

# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

## MEETING MINUTES #25

June 14, 2021

### Attendance

David Armenti	Excused	Kirkland Hall	x
Iris Barnes	x	Elizabeth Hughes	x
Simone Barrett	X	Elgin Klugh	X
DeNeen Brown	Absent	Gary Norman	X
Jacqueline Bullock	X	Carl Snowden	X
Charles Chavis	x	Marshall Stevenson	X
Nick Creary	Absent		
Roger Davidson	Absent	Zenita Hurley	X
Maya Davis	x	Kristin McFarlane	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	X	Will Schwarz	X
David Fakunle	X	Sonya Osei	X
Chris Haley	x		

X = Present

**Members of the public present:** Jessica Avila; Elaine Bachmann; Tim Baker; Stan Brown; Joni Floyd; Amber Gundlach; John Mitchell, Jr; Jack Del Nunzio; Henriette Taylor; Kayiraba Toure;

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. David Fakunle at 11: 35 a.m. Ms. Osei called the roll of Commissioners and Staff.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from meeting of May 10, 2021 were approved unanimously with no revisions.

## **Public Comments**

The Chair asked if any members of the public wished to make a comment and there were no responses.

## **Sub-committee Reports**

### **Logistics - Commissioner Maya Davis**

- The last logistics subcommittee meeting was held virtually May 19, 2021 at 11a.m.
- **Discussion:** What is the timeline for hiring for the Research coordinator position? Will the position be available for the first hearing in September?
- Public hearing planning- The first hearing (Allegany County) will now be held on October 2, 2021 instead on initial date September 11, 2021 (in observance of National day of Service and Remembrance Holiday). All other hearing dates have been modified as well. Mr. Schwarz has provided an updated hearing schedule. (See document from Mr. Schwarz)
- The subcommittees effectively plan to meet in the future in collaboration to help prepare for MD LTRC hearings. The Research subcommittee will compile information shared at hearings. The Reconciliation subcommittee will be providing reconciliation resources and the Logistics subcommittee will work on setting up and executing discussed plans.
- The next subcommittee meeting will be held 6/16/2021 at 11 a.m.

### **Research - Commissioner David Armenti**

- The last Research subcommittee meeting was held May 17, 2021.
- This subcommittee meeting focused on discussing volunteers and partnership with local coalitions and other organizations. The subcommittee is working to create a document to lay out how volunteers would be able to assist the MD LTRC. The subcommittee will help provide guidelines for volunteer work.

### **Reconciliation – Commissioner Charles Chavis**

- Commissioner Chavis had great meeting with chair and organization for Transitional Justice Group Institute of Johns Hopkins University that are involved in supporting commission work and coalitions
- The Reconciliation and Justice Committee will be partnering with the International Center for Transitional Justice and the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins and the John Mitchell, Jr. Program on 7/14/2021 to provide resources to external partners nationally regarding historical trauma and racial healing. The goal is to help solicit support from coalitions hearings and other coalitions for workshops throughout the state to share strategies and what works best to build restoration.

- The awarded DOJ grant will help to provide educational opportunities regarding historical trauma racial healing
- **Grants Performance Update-** The DOJ grant requires a submission of quarterly performance reports. Fall report submitted by legal counsel Ms. Hurley. The next performance report is due for January- March 2021. Funds were not yet available then so there was not much information included.
- Year 1 funds have been released. The Research historian and Genealogist and some trauma informed trainings can be covered within the DOJ grant funds. Requests for Proposals have been posted for both positions. Proposals are due 7/16/2021.
- **Discussion:** How long do we want to give consultants to do their work? If in need of federal funding, MD LTRC will need BJA to approve Year 2 grants which include funds for most of the hearing funds and budget. These funds are set to start October 2021. The logistics subcommittee will review how the funds need to be reallocated and share with the full commission.
- **Discussion:** Timing is most important when conducting hearings and utilizing grant funds. What is our plan? We must communicate with funding agencies? Quarterly reports need to indicate the use of federal funds. We must align MD LTRC commission work with timeline with BJA, to help with processing of requests.
- Committee chairs and MD LTRC legal representation will meet separately to discuss timeline and being on the same page. Date and time TBA. Please come to meeting having reviewed the timeline, and proposed changes for updates. This information will be shared prior to the start of this meeting.

### New Business

- **NBC4 UPDATE-** Tomorrow Chair Fakunle and Co-Chair Chavis will have the opportunity to interview with NBC 4 tomorrow about Governor Hogan's pardon and reactions from the Commission.
- Chair Fakunle wants to discuss an official MD LTRC stance on the pardons, on the air to large audience. The goal is to ensure statements align with the commission? How do we control the narrative?
- **Discussion:** Does the commission need to have an official stance? Or just share from the perspectives of our chairs? What is the quick 60-90 second takeaway? MD LTRC does not need to send the narrative that we are satisfied with the works and decisions, but rather indicate this is a starting point and would to see additional works to provide reconciliation and justice.

- Henriette Taylor (introduced by Commissioner Armenti)- University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus who is the Assistant Dean in the UMD School of Social Work. She has interest in historical and racial trauma. Ms. Taylor is a Community and Macro social worker, who deals with community concerns.
- It is essential that we educate the public and our leaders on the appropriate language and this interview is the perfect opportunity. While we are taking in the successes of reaching a broader audience please understand that racial terror has been a global action. People may not have heard the individual stories, but are well aware of lynching.
- **Discussion:** Do you know the type of trauma you are going to be dealing with as far as MD LTRC hearings and interviews? Historical trauma? The community leads the dialogue.
- There has to be an open discussion on how social workers can support MD LTRC. It would be beneficial to provide an example of what this would look like to ensure there is support for reconciliations.
- **Oral Histories-** Commissioner Chavis
- Interviews will be 2 months prior to each hearing. All virtual. The goal is to ensure each coalition is supported with a research historian to co-facilitator for all interviews.
- The subcommittee is working to secure cyber social support for racial trauma, psychosocial traumas. The first interview is set for July 2021 in Allegany County. The goal is to hear/obtain their stories and have access to transcriptions to have a detailed account of interview.
- The Intake form will be sent out to each county coalition on 6/18/2021 for potential interviewees, researchers, etc.
- Secured doctoral students from Morgan State University with oral history expertise will help to co-facilitate these interviews.
- MD LTRC wants to ensure coalitions have local and state support with facilitating interviews. A meeting will be held 6/26/2021 and all documents will be reviewed.

### Announcements

- Joint press conference will be held 6/18/2021. Any media outlets interested. Please share press conference information.
- Film discussion on Tulsa available on respective websites and Red Summer National Geographic Juneteenth
- Hosanna school- 6-8pm Juneteenth program
- M-NCPPC Juneteenth Event <https://patch.com/maryland/collegepark/college-park-aviation-museum-juneteenth-hybrid-festival-announced-m-ncppc>

- The Lynching Memorial plaque at the Severna Park Library 6/15/2021.
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lynching-memorial-dedication-ceremony-at-severna-park-library-tickets-157632008581>
- Everyone is invited to attend the dedication of the Guardians of the First Amendment Memorial, which will take place on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. It will honor the journalists who were murdered in 2018. It was the largest mass killings of reporters in the history of U.S.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.