

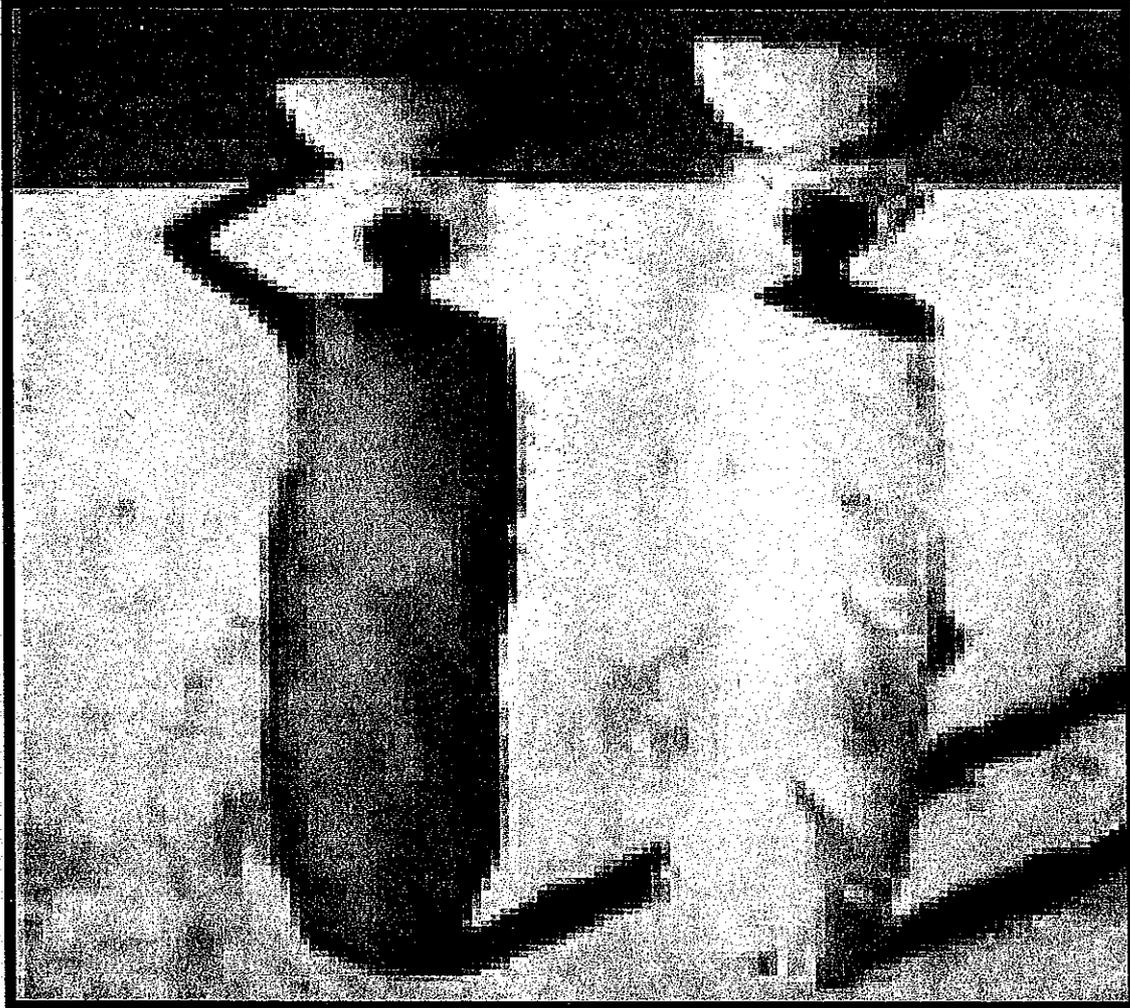


**Washington State Commission on
African American Affairs**

**Annual Report
2004**

*"An injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."
Martin Luther King Jr.*

Washington State Commission on
African American Affairs
1210 Eastside Street, 1st Floor
Olympia, WA 98504-0926
360-753-0127
www.caafwa.gov



Washington State Commission on

African American Affairs

2004 Annual Report

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important."
Martin Luther King Jr.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

January 2005

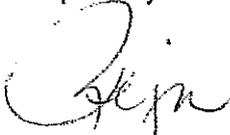
Dear Friends and Community Members,

On behalf of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, I would like to first thank Governor Gary Locke for his ongoing support and attention to the various needs of the African American community. I would also like to thank African American community leaders and community advocates for their commitment and continued promotion for and on behalf of African Americans in Washington. Finally, I would like to extend special recognition and thanks to each Commissioner for the time and energy they commit to the Commission and the community.

The Commission is a small state agency mandated by the State Legislature to encourage the development and implementation of policies and programs that impact African Americans in Washington. The Commission employs only 1.8 staff members; addressing the Commission's statewide mission continues to be a challenge.

Through this report, the Commission will provide citizens and stakeholders with information regarding the status of African Americans in the state of Washington. This Annual Report will be the basis of discussions to develop, plan and to improve the quality of life for African Americans in the state of Washington. The Commission will assist in introducing ideas to state representatives and senators for the development of relevant legislation, and shepherding those bills through the legislative session. I am pleased to present you with the Commission's 2004 Annual Report. The Commission on African American Affairs will continue to work hard to address issues and concerns affecting the status of African Americans in the state of Washington.

Respectfully submitted,



Regina J. Jones, J.D.
Executive Director
Commission on African American Affairs
January 2005



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
1210 Eastside St. 1st flr. PO Box 40926. Olympia WA 98504-0926. (360) 753-0127

SUMMARY OF 2004 AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnerships and Participation:

- **Recruiting for boards and commissions** with Governor Locke's External Affairs to increase racial diversity – significant increase in African American appointments (see attached report);
- **Voter Education and Mobilization** “Let Justice Roll” Project;
- **African American Education Summit**- sponsor, planning/steering committee; member of African American Think Tank; supporter of the METT position paper and African American Education Strategic Plan;
- **Racial disproportionality in foster care system** - participant in policy development through (1) King County Child Welfare Disproportionality Stakeholders Group and (2) Child Welfare Policy Leadership Group;
- **Justice for Jayson Bush** – partnered in pardon of Jayson Bush by the Governor Locke;
- **Governor Locke's Transition Planning Team** – member;
- **Kinship caregiver holiday event for foster children and caregivers** - partner with Rep. Eric Pettigrew and Casey Family Programs;
- **Executive and Agency recruiting of racially diverse candidates** - ongoing consultation, networking and referral of African American candidates;
- **Legislative affairs** – educate on legislative issues, including priority bills from Senator Rosa Franklin, Reps. Pettigrew, Lovick and Simpson, including health disparities, use of genetic information in employment decisions, business incubators, financial literacy, disparities in health care professions, linked deposit, I-200/use of race as a factor in higher education admissions, changes in WASL testing and school nutrition;
- **Collaborations**: Minority and Justice Commission; Department of Financial Institutions (public education on payday and predatory lending, financial literacy); Department of Health (multiple community health issues); Board of Health (diversity in health care professions/state of health of Washington's African Americans); Washington State Patrol (recruiting and disparate treatment issues); Loren Miller Bar Association; Washington Human Rights Commission (civil rights issues); intern outreach to graduate students in schools of law and public policy; concept planning - Joint Commission Health Disparities Summit for summer 2005; community meetings, student mentoring, events and speaking engagements including Students of Color Conference for Washington Community and Technical Colleges, and Community Meeting with Bremerton NAACP; and
- **Director Reports** – activities for the year are detailed at www.caa.wa.gov; link to “Commission Reports”.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
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Commission Affairs:

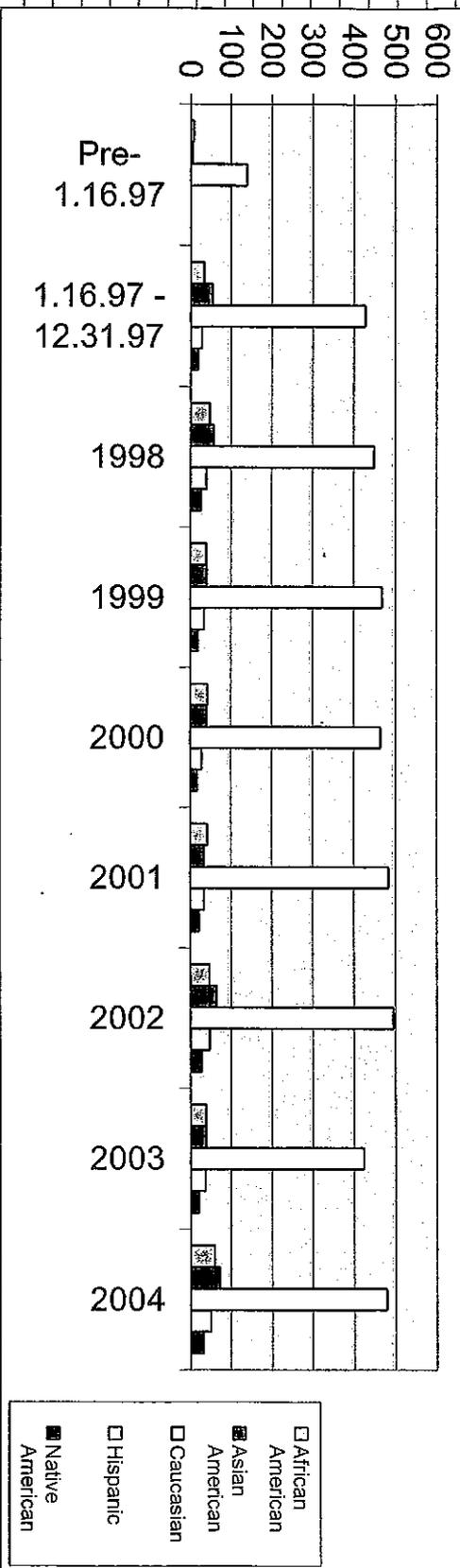
- **Economic Development Committee** – “A.I.C.” (Access, Influence and Capacity), broad based economic development partnership to “connect-the-dots” for minority businesses. AIC will create a compendium of information to support and enhance the success of both start-up and expanding business. Symposium on AIC scheduled at the University of Washington in May 2005;
- Partner in two well-attended Joint Minority Commission meetings and Legislative receptions, January 2004 and December 2004;
- Research and draft comprehensive Commission Strategic Plan;
- Recruit and integrate five new Commission members;
- Commission meetings held in Everett, Vancouver and Spokane; Commission conference calls between in-person meetings;
- Addressed significant deficits in current audit; updated systems, policies and practices for compliance with state regulations;
- African American Legislative Day – February 2004;
- Finalized Commission’s Annual Report 2004;
- Commission planning and training retreat –Spokane, September 2004;
- Significant ongoing policy work in areas of education, economic development, health care, justice, and children/family;
- Draft and defend budget proposal to expand Commission staffing and funding to adequately address the Commission’s mission.

Website and Communications:

- Redesigned and updated Commission website; regular updates and commission events posted regularly;
- Formalized Commission list serve; job announcements and community information sent regularly.

2004 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BY ETHNICITY

	Pre-1.16.97	1.16.97 - 12.31.97	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ethnic Totals	Appts. vs. W/A Census
African American	8	34	48	40	43	42	47	39	60	361	13%
Asian American	6	54	58	41	40	34	65	39	72	257	9%
Caucasian	139	428	449	468	464	484	495	424	479	1772	65%
Hispanic	1	29	40	34	28	34	48	37	50	222	8%
Native American	1	19	27	19	18	22	29	21	32	104	4%
TOTAL APPTS.	155	564	622	602	593	616	684	560	693	2716	100%



COMMISSIONERS

Zelma Maine Jackson, Chair - Tri Cities

Zelma Maine Jackson has lived in Tri-Cities, Washington for the last 23 years. She was reared in a military family. Although she traveled extensively, nationally and internationally, her formative years were nurtured in the Gullah-Geechee culture of Beaufort, South Carolina. Zelma has always been an advocate for change in human and civil rights, women and children's issues, employment and training for the disadvantaged and economic equity. She exemplifies "Service Above Self". The impacts of her decisions can be recognized throughout the state in various organizations including the Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development – Community Economic Revitalization Board; Benton-Franklin County United Way; nationally known Tri-Cities Development Economic Council (TRIDEC). In 2004, she received the Sam Volpentest Entrepreneurial Leadership award honoring her dedication to economic development in historically underutilized businesses. Nationally, she is most proud of being a founding member of the National Association of Black Geologist and Geophysicist. She was academically trained at Virginia State University and the University of Washington and is a professional Hydro geologist. Governor Locke appointed Zelma as Chair in October 2004.

Darrell Fields, Vice Chair - Kitsap County

Darrell Fields has lived in Kitsap County for 20 years. He spent four years in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Constellation, an aircraft carrier. Darrell has spent the last 15+ years as a volunteer in the Kitsap community, working with Bremerton, Central, South and North Kitsap school districts. He is a member of the NAACP, volunteer with the Community Resource Center and serves on several school and community initiatives. A native of Texas, Darrell currently works for Lockheed-Martin as a human resource representative. He attended college at the University of Phoenix with studies in Human Services. While an employee with Boeing Corporation, Darrell received the William Allen Award, the highest award given to an employee for community service. Darrell is currently in his second term with the Commission and was elected Vice Chair in September 2004.

Karen Boone, Commissioner, Spokane

Karen Boone is a Project Coordinator for the Spokane Sexual Assault Center. Karen serves as Commissioner in the Spokane area. She is active in the community, state, and national organizations as a volunteer. Karen decided ten years ago to immerse herself in community services as a way of breaking the barriers she felt as an African American growing up in Spokane. Susan Fabrikant, of Spokane Sexual

Assault Center states: "Boone is a true advocate for many people in our community who feel like they have no voice." Karen is often viewed as a role model for teenagers, people of color, and people in transition in the Spokane community.

Edna Brooks Pittman, Commissioner, Yakima Valley

Edna Brooks Pittman has worked in the field of Community and Economic Development for over 30 years, most recently as the Community Development Director in Toppenish. Edna is currently working on as Project Manager on a special project with the State of Washington Department of Social and Human Services. Throughout her career she has worked with low to moderate income families and individuals who want to better their condition. She has held offices in many community groups including: Toppenish Rotary Club, Yakima Valley Habitat for Humanity, Yakima Branch of the NAACP, Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Conference of the NAACP, HealthNet of Janesville, Urban League of Nebraska Guild, Toppenish Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, National Council of the American Society for Public Administration. She has also served on the board of these and other organizations such as OIC of Washington, YWCA of Janesville, Urban League Guild.

L. David Tyner III, Commissioner, King County

David Tyner is a Vietnam Veteran, having served 8.5 years active duty and three years reserve duty with the United States Air Force. David has served for several years as risk advisor to the University of Washington's Business Education Development Program, is founder, past president and former chair of Economic Development for TABOR 100. Dave currently serves as member of both the Northwest Minority Business Council's MBEIC committee, and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Diversity Task Force. David was appointed by Gov. Locke, in July 2004. David is the chair of the Commission's Economic Development Committee. He is married and the father of six children.

Earl Ford, Commissioner, Southwest, WA

Earl Ford serves in a number of community service organizations, including past president of the Longview Society of American Foresters. He currently serves on the executive board of the Alaska, Oregon, and Washington NAACP State Conference and is currently serving his second two year term as President of the Vancouver Branch NAACP. He is active in his church and serves on the Diversity Advisory Board for Washington State University, Vancouver. Earl holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, and Master of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

COMMISSIONERS (CONTINUED)

Angela Brooks– Commissioner, King County

A native of Seattle Washington, Angela Brooks is currently a Project Coordinator for the City of Seattle Office of Housing. Prior to her work at the City of Seattle, Angela was a Planner for the City of Milton. Angela brings to the Commission a thorough understanding of the challenges that cities both large and small face in Western Washington. Professionally, Angela is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Angela is also a member of the State of Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), where she serves as and Newsletter Editor. In the national body of APA for the past four years, Angela served as Vice Chair of Programs for the Planning and the Black Community Division of the APA. Locally, Angela recently ended a three year term as a member of the City of Seattle Planning Commission. Angela is committed to working to get more African American young adults engaged civically and politically in Western Washington. She has participated in "Get Engaged" with the Metro Center YMCA, and the Institute for a Democratic Future - programs created to train young adults in civic and political leadership. She has also completed Project LEAD with the King County United Way, which serves to train minorities to serve on non-profit boards. Angela is a member of Delta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Seattle. Angela holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies with a concentration in Community Development from Jackson State University and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from University of New Orleans.

Anne Houston-Rogers, Commissioner, King County

Anne Houston-Rogers holds an MBA from Webster University and JD from American College of Law. She is a partner at Starbucks Corporation headquarters in the SODO district in Seattle. She is the Strategic Procurement Contracts Manager to the Information Technology Department. Anne is a member of the Black MBA Association; National Contract Management Association – Puget Sound Chapter; Emily's List; International Legal Fraternity of Phi Delta Phi - Tang Inn; National Bar Association; National Association of MBA's; King County Dispute Resolution Center (volunteer mediator).

Frank Boykin Jr. Commissioner, Pierce County

Frank Boykin's community activities are numerous, including his current service as President and Board Chairman of Washington's African American Museum. He is also a founding member of the Citizens for 21st Century Leadership (C21CL), a grass roots organization mentored by Senator Rosa Franklin that galvanizes civic education, voter participation and leadership beyond the 21st century. He is an active member of the Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective, as well as a celebrated motivational/inspirational speaker. Frank earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. In addition to his degree, he holds various computer and technological certifications, which enabled him to train and consult for a number of clients, including Missouri's Department of Health – Office of Information Systems.

FORMER COMMISSIONERS

Victoria Woodards, Former Commission Chair 2004

Victoria Woodard is the assistant to Pierce County Council member Harold G. Moss. Victoria has extensive experience in organization and program management for the public and private business sectors. **Commission tenure ended in September 2004.**

Wayne Williams, Commissioner, Pierce County

Wayne Williams is Dean of Business at Tacoma Community College. Prior to his position of Dean, Wayne was adjunct faculty and college administrator. He takes the most pride in his opportunities to counsel and mentor African American students. **Commission tenure ended in January of 2004.**

Malcolm H. Oliver, Commissioner, Bellingham

Malcolm Oliver has over 18 years experience in mental health, working with families, adults and children. In addition to his private practice, Malcolm also works in public education and in juvenile and adult justice systems. He has a long history of involvement in African-American communities and has worked his entire career in human and race relations. **Commission tenure ended in April 2004.**

Darryl Cook, Commissioner, King Co.

Darryl Cook is currently the Deputy Director of the City of Seattle's Reinvesting in Youth program. Darryl has previously worked for the King County Executive in the Government Relations Division. **Commission tenure ended in January 2004.**

Bill Reed, Commissioner, Snohomish Co.

Bill Reed is a certified Public Accountant, Certified Housing Counselor, and an Accredited Financial Counselor. During his professional career, which spans over 25 years, Bill has held middle and senior management positions with several Fortune 500 companies. He is founder and co-chair of annual career conferences for students of color in Tipton County, Tennessee and Snohomish County, Washington. **Commission tenure ended in January of 2004.**

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Overview

The CAAA was created by Executive Order in 1989. Enabling legislation was passed in 1992. Mandated by the legislature, the Commission's functions are to improve public policy development for, and government services to, the African American community. The CAAA has nine volunteer Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, who serve and represent communities throughout the entire state. An executive director, appointed by the Governor, and an additional .8 FTE staff the Commission.

Mission

It is the mission of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, to encourage the development and implementation of policies, programs, and practices which are specifically intended to improve conditions affecting the cultural, social, economic, political, educational, health, and general well-being of African American people at all levels throughout Washington State.

Vision

The Washington State Commission on African American Affairs is a highly credible and respected entity that will make a decided difference in the lives of African American citizens in the state of Washington. Through a strategically planned course of action, the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs will achieve a uniquely independent status that will allow it to influence policies, programs, and practices in the public and private sectors, in all areas of concern to African Americans.

The Washington State Commission on African American Affairs will be very visible and will have more than adequate human and financial resources from public and private sources to carry out its mission. The quality of life for this state's African Americans will improve tremendously as a result of the Commission's success and outstanding performance of its members and staff.

Statutory Authority

The Commission's establishment and operation are authorized under ESHB 1631, signed by Governor Booth Gardner in April 1992, and is codified in RCW 43.113 et seq. (Attachment A).

Agency Responsibilities– RCW 43.113.030

- ◆ 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.

2004 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

The 2004 Legislative session adjourned on March 12th. This year's session was a sixty-day session. In even numbered years the legislative session is sixty days; in odd numbered years the legislative session is one hundred and five days. Listed below are select bills the Commission followed during the legislative session.

SB 6180: Sponsored by Senator Rosa Franklin

Description of the bill:

Senate Bill 6180 prohibits the use of genetic information in employment decisions. Prior to the passage of this legislation employers were able to deny someone employment if they were genetically predisposed to a certain disease (i.e. heart disease).

Status of bill:

Passed Senate 49-0

Passed House 94-0 with 4 members excused.

Governor signed into law March 2004

HB 2784: Sponsored by Representative Eric Pettigrew

Description of the bill:

House Bill 2784 creates a small business incubator program. The small business incubator program helps small businesses get off the ground and get "up and running." The program provides the business with temporary office space and other support needs. Currently there is a pilot program at South Seattle Community College.

Status of bill:

Passed House 81-15 with 2 members excused

Passed Senate 46-0 with 1 member absent and 2 members excused

Governor signed into law March 2004

HB 2455: Sponsored by Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos

Description of the bill

House Bill 2455 creates a legislative ad hoc committee on financial literacy to develop and pilot financial literacy guidelines in school districts.

Status of bill:

Passed House 93-1 with 4 excused members

Passed Senate 45-1 with 3 excused members

Governor partially vetoed in March 2004

Section 4 of this bill was vetoed– you may go to

www.leg.wa.gov and type in bill # 2455 for 2003-2004 biennium.

SB 6411: Sponsored by Senator Dale Brandland

Description of bill

Senate Bill 6411 requires all school districts to implement a school lunch program in each public school within its district if at least 25 percent of the students in the school qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. SB 6411 also requires all schools offering a summer program to offer a summer food service program that is open to all children in the area if at least 50 percent of the children enrolled in the school qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

Status of the bill

Passed Senate 44-0 with 5 members excused

Passed House 77-18 with 3 members excused

Governor signed into law March 2004

SCR 8419: Sponsored by Senator Rosa Franklin

Description of Bill

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8419 creates a joint select committee to identify ways to improve health care status and address health disparities in communities of color. The committee is comprised of four members of the House of Representatives and four members of the Senate. The members will come from committees with jurisdiction over health care and health education issues. Members of the state's ethnic commissions and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs are to provide input in the process. The recommendations of the committee are due to the Legislature by November 1, 2005.

Status of the Bill

Passed Senate 49-0

Passed House with amendments/ sent back to Senate for concurrence

Senate concurred in House amendments

Final passage 47-0 with 2 members excused.

Filed with Secretary of State

DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATE

The population of Washington State grew by 73% between 1970 and 2000, an average of 1.8% a year.

Over the last two decades, most of this population increase occurred in Western



Washington counties. According to the State Office of Financial Management, between 2000 and 2025, the state's population will increase by 28%, most of which will again occur around Puget Sound. Growth is expected to continue over the next 20 years.



According to the 2000 National Census Data, Washington State has 188,610 African Americans residing in the state or 3.2 percent of the total 5,894,121 population. The highest number of African Americans live in the Puget Sound area accounting for more than half of all African

Americans in the state. The second largest population of African Americans in the state resides in Spokane County, accounting for 1.5 percent of the African American population.

The average African American household in the state is likely to be headed by a single woman. The median family income for an African American



family was \$22,630 compared to a median income of \$33,170 for Caucasian families in the state, with 62,100 African Americans living under the federal

poverty levels. The federal poverty threshold for a family of three was \$14,128 in 2001.

The number of non-elderly African Americans in the state of Washington without health insurance is approximately 15%, while 99,760 African Americans



are covered by employer provided health insurance. A positive highlight is the fact that teen pregnancies for African Americans have declined by 58% between 1990

and 2002 in the state of Washington. Although this statistic is somewhat optimistic, the number of African Americans with HIV/AIDS is rising rapidly and currently stands at approximately 1,068 persons. African American women are the fastest growing population group being infected.

The populations of state and federal prisons, local jails, military jails and correctional halfway houses in Washington ballooned from 14,569 in 1990 to 28,871 in 2000 -- a 98 % increase.



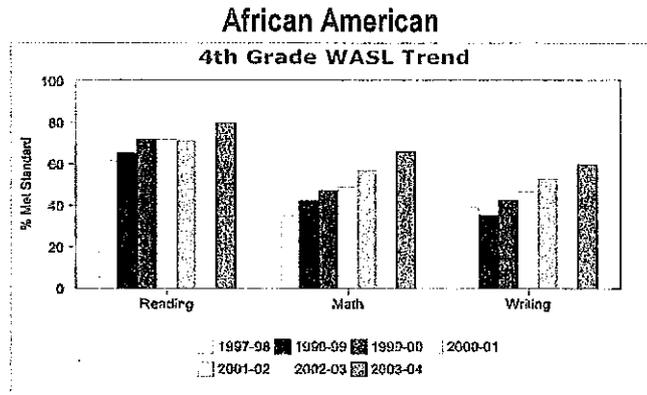
This compares to the state's overall population growth of 21%. Experts attribute the growth -- particularly that of the African American prison population -- to drug-law policies, as well as tougher sentencing laws. The 2000 Census data shows that African Americans represent 18.2 % of jail and prison inmates, but only 3.2% of the state's total population. African Americans constitute by far the most over represented racial or ethnic group among prisoners.

K-12 EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

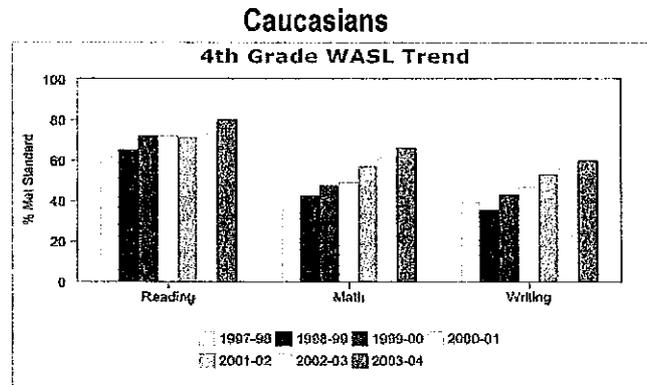
EDUCATION

Student performance information on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).

DATA SHOW: At Grade 4, achievement gap exists between Caucasians and African American students. Improvement in performance between 1997 and 2004, but significant disparity remains.



Grade 4	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	35.4%	39.3%	47.7%	48.2%	49.3%	52.4%	61.9%
Math	13.0%	15.3%	18.7%	19.5%	28.6%	35.5%	37.5%
Writing	25.5%	20.7%	25.4%	30.5%	37.0%	43.6%	43.6%
Listening	60.2%	54.1%	51.8%	60.7%	56.2%	49.5%	



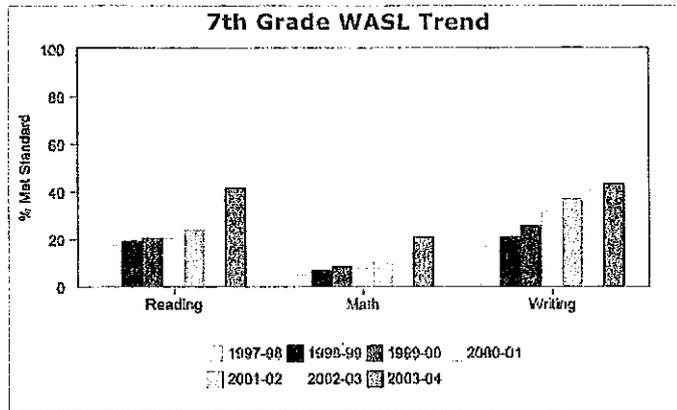
Grade 4	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	61.5%	65.3%	71.8%	72.1%	71.2%	73.1%	79.9%
Math	35.4%	42.5%	47.2%	49.1%	57.4%	61.5%	66.1%
Writing	39.7%	35.6%	42.8%	46.9%	53.2%	57.7%	60.2%
Listening	75.7%	76.5%	70.2%	77.4%	70.9%	73.5%	

K-12 EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

DATA SHOW: At Grade 7, achievement gap exists between Caucasians and African American students. Significant disparity remains and has widened.

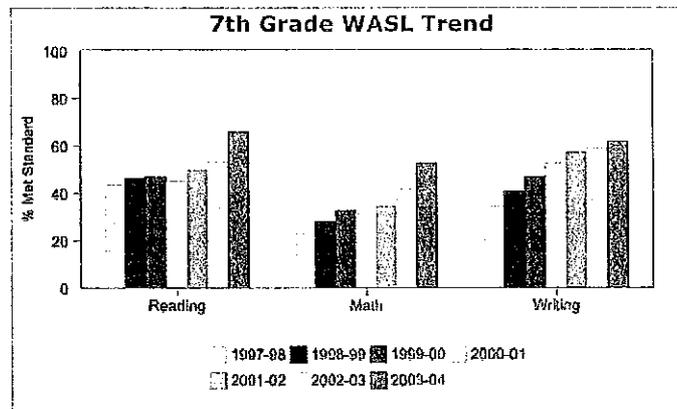
7th Grade WASL Trend Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards

African American



Grade 7	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	17.5%	19.5%	20.4%	20.4%	24.2%	28.2%	41.8%
Math	4.9%	6.8%	8.7%	7.8%	10.3%	14.1%	21.4%
Writing	17.2%	21.3%	25.9%	31.9%	36.9%	40.5%	43.6%
Listening	65.2%	77.2%	67.3%	68.1%	73.7%	77.5%	

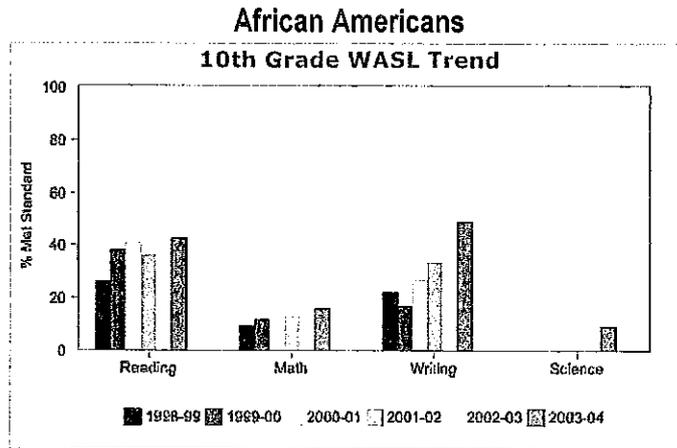
Caucasians



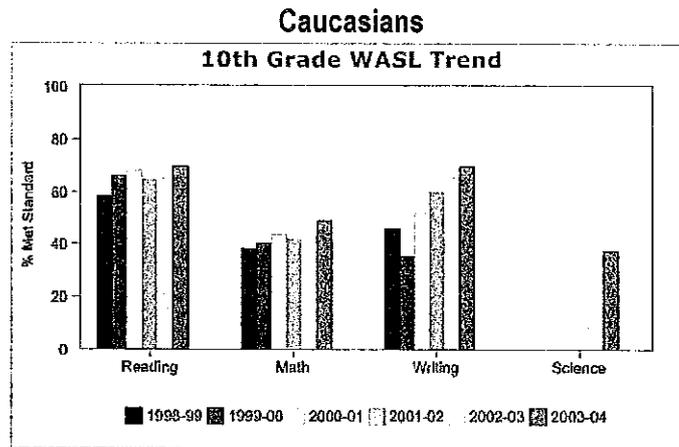
Grade 7	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	43.3%	46.3%	47.1%	44.9%	49.7%	53.2%	65.7%
Math	22.8%	28.1%	32.4%	31.6%	34.4%	41.6%	52.3%
Writing	34.3%	40.8%	46.7%	52.6%	57.2%	58.7%	61.9%
Listening	84.5%	90.9%	84.7%	87.2%	87.5%	90.5%	

K-12 EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

DATA SHOW: At Grade 10, achievement gap exists between Caucasians and African American students. Significant disparity remains and has widened further.



Grade 10	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	26.1%	38.2%	40.6%	36.2%	37.1%	42.8%
Math	9.5%	11.7%	11.9%	13.0%	14.2%	16.0%
Writing	22.4%	17.0%	27.0%	33.6%	39.3%	48.9%
Listening	55.4%	62.6%	70.6%	68.2%	56.4%	
Science					9.2%	9.3%



Grade 10	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Reading	58.3%	66.1%	67.8%	64.6%	65.1%	69.5%
Math	38.1%	40.1%	43.7%	41.9%	44.0%	49.2%
Writing	46.1%	35.7%	51.9%	59.6%	65.5%	69.7%
Listening	79.3%	83.7%	88.1%	85.9%	81.0%	
Science					36.3%	37.4%

K-12 EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Unequal access to computer equipment and training affects people of color, people in low-income or educational backgrounds, and people for whom English is a second language or who have other language barriers.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

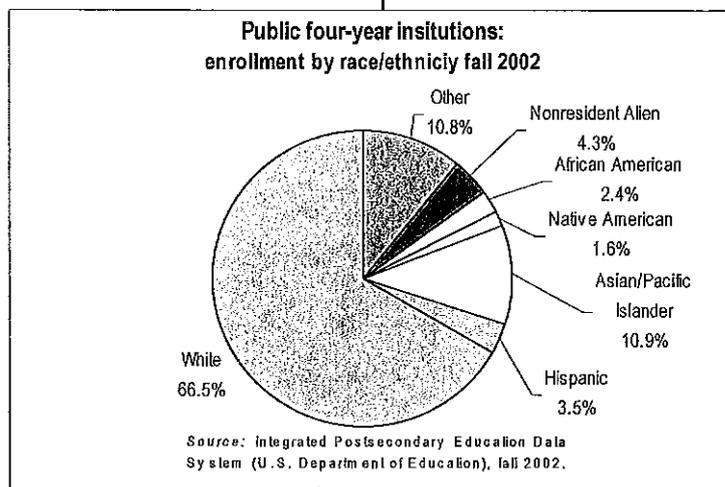
Internet and computer use is highest among Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders and Caucasians and lower for African-Americans and Hispanics. However, rates of usage for the latter two groups are growing, and computer use by children of all races and ethnicities age 10-17 is very high, due largely to computers available in schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Washington State's higher education system consists of six public research and comprehensive baccalaureate institutions and 34 public community

and technical colleges that grant certificates and associate degrees. In 2002, Washington's six baccalaureate institutions totaled 65,500 students enrolled and Washington's 34 community and technical colleges had enrollment of 260,488 students.

State higher education enrollment was challenged in the wake of the 2001 Initiative 200 (I-200). I-200 called for the elimination of "preferences" in state and municipal hiring and recruitment for the state university system. In 2002, African American student enrollment at baccalaureate institutions was down only slightly as reported by data compiled between 1995 and 2002 by the Higher Education College Board. The effect on graduate and professional school enrollment is still being explored, as is I-200's effect in post 2002 enrollment trends.



ECONOMICS

In 2003, the State of Washington's economy had improved beyond the state's revenue projections. As an added assist, the federal government provided fiscal relief to the states. The State Legislature was able to mitigate some of the \$2.6 million in cuts and reductions that were part of the 2003-2004 Biennium budget adopted last year. The savings were able to assist health and human services programs as well

as other state programming.

Although economic progress is being made on a state level, African Americans in the state of Washington seem not to be fairing as well. As a result of I-200, African American business owners have seen a significant reduction in contract participation. Statistics from the Office of Minority

ECONOMICS (CONTINUED)

and Women's Business Enterprises show that of the \$349 million in contracts awarded by state agencies for fiscal year 2001, only 5.6 percent went to minority-owned businesses. During fiscal year 2002, state agencies and educational institutions reported that \$1.9 billion was spent on goods and services subject to the state's OMWBE program. Of the total spent, \$29.6 million, or 1.5 percent, was spent with

minority business enterprises. During 1995-1998, OMWBE reports that participating businesses received an average of 9.8 percent of the spending on projects that fall under the program.

	\$ in Millions		
	Total	GF-S	Other
Operating Budget	\$ 45,486	\$ 23,246	\$ 22,240
Transportation Budget	\$ 4,931	--	\$ 4,931
New Capital Appropriations	\$ 2,782	--	\$ 2,782
Total Budget	\$ 53,199	\$ 23,246	\$ 29,953
Reappropriations of Previous Capital Appropriations	\$ 1,812	--	\$ 1,812
Total Budget, Including Capital Reappropriations	\$ 55,011	\$ 23,246	\$ 31,765

JOB MARKET

According to the Economic Policy Institute, Washington State has 21,300 fewer jobs and higher unemployment rates since March 2001. The local economy is currently unable to generate enough jobs to keep pace with population growth and the increasing number of working-age adults.

Washington State has been particularly hard hit by the current recession. In September of 2002, the jobless rate in the state had become the highest in the nation, with job losses concentrated in the Puget Sound Region. The Seattle Times reported that unemployment rates for African Americans in the state climbed three-tenths of a percentage point in October of 2003 to 11.5 percent—the rates respectively fell for Caucasians, Hispanics and Asians.

In September of 2003, Washington State had the third-highest unemployment rate among all states

with a 7.1 percent unemployment rate. However, there were about 20,000 fewer people employed in the Seattle area in September 2003 compared to September 2002.

Economic recovery is not anticipated until late 2004. Most jobs that are added to the economy are in lower-paying industries such as retail and temporary employment firms. The average weekly earnings in those sectors are \$366 and \$318, just above the federal poverty threshold of \$272 per week in 2001.

Nationally, United For a Fair Economy reported that a typical African American family had 60 percent as much income as a Caucasian family in 1968, but only 58 percent as much in 2002. The report also indicated Caucasian households had an average net worth of \$468,200 in 2001, more than six times the \$75,700 of the average African American household net worth.

HOUSING

Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments to plan for the "provision of affordable housing for all economic segments of the community" and mandates a "fair share" approach for the accommodation of regional needs. However with the rising costs of housing in the state, specifically in the Puget Sound region, renting has become more of a necessity than an option for low to mid income level households. In King County approximately 40 percent or 248,000 households are renters, as reported in 1999 by the Seattle Times. The average rental household earns less than 50 percent of the median income, which was \$65,800 in 2003 for a family of four. The GMA does not penalize for failure to comply, as a result new housing development in urban areas typically prices out low to mid income households.

According to 2000 Census data and a report released by the Brookings Institute, African Americans who live in the City of Seattle are more segregated than Asians and Hispanics.

Approximately 60 percent of all African Americans in Seattle would have to move to another area to achieve perfect integration. In terms of separation of African Americans and Caucasians, Seattle is only slightly less segregated than Mobile, Alabama, or Atlanta, Georgia, according to the study. The Brookings Institute data compared major metropolitan areas across the country. Non-Hispanic Caucasians make up 68 percent of Seattle's population, according to the 2000 Census, African Americans represent 8 percent of the population, Asians represent 13 percent of the population, Hispanics 5 percent, multiracial citizens 4 percent and American Indians 1 percent. Of those minority groups, African Americans live in the most segregated neighborhoods. More than 75 percent of the city's African Americans live in census tracts where the percentage of African Americans ranges from 10 to 50 percent.

HEALTH

The State of Washington, like the national trend, shows extreme differences in the health status between the total population and the African American population. Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has determined that African Americans have a greater incidence of HIV/AIDS, heart disease, stroke, breast cancer, cervical cancer, diabetes, infant mortality, and homicide. Nationally, higher incidence rates can be attributed to just over 63 percent of African Americans having a primary healthcare provider compared to 75 percent of Caucasians.

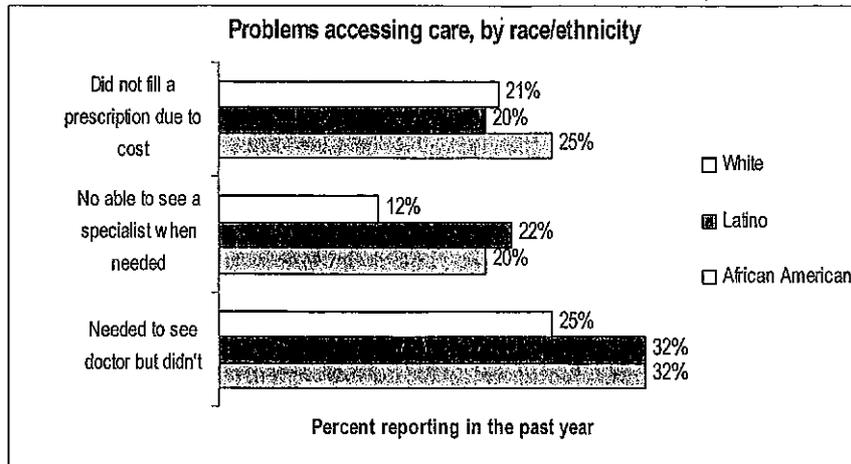
Two primary aspects of healthcare disparity in Washington State are access to health insurance and racial attitudes. Although easy to define, the solution of how to close the disparity gap alludes the healthcare community. The reasons are complex, varied and poorly understood at both the state and federal levels.

Basic Health

Washington State offers a Basic Health Program to all citizens with low-incomes and no current health coverage. The program offers a basic level of service and requires a premium payment and co-pays. Since 2002, the number of children in Washington State living without health insurance has grown by more than 30 percent to about 184,000, according to a recent estimate by the non-profit Children's Alliance.

In 2002, the Legislature imposed co-pays on the Basic Health Program impacting low-income families and, in the long run, driving up costs at public health clinics and agencies serving the poor. Basic Health Plan premiums range from \$17 to \$244 per month per person, depending on income and the insurance plan is selected.

HEALTH (CONTINUED)



HIV/AIDS

Although African American women represent on 13% of the U.S. female population, they account for almost 66% of AIDS cases reported among women in 2000 (Source: CDC).

African American teens represent 15% of the teen population, yet comprise 64% of the new AIDS cases reported among 13 to 19-year olds. (Source: CDC)

African Americans make up 14% of AIDS diagnoses in Washington, though comprise less than 4% of the population.

Infant Mortality

Infants born to African American women in Washington are 2 times more likely to die in their first year of life (as compared to Caucasian infants).

Disparities in Health Outcomes

African Americans with diabetes in Washington are 3 times more likely to die from diabetes than are Caucasian, non-Hispanic residents.

Source: Washington State Board of Health – 2004 Report: Disparities in Health and Health Workforce Diversity.

CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare

Equity of service delivery is a fundamental value of public policy. However, we have failed to deliver on this in the field of public child welfare. Children of color are vastly over-represented in the system and are faring worse by all measures than their Caucasian counterparts. This is particularly true in King County, home to the most diverse client population in the state. In King County children of color comprise 32% of the child population, but account for 52% of the children in foster care. The racial disparity grows at each benchmark/step within the child welfare system.

Compared to Caucasian children, African American children in King County:

- Are disproportionately represented in child welfare referrals accepted for investigation;
- Are more likely to be removed from their homes and placed in foster care;
- Make up a disproportionate percentage of children in care longer than two years and longer than four years;
- Wait longer to be adopted after termination of parental rights.

(Source: King County Task Force on Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System – Phase I Findings, 2004).

CONCLUSION

These data highlight a range of threats to the well being of Washington's African American citizens. The disparities are stark. African Americans are acutely aware of the impact of inequity on their lives and families. Addressing the issues outlined above, in a meaningful way, will require statewide recognition of these issues and a broad-based commitment to change.

The CAAA is uniquely positioned to build coalitions to address issues of disparity. Progress will be made

through partnering in public policy development with the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, governmental agencies/entities and with community based organizations. Implementation of policies that result in positive progress in lessening, and ultimately eliminating, disparities will be a measure of the CAAA's success in achieving its mission - improving the well being of African Americans residing in Washington.

REFERENCES

- Byrd, Michael; Clay, Linda (2002) "Researcher Chronicle Unequal Race-based Health Care" Harvard Medical School website.http://focus.hms.harvard.edu/2002/March22_2002/health_disparities.html [25 October 2002]

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ENABLING LEGISLATION

Chapter 43.113 RCW

**COMMISSION ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
RCW SECTIONS**

- 43.113.005 Legislative declaration.
- 43.113.010 Commission created.
- 43.113.020 Membership -- Terms -- Vacancies -
- Quorum -- Expenses.
- 43.113.030 Powers and duties.

RCW 43.113.005

Legislative declaration.

The legislature declares that it is the public policy of this state to insure equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature finds that, for economic, social, and historical reasons, a disproportionate number of African-Americans find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal opportunity. The legislature believes that it is the duty of this state to improve the well being of African-Americans by enabling them to participate fully in all fields of endeavor and by assisting them in obtaining governmental services. The legislature further finds that the development of public policy and the delivery of governmental services to meet the special needs of African-Americans can be improved by establishing a focal point in state government for the interests of African-American citizens. Therefore, the legislature deems it necessary to establish in statute the commission on African-American affairs to further these purposes.

[1992 c 96 § 1.]

RCW 43.113.010

Commission created.

The Washington state commission on African-American affairs is created. The commission shall be administered by an executive director, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall set the salary of the executive director. The executive director shall employ the staff of the commission.

[1992 c 96 § 2.]

RCW 43.113.020

Membership -- Terms -- Vacancies -- Quorum -- Expenses.

The commission shall consist of nine members, appointed by the governor. The commission shall make recommendations to the governor on appointment of the chair of the commission. The governor shall appoint the chair of the commission. To the extent practicable, appointments to the commission shall be made to achieve a balanced representation based on African-American population distribution within the state, geographic considerations, sex, age, and occupation. Members shall serve three-year terms. However, of the initial appointees, one-third shall serve three-year terms, one-third shall serve two-year terms, and one-third shall serve a one-year term. In the case of a vacancy, appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. No member shall serve more than two full consecutive terms. Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business.

[1992 c 96 § 3.]

RCW 43.113.030

Powers and duties.

The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of African-Americans, and make recommendations to the governor and state agencies for changes in programs and laws.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Acting in concert with the governor, advise the legislature on issues of concern to the African-American community.
- (4) Establish relationships with state agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity and benefits for African-Americans.
- (5) Receive gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources that are made for the use or benefit of the commission and expend, without appropriation, the same or any income from the gifts, grants, or endowments according to their terms.

[1992 c 96 § 4.]