

## Immigrant Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes: 1/19/2022, 5:00pm

**Attendees:** Dr. Yewande Oladeinde, , Anastasia Pollatos, Mizanur Rahman, Larry Steinly, Danielle Haskin, Abdoul Konare, Jose Moreno, Seema Sharma, Maria-Teresa Shuck, Ilka Tona, Jennifer Szabo, and Ilka Tona.

**Unable to attend:** Bharat Deolekar, Dr. Eliezer Valentine-Castanon, Rosa Raez-Garcia, MC Keegan-Ayre (new County Council liaison), Jessica Fitzwater (leaving as new County Executive), Miles Ward (leaving as retired)

### **Dr. Yewande:**

- Approval of previous minutes
- Next month starts with Rosa as the Chairperson
- Bharat is not going to be able to continue with the commission
- Rosa isn't present for today
- Eliezar has a prior engagement
- MC Keegan Ayre will be the County Liaison for IAC

### **Updates:**

FCPS

District 3 of the Finance Board meetings will be held at Waverly Elementary.

There is a list of finance meetings.

Also, Dr. Yewande has been advocating for a library on the West side.

Other Commissions have yearly events.

What are some of the key events that we might want to host? Perhaps International Day fundraiser.

We have to raise funds or ask for donations for our events.

We started meeting Feb of 2022. So celebrating a 1-yr anniversary isn't feasible at this point.

We may want to follow-up on whether we can hold a fundraiser. Do we need a Treasurer and bank account.

Why are some commissions handled one way vs. how others are handled?

The specifications have been determined in the beginning, but the budget specifications for the fundraising in the Women's Commissions didn't come until later in the commission process.

Commission for Women receives certain award money from the county.

I know we need to take our time and consider all the factors, but I feel a need to do something big. 1-year report recommendations are required of us, but we need to provide a deliverable and a budget could help.

Based on the bill, our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity. Civic engagement with the community. We're supposed to be the voice for the Immigrants in the community. We serve as a bridge between the community and the county government.

When the Reverend came to speak about the grant to the headquarters of their church to fund listening sessions to hear the voice of the community. Dr Yewande put in a grant for the county. Maria put in for a grant for children.

Perhaps we can work on a Resources Book or link online. A hard copy and an online list would be good.

Mental Health Association did a book of resources. We can copy that.

We can put a resource list together and link it as a deliverable.

We can join organizations that are already doing things and say that we did it together.

New immigrants resource book.

There may be a concern with posting for-profit businesses, but we can post non-profits

A woman posted about needing goat, and not goat yoga

Perhaps build a QR code to resource lists

We need to pinpoint specific markets that immigrant may want to search

Intercambio.org resources <https://intercambio.org/>

Centro de Hispano <https://www.centrohispanodefederick.org/>

Listening sessions for parents, children, caregivers when we direct the grant funds from the church.

We are collaborating with the church and our commission to understand how to use the funds.

Can we use the County seal on a resource booklet?

Dr. Yewande read through an example of a 1-yr deliverable from Anne Arundel County.

Vision, Mission, Key External factor,

Important factors that the IAC has no control over like funding, the pandemic, the wars, and more.

They requested technology and funding to complete our work.

Ours will probably be the same as the limited one from Anne Arundel.

The Women's Commission annual report is up and available to view and compare notes.

I want to convey that we want to make this work, but we don't have the resources to make it happen.

There appears to be unfair legislation written for the IAC commission. This could possibly be revisited with our current council and County Executive.

The original draft of the bill before it was amended included funds and a set staff member.

Hood College, 40% of the students come from other countries. There is a need for this type of booklet. A lot of immigrants are coming and are already here.

Getting a driver's license, signing up for schools,

FCPS has that information, but yes having this one booklet would be helpful.

We should have some data points to see and gauge our benchmarks.

Hood College received millions of dollars for "Data-Driven Frederick". One of the things that came to mind was that we could use this to our advantage.

The census from 3 years ago was not truly reflective of the immigrant population. George Mason university <https://iir.gmu.edu/> has a free resource to gather information on immigrants in Frederick county and how do they compare to other area immigrants.

We also need an immigrant assessment done  
The Ausherman Foundation might be able to fund it. Dr. Yewande is planning to contact Lee.

Nashville, TN did an immigrant needs assessment.

We can invite people to this meeting because it is an open meeting. Perhaps various associations can come and tell us what they can offer. Can we invite Lee to come and tell us what they would need on our part to get the funding from them. Dr. Yewande believes a proposal would be needed. Perhaps Delaplaine might fund it, but Ausherman would probably be a better option.

Dr. Yewande doesn't have a county address. Different levels of security for each email address for people that are not on our payroll.

George Mason University and other organizations were referenced for the type of data format that we may want to follow.

<https://iir.gmu.edu/idodhttps://dbqfoundation.org/news/immigration-needs-assessment-underway>

<https://dbqfoundation.org/news/immigration-needs-assessment-underway>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAEJaVqvNOM>

These resources have maps, charts, fact sheets and this is a free resource. It would be good to know the landscape of the immigrant affairs community.