

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

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

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

# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



**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  
Robert Parker  
Carl Snowden  
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Suerth

## Monthly Business Meeting Minutes – July 2025

**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2025  
**Time:** 11:30pm-1:30pm Eastern Time  
**Location:** Virtual

### Attendance

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

## **Call to Order**

The meeting started at 11:33; a quorum was reached

### **1. Welcome & Call to Order**

### **2. Attendance**

### **3. Approval of June 2025 Business Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of minutes is tabled until the next meeting due to not getting them in time.

### **4. Chair's Comments & "Soul Check"**

Chair Fakunle thanked the Commissioners for their efforts and emphasized the importance of remaining focused as the Commission enters its final year. He further expressed appreciation to members of the public for their continued engagement and support.

### **5. Public Comments**

- No public comments were presented.

### **6. Committee Reports**

- Commissioner Creary Update on Final Report:
  - Commissioner Creary provided an update on Friday's meeting, noting that the writers from 3PV have completed preliminary drafts of all case studies and are continuing to incorporate feedback. As this work progresses, the writers are prepared to begin drafting Part II of the report, which will require the Commission to develop and finalize its recommendations.
  - In preparation for this stage, the Commission has begun reviewing the contributions of Dr. Michelle Gawerc and her students, whose work has centered on formulating recommendations.
  - Dr. Michelle Gawerc explains the codebook which presents recommendations based on themes recognized at the institutional hearing. It is only three pages, which might make it the easiest place to start. There is also a 300-page report which lays out the recommendations.
  - Commissioner Creary shared an Excel sheet categorizing the broad themes identified, with accompanying rationale, noting that the team had collectively reviewed the documents on Friday to extract these themes.
  - Commissioner Creary invited both Commissioners and members of the public to contribute recommendations, emphasizing the opportunity to broaden input beyond those already identified by the Commission.
  - Commissioner Hughes inquired whether the final report would distinguish the sources of the recommendation

- Commissioner Creary explained that the tab was created to begin cataloguing the questions posed at the April hearing, which can serve both as a model for other jurisdictions and as an opportunity to affirm the value of including this material in the report. Chair Fakunle asks whether there is a benefit to creating a matrix on what the recommendations are and where they come from. A possible benefit will be to view the overlap of questions coming from multiple angles. That way the General Assembly can see that across multiple fields we are coming to the same conclusions.
- Commissioner Creary welcomed the idea, noting that the spreadsheet was designed for that purpose and highlighting the overlap identified in Dr. Michelle Gawerc's documents.
- Chair Fakunle inquired about a timeline, and Commissioner Creary emphasized the need to provide 3PV with material by the end of the month or early August, with a finalized draft completed by September.
- Chair Fakunle raised the question of where to place the map within the report.
  - Dr. Gawerc suggested including it in the appendix, Commissioner Barnes recommended placing it at the beginning to demonstrate impact, and Commissioner Haley stressed the importance of accessible language, a point with which Chair Fakunle agreed, noting the value of student support.
- Chair Fakunle raises the question of where the map should be attached within the report.
  - Dr. Michelle Gawerc recommends maybe within the appendix.
  - Chair Fakunle asks that a copy be sent around.
  - Commissioner Barnes recommends it be placed within the beginning so that way readers can see the large impact.
  - Commissioner Haley raises the idea to make sure the language we are using within the report is accessible to multiple audiences. An example is how we are saying 'map' yet we are not talking about a directions map but an academia reference.
  - Chair Fakunle welcomes the idea to make accessible to a wider audience. The chair also agrees that students would be very helpful in that process
- In response to Commissioner Armenti's inquiry about updates to the writers, AAG Sophie Asike explained that the team meets with them every Friday and invited Commissioners to join; she also noted that Part I has been uploaded to SharePoint for review and feedback.
- Chair Fakunle recommended creating a calendar invite with relevant deadlines and links.

## **7. New Business**

- A motion was raised to cancel the August 11th monthly meeting. Commissioner Armenti expressed a preference for ensuring that all members remain on track, while Chair Fakunle noted that if August is canceled, the

next full meeting would not occur until September 8th and encouraged Commissioners to meet with 3PV in the interim. Commissioner Creary suggested that, if August is canceled, some Commissioners attend the Friday meetings and that additional time may need to be allocated at subsequent meetings. The motion to cancel the August 11th meeting was approved.

#### **8. Announcements**

- Commissioner Creary reiterated the request for feedback by the end of the month.
- The next executive meeting is scheduled for July 25, with the following monthly meeting set for September 8.

#### **9. Adjournment**

- Meeting is adjourned at 12:20 PM EST