

# Race Equity Advisory Council

**Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2024

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** NorthPoint Conference Center

**Council members present:** Paola Ehrmantraut, Tai Giwa, Catherine Bouie, Ralph Yehle, Erikka Ryan, Cedric Dildy, Tamyka Carr, April Salchert, Jigar Mistry, Raquel Jarabek, Kandis York, Bill Tipping, Samba Fall, Josie Thao

**Council members not present:** Stacy Wells, Adjoa Kusi-Appiah

**County Staff:** Shawn Sorrell, Alison Weiler

## Notes

Approved current month agenda

**Motion: Samba    Second: Kandis**  
**All in favor – motion passes**

Approved April meeting notes

**Motion: Erikka    Second: Samba**  
**All in favor – motion passes**

## Updates

- The Chair shared about her recent meeting with Commissioner Fernando. They discussed the recent lawsuits and passing of the African American Preservation Act at the state legislature. The Commissioner encouraged the group to note their opinion in the annual report and continue to engage with staff.
  - If a letter was to be written on the entire board, the Commissioner noted putting it in the appendix of the report.
- On May, 15, 2024, the Minnesota State Legislature passed the African American Preservation Act. The group discussed the purpose to address reducing the racial disproportionality within child welfare with Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to be approached first.

## Officer elections

- Chair nominations included Angela, April, Catherine, and Stacy. After a vote by the entire group, Catherine was selected as this year's Chair.
- Vice-Chair nominations included April, Ashaki, and Josie. After a vote by the entire group, Josie was selected as this year's Vice-Chair.
- Secretary nominations included Angela and April. After a vote by the entire group, April was selected as this year's secretary.
- New terms start in June 2024.

## Committees

- Three new committees were presented to the chair for approval. This was granted.
  - Employment committee with Samba.
  - Housing committee with Tai, Ashaki, Catherine, and Josie.
  - Juvenile justice committee with Ced, Raquel, Susan, and Erikka.

## Annual report

- The group discussed the pros/cons of an annual versus a biannual report.
  - As of late the commissioners have appreciated a shorter version of the annual report with specific recommendations.
- The group brought this to a vote.  
**Motion to keep the report annual: Tai Second: Erikka**  
**All in favor, motion passes**

## Adjourn

- Motion: April Second: Tai**  
**All in favor – motion passes**