

**Minutes for the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah County, Oregon
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

BOARD BRIEFINGS

Chair Jeff Cogen convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Diane McKeel, Loretta Smith and Judy Shiprack present.

B.1 Informational Board Briefing on Survey Results from May 11th, 2011 Town Hall Event. Sponsor: Commissioner Smith. Presenters: Dr. Harold Briggs, Professor, School of Social Work, Portland State University & Adam Briggs.

Commissioner Smith provided the introduction and said that on May 11, 2011, her office held a forum for young African American men. As part of the forum, a questionnaire was distributed to learn more about the participants. The results for these questionnaires are intended to potentially inform the Board's decisions during the budget process and throughout the year.

Dr. Briggs began by stating that the voices and requests of African American men and young males are infrequently heard or used in policy-making decisions. He went over the questionnaire results, distinguishing between the answers of African American adult and young men. Survey questions asked where they'll see themselves in five years; what barriers to success they confront; who they most look up to; what career fields they're most interested in; what three wishes they have, etc. As policy makers, Dr. Briggs advised the Board to recognize the barrier of education to youth success as they see it and to consider that the lack of youth interest in trades, construction, and the medical/health field may be tied to lack of exposure of these careers in school. Dr. Briggs stated that at-risk youth and their parents need access to evidence-based approaches in centers for academic excellence and centers for career building, awareness, and cultivation that incentivize youth academic success.

Dr. Briggs spoke about the importance of developing healthy inquiring minds and successful black families. He introduced his son, Adam Briggs, who spoke about academic conditioning and the culture of learning and career cultivation that needs to be accessible for youth and adult black men, especially those who are at risk and involved with the delinquency and dependency courts in the County.

Dr. Briggs responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked Dr. Briggs and his son for their presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Submitted by:
Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County