

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

September 26, 2017
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
225 Spring Street, Room 204
Wethersfield

MINUTES

Attendees: Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chair), Troy Brown, Samuel Bruder, Karen Chorney, Alison Chandler, Juanita Halepas, Esther Harris, Cristina Johnson, Ines Nieves, Daisy Ortiz, Philip Strambler, Shawna Woodard, and Meghan Korn (Guest)

Absent: Isabel Alvarez, Linda J. Cimino, Zarin Kapur, and Ewa Wojewodzki

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Justice Robinson commenced the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2017 were unanimously approved with two revisions:

- the meeting minutes approved at the June meeting were from May 23, 2017, not March 28, 2017
- the quote at the end of the June meeting minutes should include a note that it is an excerpt from the Chief Justice's State of the Judiciary 2017 report.

Report: Spring Lunch & Learn – Lessons Learned (Justice Robinson, Troy Brown, Juanita Halepas)

On June 30, 2017 Judicial Branch learners and other guests attended a 1.5 hour presentation of My Multicultural Self in GA 23. Attendees left the session with the understanding that cultural identity affects every person and those with whom they associate, both personally and professionally. Feedback from the session was positive.

Status: 2017 Diversity Week (Daisy Ortiz)

Diversity Week 2017 will be held from October 23-October 27th. Registration will open for the Opening Celebration on September 28th. Roles assigned to ACCC members during the Opening Celebration were distributed and reviewed. The schedule for the Opening Celebration was distributed and reviewed for any questions or concerns.

Programs that are not part of the Opening Celebration will open for registration on October 3rd. The schedule for these 17 events was distributed and reviewed. Two of the descriptions required revisions and they were noted for further action.

Committee members were updated on the status of program manuals, calendars, and handouts being created for the Opening Celebration to encourage additional registrations.

Rocky, an MxCC intern, has been working with the Diversity Week co-chairs to create a short video on the cultural identity of the Judicial Branch. He was available and had his cameras set up during and after the ACCC meeting for those employees in the building, as well as meeting attendees, who wanted to participate in the initiative.

Status: ACCC Video (Karen Chorney)

The video being produced with SJI funds will consist of staged scenarios, narrated informational segments, interviews, and tapings of cultural competency events.

1. The MxCC film crew will be at the Diversity Week Opening Ceremony to tape the keynote address and other sessions for possible inclusion in the Cultural Competency video. No session will be included in its totality but segments may be utilized to illustrate specific learning points.
2. Since the last ACCC meeting, several judges have agreed to be interviewed for the project and interview questions for both employees and members of the bench have been finalized. Interviews are being coordinated at this time.
3. The workgroup continues to meet to further develop scenarios that demonstrate additional learning topics.

New Business (New ACCC Initiatives, Announcements, etc.)

Next Lunch & Learn – Feb/Winter, June/Summer

To maintain a schedule of hosting an ACCC event every 4 months, the next Lunch and events will need to be scheduled for February 2018 and June 2018. A suggestion was made that My Multicultural Self be presented again but in a different area of the state, specifically at the new Torrington courthouse. Members agreed to this. Juanita Halepas volunteered to conduct the program with either Justice Robinson or Troy Brown as a co-facilitator. Marketing ideas included producing flyers and working with the district liaisons. Shawna Woodard will speak with Steven Ment regarding the involvement of the district liaisons. Karen Chorney cautioned that supervisory approval must be obtained before plans can be further developed and the program can be marketed.

(Note: Committee Members and Proposed Topics on the agenda referred to future Lunch and Learn events; both were rolled into the previous discussion.)

Sam Bruder announced that he was moving to 225 Spring Street at the end of the week. He anticipated continued membership on the ACCC.

Justice Robinson announced that he and Judge Kahn would be providing two 3-hour sessions of training to employees of the Attorney General's office.

Justice Robinson and other Justices will be training the entire Appellate system.

Troy Brown, Isabel Alvarez, and Meghan Korn will be providing 2 hours of implicit bias training to employees of the U.S. Attorney's office in New Haven.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.