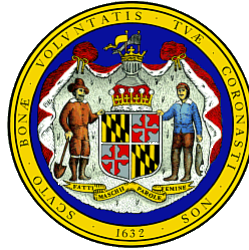


Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



Chair
David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

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

Staff
Sophie Asike, Esq.
Joy Ayomiposi Sarimakin
Zenita Hurley, Esq.
Kristin McFarlane, Esq.

Commissioners
David Armenti
Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.
Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.
Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.
Roger Davidson, Ph.D.
Maya Davis
Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.
Omar Eaton-Martinez
Christopher E. Haley
Kirkland Hall, Sr., Ph.D.
Elizabeth Hughes
Izetta Mobley, Ph.D.
Carl Snowden
Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.
Stephanie Suerth

Business Meeting Minutes – July 2023

Date: Monday, July 10th, 2023
Time: 11:37am-12:48pm Eastern Time
Location: Virtual

Attendance

Commissioners	
David Armenti	X
Iris Barnes	X
Simone Barrett-Williams	X
Charles Chavis	ABS
Nick Creary	ABS
Roger Davidson	X
Maya Davis	X
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	ABS
David Fakunle	X
Chris Haley	X
Kirkland Hall	X
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Izetta Mobley	X
Carl Snowden	X
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	ABS
Lindsey Baker.	X
Staff	
Sophie Asike	X
Joy Sarimakin	X
Zenita Hurley	X
Kristin McFarlane	ABS

Members of the Public Present

Emily Oland Squires, Will Schwarz, Rev. Diane Teichert, Auset Reid. Hannah Lane, Hess Stinson, Michelle Gawerc, Steven Jones, Temp Fan, Amy Millin, Donna Hollie, Dr. Teresa Combs, Hess Love, Lindsey Baker

Call to Order

Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at 11:37am.

Approval of Minutes

The June 2023 business retreat minute was accepted by the commission.

Public & Chair's Comments

Chair Fakunle expressed gratitude to all members of the public for being present, investing their time, showing commitment, and participating. He urged everyone to introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation in the comment section.

Soul Check

Chair Fakunle acknowledged that significant developments have taken place. He referred to the recent Supreme Court decision that invalidated measures providing more flexibility for opportunistic actions, which has highlighted the commission's fundamental purpose. This purpose is to exemplify what truth, justice, reconciliation practices, and restorative practices can encompass. This extends beyond merely addressing racial terror lynching and its consequences; it encompasses the factors that create an environment conducive to such acts. Commissioner Stevenson addressed matters concerning African American history and its broader implications on American history. The discussion encompassed curricula that need to be taught in schools and what historical knowledge should be imparted to our children, as the commission's resilience cannot be undermined. Chair Fakunle encouraged the commission not to lose heart, emphasizing the importance of consistently sharing and speaking the truth.

Logistics Committee Report

N/A

Research Committee Report

Commissioner Armenti expressed his regrets for being absent during the previous meeting and noted that committee meetings have been difficult to convene due to his

own absence and the busy schedules of some committee members. He stated his intention to schedule a meeting for August. Additionally, he shared that he is collaborating with Heritage Associates to work on updates regarding Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. These updates will feature a focus on Wright Smith, a veteran and victim from Anne Arundel County. He encouraged fellow commissioners, no matter their respective counties, to reach out to either himself, Commissioner Haley or Brett Tyler at Heritage Associates if they come across any pertinent information.

Commissioner Armenti also mentioned his plan to share details about the Frederick Memorial Project event that took place in May with the commission. Commissioner Haley added that while working on the Governor's general files, intern Alexandra Jones of George Mason University discovered two noteworthy items. One of those items pertains to Wright Smith on October 7th, 1898. Commissioner Haley stated his intention to forward a copy of this information to Commissioner Armenti.

Reconciliation & Justice Committee

N/A

New Business

Chair Fakunle mentioned that he and Vice Chair Chavis had a meeting with Delegate Jennifer White as a follow-up after the 2023 legislative session. The purpose was to explore ways of obtaining more concrete support from the state. Among the topics discussed was finding ways to assist commissioners who are also higher education faculty members. Dr. Fakunle recommended compensation through course buyouts to officially allocate time to the commission. They also discussed involving HBCUs to a greater extent and increasing student participation in internships.

Commissioner Barrett-Williams commented on the need for institutions to align with student needs. She suggested that students taking American history courses could be beneficial for orientation. Commissioner Stevenson shared that his school, UMES, is considering making American history compulsory for first-year students. Dr. Fakunle added that he's been contemplating how to integrate the commission's work and American history into existing public health courses.

Commissioner Davis highlighted a potential controversy among schools regarding course offerings. She suggested including this issue in the recommendations to the Maryland General Assembly, considering how higher education institutions can offer courses even if they are available at other schools. Dr. Combs proposed reaching out to universities to ensure credit transfer for these courses and encouraging students to take classes where they are taught.

Commissioner Armenti offered the support of his organization, the Maryland Center for History and Culture, to promote greater access to learning opportunities. Lindsey

Baker of Maryland Humanities mentioned her ability to access grant funds and redistribute them to community scholars, offering assistance whenever needed. Chair Fakunle expressed gratitude for everyone's contributions and pledged to discuss the matter further with the office of Governor Moore and Delegate White. He emphasized the importance of involving students from diverse backgrounds and their capacity to contribute skills and learn from the commission.

Commissioner Haley inquired about collaboration with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to develop programs for schools. Chair Fakunle also brought up Commissioner Snowden's suggestion of acquiring a media-savvy PR person to handle resources and connections for sharing stories. This would require a team to oversee and guide the process.

Commissioner Snowden shared his experience attending a program featuring former councilwoman Robin Simmons, who initiated reparations in Evanston, Illinois. He suggested inviting her to speak with the commission about her accomplishments. Chair Fakunle thanked everyone for their insights and contributions.

Announcements

Chair Fakunle announced that he received an email from Ohio State University inviting participation in a Truth and Reconciliation Word Café on Thursday, August 17, 2023, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. He encouraged any available commissioner to consider joining on that day:

<https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArDOiorz4uEtF4Dt5tIfTl05wghtrLmbgu#/>

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 12:48pm. Chair Fakunle made a motion to adjourn the meeting and continue in a closed session to allow the commission to consult with legal counsel and seek advice regarding obtaining public records via subpoena. Commissioner Davis supported the motion.