

**NOVEMBER 3, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL
10:00 am – 1:30 pm**

**Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC**

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, Chairwoman
NATHAN SIMINGTON, Commissioner
GEOFFREY STARKS, Commissioner

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

HEATHER GATE, Council Chair
NICOL TURNER LEE, Ph.D., Council Vice Chair
SUSAN AU ALLEN, Council Vice Chair
CLAYTON BANKS, Silicon Harlem
MATTHEW BAUER, Wireless Research Center
ROBERT BRANSON, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council
ROBERT BROOKS, WHUR-FM, Howard University
JOI CHANEY, National Urban League
MILTON CLIPPER, Representing America's Public Television Stations
MICHELE COBER, Verizon
GRAHAM "SKIP" DILLARD, WQHT-FM/WBLS-FM New York City, MediaCo Inc.
SARAH KATE ELLIS, GLAAD
ANNA M. GOMEZ, Representing Hispanic National Bar Association
CECELIA GORDON, STARZ
DOMINIQUE HARRISON, Ph.D., Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
DAVID HONIG, JulGlo Productions, LLC
JILL HOUGHTON, Disability:IN
BRODERICK JOHNSON, Comcast Corporation
RONALD JOHNSON, Ph.D., Wireless Infrastructure Association
SHERMAN KIZART, Kizart Media Partners
NICOLE LAZARRE, Charter Communications
ROSA MENDOZA, ALLvanza
AAMA NAHUJA, A Wonder Media Company

LOUIS PERAERTZ, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association
HENRY M. RIVERA, Representing Emma Bowen Foundation
STEVEN C. ROBERTS, The Roberts Companies
VICKIE ROBINSON, Microsoft
BRIAN SCARPELLI, ACT/The App Association
CHARLYN STANBERRY, National Association of Broadcasters
JOYCELYN TATE, Black Women's Roundtable, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
ANTONIO TIJERINO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation
JAMES WINSTON, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters
CHRISTOPHER WOOD, LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute

COMMISSION STAFF:

JAMILA BESS JOHNSON, Designated Federal Officer, Media Bureau
RASHANN DUVALL, Co-Designated Federal Officer, Wireless Competition Bureau
KEYLA HERNANDEZ-ULLOA, Co-Designated Federal Officer, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
STEVE BALDERSON, Office of Media Relations
DARICE GAMBLE, Office of the Managing Director
JEFFERY RIORDAN, Office of Media Relations
PAULA SILBERTHAU, Office of the General Counsel

Link to November 3, 2021 Meeting Transcript: <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/cedc-11032021-transcript.pdf>

Welcome and Opening of Meeting: Media Bureau Chief Michelle Carey opened the meeting, welcomed new members of the Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC), and introduced FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel for her welcome remarks. Chairwomen Rosenworcel shared her goals for the rechartered CEDC, indicating a broader mission objective for the advisory committee to include aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility across media and digital platforms. Commissioner Geoffrey Starks and Commissioner Nathan Simington delivered welcome remarks. Jamila Bess Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, Rashann Duvall, Co-Designated Federal Officer and Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa, Co-Designated Federal Officer also offered welcome remarks.

CEDC Chair and Vice Chairs' Opening Remarks. Heather Gate, CEDC Chair and member representative for Connected Nation, welcomed the new members of the CEDC, as well as her vice chairs and the new working group chairs. Ms. Gate highlighted the work of the recently concluded charter of the Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment (ACDDE), the predecessor advisory committee of the CEDC. Ms. Gate noted that the ACDDE had conducted a series of virtual public workshops and utilized social media to address issues that preceded the COVID 19 pandemic broadband, such as media diversity and entrepreneurship opportunities. Ms. Gate also noted the issuance of two public statements by the ACDDE – one on civil rights demonstrations and the racial divide of 2020, and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. These statements, Ms. Gate stated, reaffirm the committee's commitment to assisting the FCC in expanding digital equity and empowering diverse communities.

Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee stated that one of the committee's goals must be to address the digital inequities that have manifested during the pandemic. Dr. Turner-Lee expressed the importance of fighting for diverse ownership, infrastructure and inclusivity to 'ensure that all parties are at the table.'

Vice Chair Susan Au Allen emphasized her background as an immigrant from China, noting the importance of bringing different constituencies together to address digital inequality. Ms. Allen stated that she hoped to bring the voices of different chambers of commerce, including the Hispanic, Black, and LGBT, chambers to the work of the CEDC, as well as the interests of the disability community.

Roll Call of CEDC Members/Call to Order of November 3, 2021. A quorum was present at the meeting.

Office of Managing Director Presentation. Darice Gamble, Senior Records and Information Management Specialist, Office of Managing Director, discussed the records management responsibilities as directed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Ms. Gamble indicated that there are different types of documentation that the FCC must transfer to NARA at the end of the charter or when the committee is terminated. Hence, committee members have to copy the DFO on all emails pertaining to the business of the committee or its working groups, and also copy the FACA-specific mailbox for each committee. Ms. Gamble explained that once a year, the Office of the Managing Director will check in with the committee and the DFO to ensure that the committee has identified its file plan (where the records are being electronically maintained), met their retention period and make sure everything is copied into that mailbox.

Office of the General Counsel Presentation. Paula Silberthau, FCC Office of the General Counsel, explained that the CEDC would be governed by the rules of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The purpose of the FACA rules are to encourage openness in government, diverse and balanced membership, and public accountability. Notice of CEDC meetings must be published in the Federal Register 15 days in advance of a meeting, and provide a way for the public to participate. Records of meeting minutes must be maintained and made available for public inspection and copying. Additionally, Ms. Silberthau emphasized that the DFO should be copied on all emails pertaining to the business of the committee or the working groups, in addition to copying the general mailbox that's been set up (CEDC@fcc.gov). Working groups can create draft reports with preliminary findings, and the informal working groups have the flexibility to meet without public notice. The goal is for the working groups to follow their agendas and make recommendations to the parent FAC, Ms. Silberthau explained; the working groups cannot speak on behalf of the full CEDC without prior approval and consent and they cannot make direct recommendations to the FCC. Ms. Silberthau noted that if in the future a member is no longer employed or associated with the organization they've been chosen to represent, the DFO should be advised so that alternative arrangements can be made. Also, Ms. Silberthau noted that if a member leaves one organization for another, then the new organization could make a request to have that individual appointed as a member representing them. Ms. Silberthau also discussed policies regarding attending working group meetings (to which a member is not assigned), ex parte rules, and limitations on communicating on behalf of the FACA.

Discussion of CEDC Working Group Assignments and CEDC Website. Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer Rashann Duvall explained the process for member assignments to the three working groups: Digital Empowerment and Inclusion, Innovation and Access, and Diversity and Equity. Co-Deputy Designated Federal Officer Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa explained the CEDC's mailbox and the

process for submission of public comments on the CEDC's work in Docket GN 17-208. Next, each of the FCC staff persons explained the overarching goals of each working group:

Innovation and Access: Recommend solutions to reduce entry barriers and encourage ownership and management of media, digital, communication services and next generation technology properties and start-ups to encourage viewpoint diversity by a broad range of voices, including people of color, women, LGBTQ, and persons with disabilities, among others. Secondly, it's to study successful approaches to fostering diversity, equity and non-discrimination in video, media and technology ownership, management and distribution. Thirdly, it's to make recommendations on how to accelerate the entry of small businesses, including those owned by women and people of color, into the media, digital news and information, and audio and video programming industries including as owners, suppliers and employees. Fourthly, it's to examine issues surrounding access to capital, financing and participation of small, diverse businesses in the media and technology sectors, and, lastly, this working group is to evaluate the impact of new technologies, including algorithms, on diverse consumers.

Digital Empowerment and Inclusion: The objective of this working group is to identify innovative solutions and provide recommendations for how to accelerate the equitable deployment of broadband access in all communities, including those communities that comprise people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and are affected by persistent poverty and inequality in access to technology, communication services and next generation networks, which have resulted in negative impacts in education and employment. Provide recommendations for reducing and removing regulatory barriers to the equitable deployment of and investment in broadband access and adoption in all communities, including tribal, rural and historically marginalized communities. Provide recommendations for strengthening existing networks and developing new ones, and make recommendations for addressing digital redlining and other barriers to impact equitable access to emerging technology in underserved and under-connected communities including among people of color, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ Plus.

Diversity and Equity: This working group will study the under-representation, under-employment and challenges to the advancement of diverse employees in the media, communications and technology sectors, that serve as barriers to equal opportunity. It will also identify practices to encourage participation, upscaling, development, promotion and advancement opportunities for historically under-represented groups in these sectors, including people of color, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, tribal citizens and LGBTQ Plus. It will also propose solutions and approaches on how the FCC can affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, racial justice and equal opportunity in the telecommunications industry, including government not-for-profit sectors and for-profit businesses, to address inequalities in workplace employment, policies and programs. It will highlight best practices of industry leaders in training and employment diversity in the media, communications and technology fields, and develop recommendations for innovative training programs in science, technology, engineering and math.

Working Group Chair Remarks. Each working group chair provided opening remarks: Robert Brooks, Chair, Innovation and Access (Howard University); Chris Wood, Chair, Diversity and Equity (LGBT Tech), and Dr. Dominique Harrison, Chair DEI Working Group (Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies).

Summary of Previous ACDDE Activities and Recommendations. CEDC Chair Heather Gate led a discussion examining the previous recommendations from the predecessor diversity advisory committee

ACDDE, and its three working groups: Access to Capital, Diversity and Tech, and Digital Empowerment and Inclusion. Vice Chair Susan Au Allen and Vice Chair Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee engaged in this discussion as well.

Questions/Comments from the Public. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Adjournment. Following closing comments from CEDC Chair Gate, CEDC Vice Chair Susan Au Allen, and DFO Jamila Bess Johnson, the meeting was adjourned by CEDC Chair Gate.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I have reviewed the above minutes dated November 3, 2021, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are accurate and complete.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Gate, Executive Vice President, Digital Inclusion
Connected Nation
Chair, Communications Equity and Diversity Council
Federal Communications Commission