**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**M E E T I N G A G E N D A**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Misty Seemans, Dr. J. Michael Harpe, Erika Caesar

* Legislative priorities:
  + Cmmr. Seemans discussed identifying priorities and developing ways to present policy initiatives to the Commission
  + Cmmr. Harpe discussed priority school funding issue: Christiana and Red Clay School districts
    - Focusing on high failure rate
    - Trying to change dynamic of those schools
  + Cmmr. Seemans asked about whether criminal justice reform bills in wake of Ferguson would be relevant to HRC
    - Cmmr. Harpe asked what the bills would address
    - Cmmr. Seemans said she does not know what the bills would address, but asked if what is currently being discussed among stakeholders would be appropriate for the HRC to address
    - Cmmr. Caesar thinks this issue may be appropriate
* Creating a terms of reference to more effectively and efficiently respond to legislation/current events
  + Cmmr. Seemans said she’d like to look at how to streamline the committee and commission actions regarding pending legislation
  + Cmmr. Seemans will speak to DAG and look at TORs before next meeting to see what the Legislative Committee can or cannot do to streamline
* Creating memos or other documents to educate the Commission about legislation and to suggest action recommendations
  + Cmmrs. Harpe and Caesar agreed that information would be helpful for the Commission
  + Cmmr. Seemans said that the Committee could select certain issues to brief the Commission about and send them two weeks before a Commission meeting
    - Cmmrs. Harpe and Caesar agreed
* What are the legislative committee’s responsibilities?
  + Cmmr. Harpe said that we should put policies we care about in writing and go from there
* Inviting speakers to the Commission (e.g., people working on Delaware policy that relates to our mission)
  + Cmmr. Seemans discussed doing this on particularly important issues that the Legislative Committee cares about
* Nancy Maihoff's proposed amendment [incorrectly placed on agenda]
* Other business as needed: None

**Next steps:**

* Before next Legislative Committee meeting, Cmmr. Seemans will talk to DAG and address a way to streamline Committee decisions out of Committee and through the Commission
* Cmmr. Seemans will send any legislative updates emails to Committee members