

Special Meeting
Minutes
4-17-2020

Call to Order: 11:05 AM

Commissioners Present: David Fakunle, PhD, Charles Chavis, PhD, Elgin Klugh, PhD, David Armenti, Tim Baker, Kirkland Hall, Elizabeth Hughes, Gary Norman, Marshall Stevenson, PhD, Nicholas Creary, PhD, Omar Eaton-Martinez, Carl Snowden, Iris Barnes, PhD

Staff Present: Zenita Hurley, Will Schwarz, Maya Davis, Chris Haley

Agenda Items:

- Grant Funding Opportunity
- PIA Request

Grant Funding Opportunity

Commissioner Charles Chavis gave an overview of the Department of Justice Emmitt Till Cold Case Grant. Funding requests are available up to \$300,000. The MLTRC application will focus on the three primary focus areas mandated in HB 307 including Research, Public Hearings, and Reconciliation. The Commission must partner with a law enforcement agency to apply for this grant opportunity.

The Office of the Attorney General, as the partnering law enforcement agency, can submit the application on behalf of the Commission. The application deadline is May 4, 2020.

The Chair called for a motion to move forward with the grant application. The motion was put forward by Commissioner Nicholas Creary and seconded by Commissioner Carl Snowden and the remaining commissioners voted in favor of applying for the grant. The working group for the grant will consist of the following commissioners and staff, Charles Chavis, Tim Baker, Nicholas Creary, Carl Snowden, and Maya Davis.

PIA Request

The MLTRC received a PIA request specific to lynchings that occurred in Howard County, Maryland. Follow up from the commission in response to the PIA request will be submitted to share documents that the commission has in its possession. The Commission is still in the early phases of collecting.

There was a discussion among MLTRC Commission members regarding how PIA requests should be handled. MLTRC Staff member, Zenita Hurley, provided context for what constitutes records that must be turned over via a PIA request. Any records the commission or an individual commissioner has received under the auspices of commission business is considered in the custody of the commission and can be accessed by the public.

A request was made by commissioners to create a commission email and storage drive to post records collected by the commission, to not blur the lines of records collected separate from commission business.

Announcements: Chair Fakunle and Commissioner Chavis will be meeting with the Shriver Center in May. All commissioners interested in participating should reach out to the Chair.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:12 PM