



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Kotek — Racial Justice Council (RJC)
January 16, 2025 – Zoom Webinar
3:00-5:00 p.m.

CHAIR

X	Governor Tina Kotek
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MEMBERS

X	Ana Molina		Jesse Beason	D	Marisa/Mariesa Zapata
X	Angela Uherbelau	X	Jimmy Howard	X	Mark Jackson
X	Annie Valtierra-Sanchez	X	Josie Silverman-Mendez	X	Paul Solomon
X	Cynthia Richardson	X	Kim McCarty	X	Reyna Lopez
X	James Cador	X	Latiffe Amado	X	Shay Huber
X	Janice Mason		Marcus C Mundy	X	Tristen Edwards
X	James Parker	X	Maria Elena Guerra “Meg”	X	Tiffany Monroe
X	Jenny Pool Radway	X	Marin Arreola		

OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Andre Bealer	X	Johnna Timmes	X	Shana McConville
X	Ami Goswami	X	Johnna Papaefthimiou	X	Taylor Smiley Wolfe
	Bob Livingston	X	Karin Power	X	Valerie Colas
X	Bryan Longoria	X	Kelly Brooks	X	Vince Porter
X	Chris Warner		Kristina Narayan	X	Yasmin Solorio
X	Doug Grafe	X	Matthew Tschabold	X	Leah Feldon
	Danny Moran		Maya Crawford Peacock	X	Kate Nass
X	Javier Cervantes		Morgan Gratz-Weiser		
X	Jesse Hyatt		Rachael Moser		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/ Action Items
Welcome Introductions Roll Call	<i>Javier calls for roll call and initiates meeting.</i>	
New Staff Presentation Education Initiative Director, Johnna Timmes Community Engagement Manager, Ami Goswami	<i>Johnna Timmes and Ami Goswami provide introduction.</i> Annie: What are “Marginalized organizations”? Ami: Working with organizations like Naya, Latino Network, IRCO. Working with populations that really need a voice.	
Director of DEQ Presentation <i>Director, Leah</i>	<i>Director Leah Feldon provides introduction.</i> Director Feldon: Lived in Ohio. Sociology major. Found myself coming to Oregon for environmental work. Been at DEQ for 19 years, getting to know	

<p><i>Feldon</i></p>	<p>more people and its refreshing to see the new ways of thinking people are bringing to the agency. Lots of people come to DEQ because they are excited for the mission and environmental protection. There's an obvious strong tie between environmental work and racial justice and that is environmental justice.</p> <p>Marin: What are your priorities this year as an agency?</p> <p>Director Feldon: When it comes to wildfire, there's an expectation that our agencies are working together to respond and prepare for wildfires. DEQ has an active role in monitoring smoke and informing communities when they're going to, or experiencing, unhealthy air. DEQ is largely that smoke impact. We want to try to do more going forward in assisting communities prepared, more on the smoke side. Knowing when there's unhealthy smoke coming or know what to do with their home or how to keep fresh air circulating. One of DEQ's mandates and a priority for us is ensuring Oregon meets federal air quality standards. Certain permits under Clean Air Act and the state gets to decide what the plan here is.</p> <p>Governor: When bad things happen, there's multiple agencies coming together. And these are always good questions to elaborate on.</p> <p>Kim: What communication or authorities do you have with utility companies who are often responsible for these fires?</p> <p>Director Feldon: Great question. As far as planning black outs, burn outs, or etc.. DEQ does not have jurisdiction. The Public Utility Commission specifically regulates rates and then there's requirements in terms of how they're going to derive their energy. In terms of DEQ's role, we regulate the emissions from utilities. Whatever emissions come out of combustion or creating their energy, we regulate those emissions.</p>	
<p>Sanctuary Promise Training for State Employees <i>State Resilience Officer, Jonna Papaefthimiou</i></p>	<p>Jonna: I advise the Governor on emergencies and Just-In-Time training. Oregon was the first Sanctuary State. Almost had unanimous approval when passed. The law has been in place for a long time, was re-upped in 2021. Never had a statewide training that was uniform across state agencies on how to apply it – in part is because how and how often certain agencies encounter it.</p> <p>Given for changes that are coming fast, we need to ensure every state employee is familiar with the law and knows how to follow it.</p> <p>For Oregon public employees, if they receive a request from federal law enforcement, they have to report it and share with DOJ. Then they have to deny that request unless there is a court order that specifies. We are providing a short training that will roll out tomorrow, Friday afternoon.</p> <p>The training directs people to ask questions, who needs the information, and acknowledge it is a consequential decision and to step away to confirm with your manager and make a decision together if you need to respond right away, or at all.</p> <p>The training will be mandated to complete in 30 days. This is going to all executive branch employees. We anticipate feedback from employees and agencies. We're standing in a learning place and will take feedback and adjust. Second module will be sent out later this year after adjustments.</p> <p>Marin: Is this going to be available for Boards and Commissions?</p> <p>Jonna: Yes, it will be provided to all.</p>	

Marin: For contractors, does that include anyone who has contracts with the state?

Jonna: Its clear that the law applies to them, training will roll out with them soon. For example, those on call, or those who work both with federal and state, we are trying to tea up those one-off situations and adjusting that.

Josie: We have a great focus with Healthier Oregon. Lots of concerns with data sharing with federal government and how we get out in front of how information is being shared. Not exactly tied to sanctuary laws but are hoping for more community outreach.

Jonna: Folks at DAS are working with DOJ and civil rights division. There should be alignment in terms of message. We need so many different messengers but having that core coming from DOJ is super helpful. Goal is for people to know obligations under the law and reaffirm the core value for the state and maintain trust and community.

Governor: Making sure that as a state, particularly DOJ, communities have accurate information being shared out. Be careful not to be giving legal advice and ensuring people know their rights. Theres definitely lots of concern. Thanks for your questions. Will keep you in the loop with how things are going.

**GRB/RJC
Priorities Overview**

Governor: Want to give everyone a thank you for the work on the GRB. The budget is now out. Legislative session officially starts work next Tuesday. Danny will share on process of the session and how we can be involved.

Javier shares "RJC GRB and RJC Priorities Doc with Amounts"

Angela: Can you speak on more on the evaluation for summer learning? Curious on what is going to be evaluated and what lens will be used. Especially for longstanding neglect for some of our populations.

Governor: Have not had the chance to read the summer learning report. When the summer money was allocated, there was a report requested. We will get back to you on that answer.

Marin: Behavioral health has a 50-million-dollar allotment. Is that money between OHA and the HECC?

Governor: Yes, it is. HECC to work with community colleges to build pipelines for programs to help build workplans. Evenly split between OHA and HECC.

Meg: On economic opportunity, I don't see anything in infrastructure. I believe Oregon Business Development was supposed to get money for affordable housing.

Governor: Yes, that is to continue technical assistance program. Jan might know more about that. There is money on the housing list for infrastructure.

Meg: Thank you I see it on number four.

Governor: Yes, I think that's it, thank you.

Jan: The technical assistance is specifically (small business tech assistance program) has been a program for a number of year but due to covid was unfunded. Was not prioritized. Thanks, governor, for including it in your recommended budget. Last batch was over 9 million. Hopefully will create

evergreen programs for continuous service and overall ecosystem that is necessary and needed in our state.

Governor: Playing a lot of catch up for items that were one-time funded.

Jenny: With HECC piece, Future Ready Oregon – are you hoping it will offer new iterations of grant application to continue workforce development work you’ve been doing?

Governor: Don’t believe we’ll see a lot of new. Kate, do you remember money on future ready?

Kate: This is basically making sure we do everything that was already allocated. Timing issue of when money gets out the door. This is not new and making sure they can continue the work they have been doing.

Jenny: Summer learning allocations, does this include summer programs?

Governor: Hoping to continue all of those programs.

Kate: This list is all general fund or corporate activity tax. There’s a lot on what we had to balance but it’s not related to summer learning.

Governor: We got 30, but we had asked for 50. This is all general fund and not SSA fund.

Jenny: Summer learning is working worth school districts or CBO as well. We are the only organization, including school districts, who does the summer learning piece we apply for as a CBO.

Governor: School district specific. Frankly not as much as I would like to see. Should advocate with legislators on these. On more thing on Future Ready. There will be a mid-biennial adjustment in 2026 and maybe that’s another opportunity to bump or have a conversation about.

Jan: Just to share with the group we have lifted up a workgroup around Future Ready. Continuing conversation. We are meeting with Jennifer Purcell to keep the work going. If you’re interested in attending, please let Andre or Marin know.

Meg: I would like to join.

Jan: Great.

Legislative Process Overview
Deputy Legislative Director, Danny Moran

Danny: My focus areas tend to be education, public safety, wildfire and a few other areas. A quick update on where we are with legislative session, last Friday marked the first time that all pre session file bills posted on the Oregon legislative website, also known as OLIS. Tomorrow is the final deadline for legislators to submit a request to the legislative council to have legislation drafted. They can introduce bills. The capitol is still under construction and will continue to be very tight on space. Virtual options to still engage should in-person be limited.

It's important to note in your mind both what you want to see past this session and flagging bills that may be of concern that you do not want to see pass. Noting when you see language early in the process that can be problematic for one reason or another so there's positive advocacy. You're encouraged to always reach out to the governor's office legislative team when there's interest in engaging as a council and if you want more information on what you're hearing.

Schedule OLIS training.

Please never hesitate to reach out we're always happy to have a conversation.
Some important dates are:

- Jan. 17 (Fri.) - Deadline for Legislators to request new LCs
- Jan. 21 (Tues.) - 2025 Legislative Session Begins
- Feb. 25 (Tues.) - Deadline for introducing new bills
- Feb. 26 (Wed.) - March Revenue Forecast
- April 9 (Wed.) - First Chamber Deadline (Bills must be voted out of committee by this date or they die)
- May 14 (Wed.) - May Revenue Forecast
- May 23 (Fri.) - Second Chamber Deadline (Bills must be voted out of their second-chamber committee)
- June 29 (Sun.) - Constitutional Sine Die (End of Session)

Marin: How do we work together to schedule time for advocacy work?

Danny: Will put my info in the chat, Danny.MORAN@oregon.gov. I can show you how to utilize OLIS. You can get information on how to get an agenda or notification on bills.

Marin: Would be wonderful if we can do a training.

Governor: We should do that. Reminder we are doing off-month check-in's.

Danny: Will connect with Javier and Andre of when that works best.

Jan: It would be helpful for the group to have an understanding on lobbying. What are priorities as a collective group we are in support of or tracking? Might be helpful to also see if Minority Caucus could visit us in one of our meetings. Also to give visibility to that group on RJC as a collective. There used to be a cartoon on how a bill becomes a law in Oregon. If you have any cheat sheets on that would be wonderful. Would be great to have dates as well in an email.

Tristen: Building off what Jan was saying about our list of priorities, I'm curious if there is like a formal process that we need to go through to get like a formal RJC endorsement? I remember in 2024 when we were working on the restorative justice grant program funding, I gave a presentation and then wrote out submitted a letter. Wondering if that was the formal process? How do you go about saying the RJC endorses whatever issue that we're working on?

Governor: Really great question. We haven't formalized any, I think that was a little of an ad hoc approach and I think it worked well. There's a lot that goes on during session so we will get back to everyone on that. To Jan's point, I don't think we will have enough time to get through it today - but what are the priorities? Is it, do we want to formally say "these are our priorities" as a council or do you want to do it more committee driven? Trying to figure that out I think will be important.

Latiffe: Is bill tracker different than OLIS? Do they serve similar functions?

Governor: Those are different, now BillTracker is more of an internal system that if you have access to, you can determine how to track legislation, upload amendments, but that's an internal process that helps you all track the thousands of bills that may be moving through the process. OLIS is all public. That is how you will also see committee agendas post, that's where you'll be able to stream different committee meetings, go back and look at archived meetings as well. We will definitely set up time to train. There's a lot on there and it's not always intuitive but it's something that once you get the hang of it, I do feel like it can

feel straightforward. We are really lucky in Oregon we have a really great information system that once you get the hang of it really provides a lot of transparency, so we'll make sure everyone gets their tutorial on that.

Ana: For committees tracking different bills that are interest of them, but it's probably not a broader RJC priority, how do the committees engage? Are there any guidelines around that? Let's say there's a hearing and you can provide testimony for a bill that the committee's interested in, could they submit testimony as a committee or should is it more like the individuals?

Danny: I think just being proactive in defining that difference if you're speaking in an individual capacity rather than an RJC capacity is really important to limit confusion. I think it's easy to presume people know that "I'm just speaking in my individual capacity" but I think that's something we all we should not always assume. A process is being developed for the RJC council. Until then, I think if you're working on individual bills, it would be good to just clarify that you're maybe doing that in your individual capacity.

Andre: We will work on formalizing something for this group and will share with you all.

Governor: Having the full Council make decisions will save us a lot of heartache and I don't expect there'll be a lot of disagreement, it's just having that the Council as a whole agrees on this is a good way to go.

Committee Report Out (5 minute each)

Criminal Justice Reform Committee– Tristen:

The delivery models are complex, as is the structure of public defense in Oregon. Our next meeting will be focusing on learning more about what those things are. Eventually we'll be bringing in some subject matter experts to talk to us about the different delivery models so that we can put together a cohesive and intelligent position on what we think is appropriate. We are supporting the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program. The last thing that we are working on is support for the Aranda fix. An action item we have is to put together a one-pager to make that comprehensible.

Education Committee – Mark:

Still trying to flush out our key priorities but we do have a real strong focus on accountability with a few sub areas such as student outcomes, academic achievement, wellness and belonging, and closing opportunity and achievement gaps.

Economic Opportunity Committee – James:

Requesting Business Oregon report to the EOC on a regular basis. One-pager on the progress of outcomes. Making sure we continue to see alignment despite national challenges. Future Ready Oregon and technical assistance, such as semiconductor and clean tech. Looking at funding expiration and the need for a vision to sustain and expand the program. Train more individuals from underrepresented communities and integrate them to priority sectors, and COBID certification reforms.

Environmental Equity Committee – Ana:

We're excited to see the pesticide certification education in the governor's budget. We learned from Chandra on the water package, and I think there is interest from some of the committee members to kind of like look through that list. For water equity, how we can keep track of that bill or if there's any support needed. Checking in on community resilience hubs and who was awarded grants. ODOE will talk to us on their priorities and how they intersect with the committee.

Health Equity and Human Services Committee – Josie:
Areas of focus for our committee are behavioral health, access, traditional health workers, and CCO 3.0 procurement. We have outlined a work plan for the next year and assigned some leads/volunteers for those priority areas. The guidance around to what extent do we carry those priorities forward as a *committee* as opposed to an alignment with the RJC is going to be needed guidance. Very encouraging to see a lot of folks volunteer to lean in and those areas.

Housing and Homelessness Committee – Kim and Meg:
Kim: The preservation of Oregon’s existing affordable housing with the props 519 and 20. Focused on hearing from OHCS and their focus on racial equity. Culturally responsive property management is especially important. Tribal homelessness investments, eviction prevention, and rehousing and sustaining shelters is especially important -we hope to be working more on that. Homeownership preservation is another priority especially as it pertains to BIPOC housing providers and support of the homeownership coalition. That also includes down payment assistance.

Meg: Let's keep in mind that none of the work in housing can be done if we don't work all together, all these different committees are very important for sustaining housing. We can put people in housing but if we don't provide the resources - I'm talking about education, workforce, mental health, and health in general this wouldn't be possible. Want to highlight support cultural specific organizations doing culturally competent property management.

Racial Justice Council Work Plan Priorities Discussion

Governor: Its important for the council to have a workplan. Are there legislative priorities, goals, objectives, timelines that you’d like to see? Who will be the leads on those responsibilities. Where do we want to be in December as a group. This is an open forum, we’ll take notes and come back with the workplan for the year.

Latiffe: Would be interested in what are the measures of success to make or continue those recommendations for next year, based on what we were able to continue or not. What are we trying to achieve.

Governor: Yes, and how do we quantify that.

Annie: The council is made up of people outside of your office – we have regional touch, or entity touches and can bring the perspective outside the office. For me that’s important in terms of how we create systemic shift in racial equity and how we advocate across the state that we can share with other members and what it looks like. Because there are different communities we serve and bringing that to you. Racial justice lens is important to keep in mind and is valuable.

Angela: Want to echo and re-affirm comment earlier and focusing on outcomes. I do think, yes, more money is always needed, and as a state spend a lot of money and don’t get outcomes we need on the money we spend. Hope that as a council tying that to accountability and how we embed that in our budget asks.

Jan: We need to safeguard out state from bad actors. For example, I’ve heard of people starting litigation against businesses and POC business against frivolously things and being cognizant, people aren’t talking about that. How do we as RJC lift up our voice and exert support. This council needs a collective voice, we need to give counsel to the committees. This council is really important to speak in unison ad have insight and transparency in what we all are supporting.

Prioritizations and endorsements for February meeting.

	<p>James: Want to set a bold vision on where we want to be in 10 years. How does the state serve all Oregonians. How do we set very real and measurable objectives.</p> <p>Governor: Sometimes you need people to tell you how you can improve. To have this group is helpful and its nice to have allies in that work.</p> <p>Andre: Everyone is here because you are a leader and bring something of value. Don't want people to shy away from brining ideas. Everyone should feel free to be yourself and bring what you need to bring to these conversations. Our team is here to support, to move your priorities forward. We have a challenge ahead of us, but this is where we can make positive changes.</p>	
Adjourn	<p>Governor: If you have items for the next agenda, please let us know and we can add those. We'll definitely get the OLIS training set up. Next meeting is February 27th and we will go through prioritizations and endorsements. The full two hour RJC meeting is March with an invite to Speaker Fahey and President Wagner for updates.</p>	

Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>RJC GRB and RJC Priorities Doc with Amounts</u> 	
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