative. He started by explaining that no funding was attached to this bill and that Ms. Shaeffer could provide more information on this item.

Ms. Shaeffer explained this is a national movement that is basically the naturalization and immigration test. When the bill was introduced a fiscal note was attached to create an online system for testing, data storage, etc. Ms. Shaeffer explained that, because there was no funding provided this will have to be a paper and pencil test, and that there will be other logistics-related issues, such as translations. She further explained that Associate Superintendent Park and Deputy Superintendent Dickson who will decide which questions are asked. Member Lui volunteered to help with the test creation.

Ms. Shaeffer explained that July 1, 2015 is the rollout date, and it will be attached to the Social Studies curriculum. Ms. Shaeffer will communicate CMAC's willingness to help with the test's creation with Dr. Park and Dr. Dickson.

Mr. Rasmussen then discussed the final piece of legislation he was asked to report on, the Utah Futures program. The Senate passed a bill to provide some additional funding, which is meant to help meet the program's objectives. Ms. Tsosie-Jensen added that there will be an advisory committee that decides what is done and how the money is spent. Member Lui and others look forward to the improvements and tools for parents.

Approval of January 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Chair-elect Land postponed this item due to the time.

Report: Grading Utah Schools and SAGE Overview and Update—Jo Ellen Shaeffer
Ms. Shaeffer asked whether the CMAC members would like to her address current legislation or review the assessment systems as planned. Member Lui and others asked Ms. Shaeffer to discuss current legislation.

Ms. Shaeffer explained there are currently three levels of reporting. The hope was to combine them into one, but the systems did not mesh with each other. Ms. Shaeffer added that she would be happy to come back and entertain questions at a later date, when more information is available. ***Member Lui mentioned that CMAC wants to see slides that compare the three different assessment systems for each LEA, in order to compare the results by LEA.***

Ms. Shaeffer further explained that SB 245 outlines that the State Board will establish the procedure to calculate growth, and student growth percentiles within their peer group. The Legislature wants a forced distribution, and the numbers were run to match the forced grade.

Ms. Shaeffer then discussed SB 204 – Parental Rights in Public Education. It is being called the "opt-out" bill, and further confuses these issues. The bill will establish a standard process for "opting out" across Utah, including parents' signatures, on a test-by-test basis. Some Board members and Legislators want to include all tests, such as the SAGE, DIBELS, etc. Ms. Shaeffer worries that soon the USOE won't have enough data to validate the results. Last year, statewide 2-2.5% of students opted out. Some charter schools had 70% of students opt out of testing. This is having a negative impact.

Member Ruiz discussed the WIDA assessment, and she wondered when will they know which assessment are included in the "opt-out." Member Ruiz explained that these assessments will affect the English language learners in Utah schools and the funding associated with those groups. Ms. Shaeffer validated Member Ruiz's concern; she too is concerned that, at some point, this will affect accountability.

Member Lui feels that we are going back to the time when the testing wasn't as useful. She worries marginalized parents will have to be over-educated to help them understand these changes and the "opt-out" choice. Member Lui worries that the LEAs will no longer have the breakdown of data that helps CMAC see how students of color are performing.

Mr. Gomez asked when CMAC could present to the Board about the issue. ***Ms. Shaeffer suggested that CMAC prepare a letter to the Board to take a position on the SAGE, ACT, WIDA, DIBELS, etc., and then she can present CMAC's position to the State Board as part of her report. She would have to have that information within the next week. Member Ruiz suggested taking excerpts from the Dear Colleague Letter to prepare the letter.***

Chair-elect Land asked the CMAC members to think about CMAC's position. Member Alba feels that CMAC is in favor of limiting the "opt-out" options.

Ms. Shaeffer explained that the letter needs to address two things:

- *The percentage of students needed to have valid accountability scores (85-90%), and then the auditing of schools to ensure that no specific groups are opted out as a whole.*
- *The particular test(s) available for opt-out. CMAC may want to weigh in on which tests should not be available to "opt out" of.*

***Motion** was made by Member Xiao and seconded by Member Lui to have the CMAC Executive Committee create a letter of recommendation based on the two issues Ms. Shaeffer addressed, and make it a recommendation to Associate Superintendent Park to present at the next Board meeting.*

Discussion: Member Wong asked why it is important, because we need a base line for parents. Ms. Shaeffer explained that yes, it was for a base line, and so that teachers know which students need support to grow. Assessment is a critical part of instruction. Member Lui added that Member Ruiz should have input, because she is the PAC committee representative for CMAC.

Motion Passed unanimously.

Ms. Shaffer then discussed House Resolution 007. This legislation urges the State Board to study methods to minimize testing. The same tests might come into play with this legislation as well. Ms. Shaeffer then showed the CMAC members the USOE website, where they can access individual schools' data. She added that this year the SAGE allowed the use of a dictionary as part of the testing process. The study showed that use of the dictionary is neutral and doesn't give any group and advantage over another. The dictionary will be available on all SAGE tests moving forward. Member Irwin wondered whether the kids encounter dictionaries prior to the testing. Ms. Shaeffer indicated that the Core Curriculum does outline that those tools should be used in the classroom.

***Motion** was made by Member Lui and seconded by Member Irwin to postpone Ms. Shaeffer's report on the Grading Utah Schools & SAGE Overview, as well as the approval of the February 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes, until the April 23, 2015 CMAC meeting.*

Motion passed unanimously.

NAEP/NIES Background Questionnaire Summary Report—Member Jeanie Groves
Member Groves explained that she had already shared the Title VII committee feedback with Ms. Battaglia, who will share the information with the appropriate contacts. This issue item should be complete now.

Standing Agenda Item: Working Committee Reports—Chair-elect Land
None at this time.

Chair Report—Chair-elect Land
Chair-elect Land explained that no official report had been prepared, and the meeting was already over time.

***Motion** was made by Member Alba and seconded by Member Ruiz. Meeting adjourned at 2:21p.m.*

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