

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

MEETING MINUTES #27

August 9, 2021

Attendance

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

X = Present

Members of the public present: Barbara Drazin, Virginie Ladisch, Elaine Bachmann, Cheryl Jackson, Dr. Carolyn Stauffer, Cheryl McLeod

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stevenson at 11: 37 a.m. Ms. Osei called the roll of Commissioners and Staff.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from meeting of July 12, 2021 were approved unanimously with no revisions.

Public Comments

- Ms. Virginie Ladisch- International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
Ms. Ladisch communicated that she coordinates with the Allegany County Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- **Allegany County Updates via Ms. Ladisch-** Ms. Ladisch is working with the Allegany County Truth and Reconciliation Commission to prepare for county hearing in October. After reviewing template with the Allegany County TRC, there was discussion.
- **First question:** To what extent is the vision for hearings to be spontaneous or planned or be scripted? Is it an open forum or a process of interviewing for oral histories?
- **Second Question:** To what extent are we hearing from the public? Will there be an open public conversation or are they limitations?
- **Third Question:** Will public officials from state institutions be invited? As expert witnesses? Health sector representative? Or representatives that were responsible.
Response: There are members within MD LTRC working to create list of invitation of officials to invite to hearings.
- The Allegany TRC wanted to discuss if there was consideration about the Reconciliation hearings as a community event. A tentative schedule could include: Friday evenings and all day Saturday. The idea for this concept would be more of a community event. There was discussion of possibly inviting youth to do performances and ending ritual?
- **Outreach-** How do we make sure to get the word out by ACL TRC?
- Participation Agreement- The Allegany County TRC they would like ensure there is an effective process to encourage community engagement.
- MD LTRC legal counsel will review Participation agreement created by Allegany TRC. This document should be discussed and reviewed at the next Logistics committee meeting. This request may be to be expedited.
- **Hearing Location Option:** The Emmanuel Church in Allegany County (16 Washington St, Cumberland, MD 21502) is a venue with large space. If location is used, there will need to be a backup plan if COVID-19 gets worse. There may be potential for an outdoor or hybrid event.
- Commissioner Snowden- It may be a good recommendation to request a small presentation from the jurisdiction and courts of how to give clarity and perspective to the events that have occurred in the past. This would allow the perspective from the local legislations. This may be an action for the Logistics committee to request to have presentation sent from appropriate entities.
- There was concern from ACL TRC about police protection and at a state level.
- There are funds within the DOJ grant obtained by MD LTRC allotted for security for 13 3-hour meetings from the DOJ grant. There is conversation about seeking assistance from State legislations regarding security.

Sub-committee Reports

Logistics - Commissioner Maya Davis:

- N/A

Research - Commissioner David Armenti

- The last Research Committee meeting was held July 19, 2021. This was a joint meeting between the Logistics and Research Committee. The major discussion was setting up meetings with local coalitions to create timeline narratives of what happened in each racially motivated incident during 1967-1933 in the various counties in Maryland.
- Co-Chair Chavis will be taking lead on meeting with Allegany County local coalitions.
- Each hearing will require a Victim Profile list. This information will be needed one month ahead of hearing. The first deadline for Allegany County is September 1, 2021.
- The subcommittee is looking forward to future hearings to develop future processes and deadlines, checklist forms, and other additional actions to ensure the success of MD LTRC hearings. The subcommittee is working towards finalizing these templates and checklists for templates for counties to work with.
- If you need document to reach out to local coalitions, please reach out to Commissioner Armenti.
- Calvert County and St. Mary's County are the next set of hearings scheduled for October 23, 2021. The subcommittee would like to start planning for that as well.
- There was a review of some of the applicant submission for the current open MD LTRC positions. Information regarding these submissions will be shared in the near future.
- MD LTRC is enlisting support to review positions for the Genealogist Consultant, Project Manager, and other positions. The Project manager position is more urgent at this time. Chair Fakunle asked for Commissioners to be volunteer reviewers for applicant submissions. Additional information will be provided in the future. Contact Chair Fakunle if you are interested in supporting this effort.
- The subcommittee is looking to cross reference Victim List from Maryland State archives and the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project. There are new names from local coalitions and additional research being done. This list must be updated and reviewed. Some names need to be removed.

Reconciliation and Justice- Commissioner Chavis (Armenti shared on behalf)

- No new updates (Please see Research Committee report)

New Business

- N/A (Discussions saved for next meeting 9/13/2021)

Announcements

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.