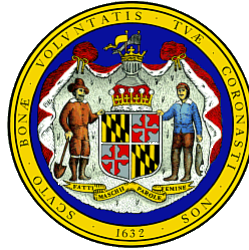


# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



**Chair**  
David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

**Vice Chair**  
Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

**Staff**  
Sophie Asike, Esq.  
Trish Boyle  
Zenita Hurley, Esq.  
Kristin McFarlane, Esq.

**Commissioners**  
David Armenti  
Lindsey Baker  
Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.  
Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.  
Michelle Coles, J.D.  
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.  
Roger Davidson, Ph.D.  
Maya Davis  
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.  
Christopher E. Haley  
Elizabeth Hughes  
Amy Millin  
Izetta Mobley  
Carl Snowden  
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Suerth

## Commission Meeting Minutes – July 2024

**Date:** Monday, July 8, 2024  
**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm Eastern Time  
**Location:** Virtual

### Attendance

<b>Commissioners</b>	
David O. Fakunle	X
Charles L. Chavis	
David Armenti	X
Lindsey Baker	X
Iris Leigh Barnes	X
Simone Barrett-Williams	
Michelle Coles	X
Nicholas Creary	X
Roger Davidson	X
Maya Davis	
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Christopher E. Haley	X
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Amy Millin	X
Izetta Mobley	
Carl Snowden	
Marshall Stevenson	
Stephanie Suerth	X
<b>Staff</b>	
Sophie Asike	X
Trish Boyle	X
Zenita Hurley	X
Kristin McFarlane	

\* Please note that attendance was not formally taken in the recording and it was logged here based on who was acknowledged in the recording.

## **Members of the Public Present**

Rev. Diane Teichert, Dr. Michelle Gawerc.

## **Call to Order**

Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners were to approve Business Meeting Minutes. Per Chair Fakunle, they were not received at the time of this meeting.

## **Chair's Comments and Soul Check**

Chair Fakunle welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated that the final report is due in December of 2025 with meetings concluding in June of 2026. Commissioner Haley discussed the importance of fact checking and locating two or more non-biased, reputable sources to encourage critical analysis, ensure credibility and reduce the risk of sharing misinformation. Commissioner Davidson thanked everyone for participating in this commission and discussed how impactful and necessary this work is in combatting hatred of all kinds.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Logistics Committee Update*

Commissioner Millin advised that the Logistics Committee met on June 17, 2024. 4 hearings have been scheduled, including a total of 17 counties, and ongoing meetings will be held. An initial meeting for Harford and Cecil Counties will be held on July 22, 2024. Hearing dates are available on the commission website. 2 counties are still pending an initial planning meeting. A final statewide hearing will be held in February 2025. The next Logistics Committee Meeting will be held on July 15, 2024.

### *Reconciliation Committee Update*

Commissioner Creary advised that the Reconciliation Committee Meeting was held and the commissioners met with interns and had a conversation about researching on legal precedent and other topics that will be helpful for the writing and framing of

the final report. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2024. Commissioner Coles added that the interns have been asked to find reference materials that they can use to provide background on what has been previously identified as solutions from the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and asked Commissioners to provide articles that may be useful to collect in the database.

### *Research Committee Update*

Commissioner Haley advised that the next meeting will take place on July 22, 2024. Commissioners Haley discussed a discrepancy between the dates in the Maryland State Archives and the news article dates in reference to certain lynchings. Commissioner Armenti stated that recent discussions have been about including the testimony of members of the public who are genealogically connected to the victims into the hearings.

### **County/Region Engagement Update**

Trish Boyle stated that there will be a meeting with the Hatcher Group to solidify media outreach.

Commissioner Millan advised that in-person meetings have been proposed to resume on a quarterly basis with the first in-person meeting scheduled for October 7, 2024. The location has not been confirmed but it is suggested to have the meeting held at Bowie State University, Morgan State University, Annapolis or Woodlawn. There will also be the opportunity to join virtually.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Creary shared a draft of the write up for the final report and discussed the submission deadline for the RFP and the importance of ensuring that this RFP is aligned with State standards, keeping in mind the time allotted for the procurement process. The tentative deadline is September 1, 2024. Applicants will need to provide one writing sample. Commissioner Millan asked where this will be posted and the group discussed that it will be sent to Hatcher Group as well as various social media outlets, State agencies, and possibly local news media. The group discussed how the final report will outline the purpose of the Commission, a general overview of the work that was done and the objective. Commissioner Hughes suggested summarizing each individual hearing in the report. Chief Fakunle advised that he and Dr. Gawerc have been working on creating a course in conjunction with Morgan State and Loyola Universities to create strategies to distribute the work of the Commission. The final report writer and the students of this course will generate ideas on how the work of the Commission can be shared.

### **Announcements**

Chair Fakunle announced that the Annual Voices of History Street Fair, presented by the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, will take place on July 13, 2024. This event celebrates Black history, community arts, culture, and health in Baltimore.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Fakunle called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Suerth seconded the motion. All being in favor the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.