

Chair

David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

Vice Chair

Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

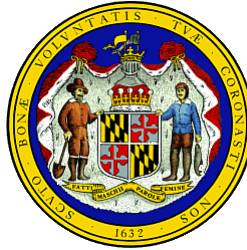
Staff

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, Esq.

Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.

Maya Davis

Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.

Holly Fisher-Hickman, Ph.D.

Christopher E. Haley

Elizabeth Hughes

Amy Millin

Robert Parker

Carl Snowden

Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.

Stephanie Suerth, Ph.D.

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 8th, 2025**Time:** 11:30pm-1:30 pm Eastern Time**Location:** Virtual

Attendance

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

For more information on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, visit
<https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/>

Call to Order

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

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 11:33 AM EST.
- A quorum was confirmed.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously, with no abstentions or objections.

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

- Commissioner Fakunle acknowledged nearing the end of the commission's work, which started in 2019.

3. Commissioner Reflections

- Commissioner Coles expressed invigoration, excitement, and appreciation to advocate for our ancestors and what they have experienced in a way that they were never able to advocate for themselves.

4. Committee Reports

- Commissioner Millen said that the Logistics Committee will be drafting a lessons learned recommendation for the appendix of the final report for future commissions.

5. New Business Discussion and Recommendations for Final Report

- Commissioner Creary presented a detailed spreadsheet of recommendations that includes the type of reform, specific recommendations, legal justification, supporting testimony, and implementation notes.
 - The commissioners discussed the importance of historical grounding, an evidence-based approach, and specificity versus generality.
 - September 12th at 12 PM EST – Final review/comments
 - September 15th at 11:30 AM EST - Final vote on recommendations.
- Memo from Counselor Stephanie Franklin sparked a discussion.

- It advocated for reparations explicitly for descendants of U.S. chattel slavery and warned against using broad terms that could dilute focus.
 - Counterpoints raised concerns about political feasibility and community division, the importance of inclusive language while maintaining historical accuracy, and suggestions to focus on experiential lineage and community impact rather than race alone.
- Ideas for graphics for the final report should be submitted via email.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM EST.