

## MINUTES

### GOVERNOR'S ETHNIC AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 17, 2006 – 3:00 P.M.

Jim Thorpe Building – Conference Room G-91  
2101 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Advance written notice of regular scheduled meetings was filed with the Secretary of State on December 14, 2005. The agenda for this meeting was posted with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Section 301 through 314 of Title 25.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Sandra Kaye Rana, Chair  
Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour, Vice-Chair/Secretary  
Dr. Riaz Ahmad  
Karen E. Bak  
Malaka A. Elyazgi  
Dr. Basel S. Hassoun

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mohammad Farzaneh  
Dr. Fayyaz H. Hashmi  
Dr. Mohammad Karami

#### **OPM STAFF PRESENT**

Brenda C. Thornton  
Linda Williamson

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#### **VISITORS PRESENT**

Demetrio Gutierrez, Ed.D. – Chief, Office of Minority Health, State Department of Health  
Mike Klemme – Oklahoma State Centennial Photographer  
Shirley Russell – Director of Legislative Affairs, OPM  
Judy Gibbs Robinson – Reporter, The Oklahoman

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#### **A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Dr. Sandra Rana, Chair of the Governor's Ethnic American Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

#### **B. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS.**

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Ms. Brenda Thornton formally introduced Ms. Shirley Russell, OPM's new Director of Legislative Affairs, to the council. Chair Rana welcomed everyone and thanked each for attending.

### **C. ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The council reviewed the schedule of meeting dates for 2006 and approved them as presented on a motion by Dr. Basel Hassoun and a second by Dr. Riaz Ahmad.

The council unanimously agreed to accept Dr. Bob Blackburn's invitation to hold their May 19, 2006, meeting at the Oklahoma History Center on a motion by Dr. Hassoun; seconded by Dr. Riaz. It was also decided that the meeting time would remain at 3:00 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Ahmad and a second by Dr. Hassoun.

### **D. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2005, MEETING.**

Dr. Hassoun made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2005, meeting as presented that was seconded by Dr. Ahmad. The motion carried unanimously.

### **E. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.**

Following a motion by Dr. Ahmad and a second by Ms. Malaka Elyazgi, the council agreed that Dr. Rana should continue to serve as Chair and Ms. Marjan Seirafi-Pour should continue to serve as Vice-Chair.

### **F. PRESENTATIONS.**

1.) Ms. Thornton introduced Dr. Demetrio Gutierrez who was visiting the council to give an overview of the Health Services Interpretation Certification Program. This program is designed to train and certify interpreters who can provide language assistance to health care organizations. Those successfully completing the program will receive certification from the Institute for Issue Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution at Oklahoma State University. The Institute will also be the depository for information on the program and maintain a database of the certified interpreters. To date, the Institute has held three training classes that were attended by over 50 potential candidates, of which approximately 40 have successfully completed the entire certification process and are now certified as Health Service Certified Interpreters. A note of interest might be that Oklahoma is the second state to have a process for state certification and did so voluntarily; whereas, California, the first state, was court mandated to implement a certification program.

2.) Ms. Thornton also introduced Mr. Mike Klemme, the official Oklahoma State Centennial Photographer. Mr. Klemme visited with the council to share his mission "to capture the rich spirit of Oklahoma through an inspiring, engaging, and emotional photographic collection of the people, places, culture, and activities that make our state truly unique" that will be displayed in book form and available for purchase by April 2007. In addition to the book, he will be doing a photography exhibit that will start at the Oklahoma History Center, travel to the Smithsonian institute, and then be in circulation around the world for up to ten years. He asked the council for their input, ideas, and assistance so that he can take advantage of all opportunities to show Oklahoma to the world.

### **G. DISCUSSION: MEETING WITH OTHER ADVISORY COUNCILS.**

The council formalized their wishes to meet and work with the other advisory councils on mutual issues or concerns on a motion by Dr. Hassoun and a second by Ms. Elyazgi. The motion carried unanimously.

**H. OLD BUSINESS.**

Ms. Seirafi-Pour noted that she is still drafting the official letter to be sent to the public schools identifying the two main Eid holidays and asking that these days be recognized as excused absences.

**I. NEW BUSINESS.**

Chair Rana acknowledged the holiday cards received by the council.

**J. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Rana adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.