

**City of Albuquerque**  
**Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday April 18, 2019

11:30am-1:00pm

City of Albuquerque Area Agency on Aging Conference Room  
700 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW - Albuquerque, NM 87102

**1. Call to Order and Invocation**

Ron Solimon called the meeting to order at 11:37am and provided invocation.

*Committee Members Present:* Ronald Solimon, Dr. Lloyd Lee, William Riding In, Laurie Weahkee, and Mike Canfield (via conference call).

*Committee Members Absent:* None

*Others Present:* Dawn Begay (Native American Affairs Liaison, COA Office of Equity and Inclusion).

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda item #3, Approval of Meeting, was changed to Approval of Meeting Minutes.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The March 20, 2019 meeting minutes need to be updated before approval. Approval of March 20, 2019 meeting minutes was deferred until next meeting.

**4. COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs Chair Report**

Ronald Solimon briefed the Commission on the Native Leaders Collective of Albuquerque (NLC). The NLC is a body of executive leaders representing key Native-serving organizations. The NLC submitted a letter to Mayor Keller requesting he attend their next meeting on June 11, 2019. Ronald Solimon informed Commission that he submitted a meeting request to Mayor Keller with the purpose of introducing Mr. Huenenmann to the Mayor, to discuss NLC, and the urgency of appointing new COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs members by October 1, 2019.

Ronald Solimon informed the Commission that he attended the American Indian Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Indian Pueblo Culture Center.

Ronald Solimon informed the Commission that he attended the Urban Indian Legislative Update hosted by the Native American Voter's Alliance (NAVA). NM Representative Georgene Louis provided insight into the legislative process and bills followed by NM tribes/groups. Mr. Solimon announced at the Urban Indian Legislative Update that the COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs has vacant seats and applicants can apply on the COA Boards and Commissions website.

For more information please contact Lloyd Lee at [llee35@gmail.com](mailto:llee35@gmail.com) or 505-277-1822.

## **5. COA Native American Liaison Report**

Dawn Begay (COA Native American Liaison) briefed the Commission on Liaison positions. The COA Office of Equity and Inclusion under the COA Legal Department received funding for a permanent full-time Native American Liaison to work with community-based organizations and Native American constituents within the Albuquerque area. Dawn Begay started as COA Native American Liaison on 04/01/2019. The COA Department of Family and Community Services (FCS) will continue contract with First Nations Community Healthsource (FNCH) to maintain a part-time (0.2 FTE) Native American Homelessness Liaison. The Native American Homelessness Liaison will work under the COA FCS to continue implementing the Native American Homelessness Taskforce Recommendations and address housing/social support needs of Native Americans in the Albuquerque area. Isaiah Curtis (Case Manager, FNCH Homeless Outreach Program) was appointed as new Native American Homelessness Liaison and is expected to start the week of April 22, 2019. The COA is seeking funding for an Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison who will work under the Mayor's Office. The role of the Intergovernmental Liaison will be to work with government entities including the Mayor's Office, City Council, Directors of COA Departments, State Legislatures, Tribal governments, and eventually staff the COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs. The Native American Liaison will continue to staff Commission.

Dawn Begay informed the Commission that she is in the process of creating a strategic action plan on developing the structure of COA Native American Affairs. Top priorities include increasing the inclusion of Native Americans in COA services, increasing the equitable distribution of COA resources to the Native community, determining accountability of COA data collection/reporting, assisting with the recruitment of COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs, and to work with PR/Communications to education COA and Albuquerque community on COA Native American Affairs staff/services.

Ronald Solimon requested COA Native American Liaison follow up with the Mayor's Office to determine if NLC meeting request was received and to report the purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on Commission and introduce the Mayor to Mr. Huenemann. Ms. Begay stated that she will follow up with Mayor's Office on whether or not the Mayor received request and is able to meet on June 11, 2019 and report back to Commission by April 23, 2019.

Mike Canfield requested Ronald Solimon schedule meeting with new Liaisons and Commission members to better understand their roles in capacity building and to ensure there is not a duplication of services/initiatives.

## **6. Review Revised Ordinance Provision**

The Commission discussed changes to Ordinance signed on March 12, 2019. Lloyd Lee expressed concern for Ordinance requiring specific sectors and identifying Tohajiilee Chapter rather than Navajo Nation. Commission decided any new revisions will be up to new Commission members to determine whether or not they want to pursue. The Commission discussed increase in membership. The Commission requested the Native

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American Liaison clarify with COA Legal exact number of members and have COA Legal reply in memo to Commission. The Commission discussed application process of tribal appointed members. The Commission requested Native American Liaison clarify with COA Legal what the application process is for tribal appointed members as they are not City Council approved. The Commission discussed ability to create subcommittees. The Commission agreed they will need clarification from COA Legal on exact number of members and the application process of tribal appointed members before they start recruiting for new members. Commission decided on a timeline for recruiting new membership.

Dawn Begay informed the Commission that all members will need to reapply to serve another term. Helen Maestas (Deputy Director, COA Constituent Services) oversees COA Boards and Commissions and is responsible for accepting applications. Ms. Begay will follow up with Ms. Maestas on whether or not the Ordinance was updated on the COA Boards and Commission website and if she can email application process to Liaison and Commission.

William Riding In submitted his resignation letter from the COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs effective of April 18, 2019.

**7. Briefing on Meeting with Albuquerque Public School Indian Education Director Daisy Thompson.**

Lloyd Lee informed the Commission that he and Laurie Weahkee met with Daisy Thompson (Director, Albuquerque Public School Indian Education) on April 1, 2019. Ms. Thompson stated that a field hearing would not be necessary and shared her efforts, including plan on creating an APS Stakeholders Committee. Ms. Thompson offered the COA Commission on AI/AN Affairs a seat on the Committee. Commission selected Lloyd Lee to represent the Commission on the APS commission.

**8. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**9. Next Meeting(s)**

Next meeting on May 20, 2019 from 11:30am-1:00pm. Location: TBD.

**10. Adjournment**

Ronald Solimon adjourned meeting at 12:58pm.