

# COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

## TRANSITION BRIEF

Commission on African American Affairs  
1210 Eastside Street SE, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Olympia WA 98504  
360-753-0127  
[www.caa.wa.gov](http://www.caa.wa.gov)

Regina J. Jones, J.D.  
Executive Director  
360-753-1037 (direct)

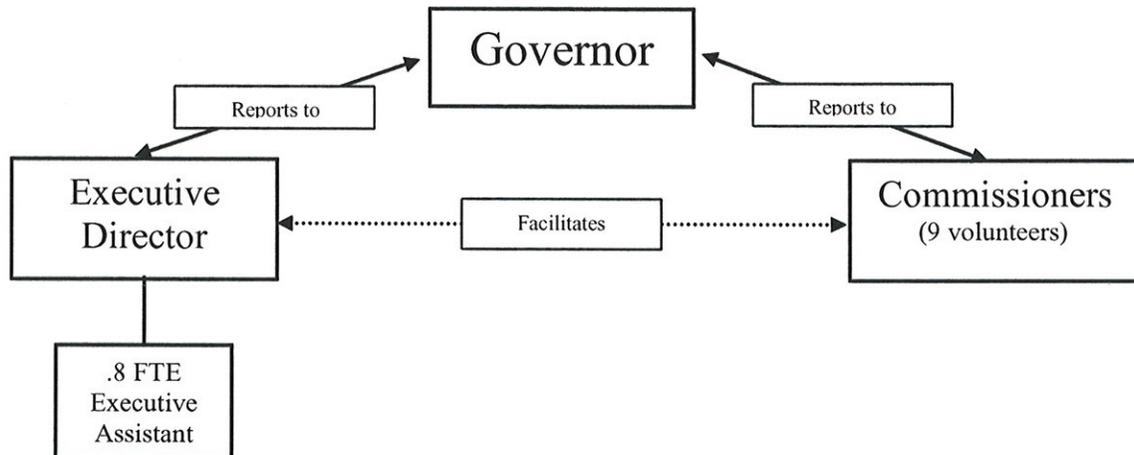
### AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of African Americans;
- Make recommendations to the Governor and state agencies for changes in programs and laws;
- Advise the Governor and state agencies on the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs that relate to the special needs of African Americans;
- In concert with the Governor, advise the legislature on issues of concern to the African American community; and
- Establish relationships with state agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity and benefits for African Americans.

### *Statutory Authority*

The Commission is authorized under RCW 43.113 et seq.

### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



### BUDGET AND STAFF

Agency has 1.8 FTE's – an Executive Director and a .8 FTE Executive Assistant. These two employees staff all nine Commissioners and manage all agency programs statewide. The Commission's budget for FY 2005 is \$212,092.

## **PRESSING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

### ***Lack of adequate staffing and lack of adequate resources***

The Commission must comply with all of the administrative reporting, quality assurance, budget, IT reporting, personnel, audit requirements and physical plant issues addressed by each other state agency. Additionally, the Commission staff facilitates the work of nine statewide Commissioners, prepares six statewide Commission meetings annually and coordinates a joint minority Commission meeting and legislative reception. Staff works on a broad range of policy matters with the Governor and Governor's staff, the legislature, state agencies, private sector, local governments and community organizations. Staff must also address a significant volume of community requests, letters, calls, meetings and events. Additionally, staff must address (sometimes extensive) public information requests and other legal matters.

Currently, with a staff of 1.8 FTEs, the Commission has neither the staff nor the funding to address these expectations and requirements. The expectations of this agency are enormous, coming from a broad variety of stakeholders around the state. The resources (both human and financial) are entirely insufficient to meet the agency's responsibilities in an adequate manner. The 2005-2007 biennium budget request was submitted to address the Commission's resource needs. If approved, the funding/staffing will not be available for an additional eight months, in July 2005.

### ***Level of community anger and dissatisfaction with State government***

Issues of disparity and institutional racism deeply affect the success and status of Washington's African American citizens. Disparity in the areas of justice, health, child welfare, education and economic development (highlighted in the Commission Strategic Plan and in the 2005-2007 Biennium Budget) are a threat to the well being of Washington's African American citizens. The Commission was created to fulfill the duty of the state to improve the status of African Americans who, for economic and social reasons, find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal opportunity. The Commission has many creative ideas and strategies for fulfilling its mission. With inadequate staffing and funding, the Commission staff lacks the capacity to implement those ideas while addressing the nondiscretionary duties required of a state agency. Failing to address community concerns is viewed by many in the African American community as one more indicator that "no one is listening" in State government – and that the State remains unconcerned about addressing disparities affecting African Americans in Washington. Citizens are angry and want to see that their government is responsive – and that the State is willing to take affirmative steps in addressing disparity affecting Washington's African American population.

### ***Internal challenges; turnover in staff and Commission members***

The current executive director is new to the Commission, having served for nine months. Prior to mid-January 2004, an interim director staffed the Commission for several months. There have been significant internal challenges – a problematic audit, selection and integration of a new director, internal administrative systems and recordkeeping deficits. Additionally there has been turnover of five Commission members and the Commission will have a new chair and vice chair as of October 2004. The "new" Commission and staff are transitioning to a stronger working relationship. A facilitated retreat is scheduled in September 2004 to address internal issues, roles and responsibilities, and to set priorities going forward.

## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, COMMISSION ON (GS011)

Agency 119 - Wa St Comm African-American Affairs	Senate Conf. N	Positions: Maximum 009
Authority Governor	Public Disc. N	Minimum 000
Authoriztn. RCW 43.113.020	Term Length 036	Actual 009
Rem. Auth. GC	Meetings/Yr. 06	

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Brooks, Angela D. PO Box 3063 Seattle, WA 98114	A	AA	07/08/2004	11/20/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Maine Jackson, Zelma 514 South Vancouver Kennewick, WA 99336	A	AA	01/09/2002	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	Chair		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
003	Boykin Jr., Frank 1507 102nd Street East Tacoma, WA 98445	A	AA	09/14/2004	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
004	Brooks-Pittman, Edna PO Box 1367 Toppenish, WA 98948	A	AA	01/08/2003	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
005	Tyner, L. David 123 NE 161st Street Seattle, WA 98115	A	AA	07/08/2004	11/20/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
006	Boone, Karen 203 West Wellesley Spokane, WA 99205	A	AA	01/09/2002	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, COMMISSION ON (GS011)

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
007	Houston-Rogers, Anne M. 706 47th Street South Renton, WA 98055	A	AA	07/08/2004	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
008	Ford, Earl W. (Mr.) 2406 NE 139th St. #233 Vancouver, WA 98686	A	AA	03/05/2004	11/20/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
009	Fields, Darrell 415 Yantic South Bremerton, WA 98312	A	AA	01/08/2003	11/20/2005
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		