

COAA March 2015 MINUTES

3/11/2015	6:15PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	4 th Floor
Meeting Called By	Chairwoman/ Commissioner Akua Asare		
Secretary	Commissioner Kedist Geremaw		
Attendees	<p>Commissioners: Akua Asare, Chime Asonye, Lafayette Barnes, Ify Nwabukwu, Kedist Geremaw, Loide Jorge, Yusuf Yinusa</p> <p>OAA Dir: Mamadou Samba OAA Deputy Dir: Heran Sereke-Brhan Intern: Marie Diop</p>		
OLD BUSINESS			
February minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve was called by Commissioner Yusuf Yinusa. It was seconded by Commissioner Lafayette Barnes. 		
ISSUE 2 – - Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair stressed the need to clearly communicate so that the Secretary can capture complete documentation There were 2 guests in attendance: Dan-Tam Phan-Hoang from HBI-DC---talked about the need to collaborate with COAA in informing and testing patients for Hepatitis B. The group is partnering with NIH. Chris Mapondera from CNM Global—discussed how the African Diaspora can be relevant by forging a linkage with Africa. Gave examples of working in the health and education sectors. 		
STANDING BUSINESS			
OAA REPORT – Director Mamadou Samba ISSUE 1:OAA and COAA Commissioners Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed the need to work in a collaborative manner for both OAA and COAA to be effective. Encouraged a focus on deliverable outcomes and giving communities needed in a timely fashion. The Chair suggested working with Maryland African communities Commissioner Lafayette also suggested the need for coalition building with different ethnic groups. Commissioner Loide pointed COAA’s past accomplishments and activities, such as working on Ebola, business development, immigration issues. 		
ISSUE 2: New commission members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vacant commissioner’s seats will be filled as the vetting process is complete. One individual didn’t fulfill the DC residency requirement and his name was withdrawn from the list. 		
ISSUE 3: Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Loide requested an update on the COAA-OAA’s Immigration Workshop designed to discuss President Obama’s Executive action on immigration, and DACA (Differed Action for Childhood Arrival). The Chair suggested efficient and effective communication on future shared project s Based on the discussion, these actions will take place:The director will contact the DC religious affair representative; a working relationship will be established with the Young African Professionals; the workshop will take place in the month of April; and OAA’s Deputy Director will contact Ethiopian church leaders. 		
ISSUE 4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Ify talked about a future health summit project which will be held during African Heritage Month. 		
ISSUE 5: New position at OAA	Deputy Director Heran Sereke-Brhan reported that there are 2 finalists for OAA third full-time staff member position, and final interview will be conducted in the next two days.		
NEW BUSINESS			
ISSUE 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Empowering Males of Color initiative – a need for recruiting mentors who will work with elementary, middle- and high-school students. To include Grantees in this effort. 		
ISSUE 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the African Diaspora to as board members or commissioners in different areas DC Commissions 		

End of meeting 7:30PM