**MINUTES**

**CalAccount Blue Ribbon Commission**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.**

901 P Street, Rm 102 Sacramento, California 95814

*Public Participation Call-In Number:* (877) 411-9748; *Access Code:* 3790012

**OPEN SESSION**

ITEM #1 ROLL CALL

***Call to Order and Roll Call***

Stephanie Tom for Treasurer Fiona Ma, Chair, calls the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M. and advises that the meeting is being recorded.

Mariah Ramos, Commission Presenter, calls roll.

Minnie, Public Phone Line Coordinator announces to the public joining in by phone the instructions for being heard.

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| Members Present: | Stephanie Tom for Fiona Ma, CPA, State Treasurer’s Office |
|  | Greg Young for Clothilde Hewlett, Commissioner of the Department of  Financial Protection and Innovation |
|  | Byron Lopez, Governor Appointee |
|  | James Hicken, Governor appointee  |
|  | Manisha Padi, Governor appointee |
|  | Paulina Gonzalez-Brito, Senate appointee  |
|  | Virginia Varela, Senate appointee |
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| Members Absent: | Miguel Santana, Assembly appointee  |
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| Staff Present: | Stephanie Tom, Deputy Treasurer  |
|  | Spencer Walker, General Counsel  |
|  | Mariah Ramos, Commission Presenter |
|  | Aldo Ruiz, Spanish Translator |
|  | Minnie Dhillon, Public Phone Line Coordinator |

Chair Tom declares a quorum present.

Chair Tom advises that public comment will be limited to two minutes per person or four minutes if an interpreter is needed.

Aldo Ruiz, Spanish Translator, translates the instructions for public comment in Spanish to public participants joining in the room and on the public phone line.

ITEM #2

***Executive Director Report***

Chair Tom introduces the agenda item and asks Executive Director Cassandra DiBenedetto to proceed.

Executive Director DiBenedetto announces and welcomes the newest Blue Ribbon Commission member, Virgina Varela, a Senate appointee.

Executive Director DiBenedetto announces that the RAND report is on track for a July 1st delivery date to the legislature and general public.

Chair Tom asks if there were any comments from the Commissioners.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks Minnie, if there were any public comments on the public participation line.

Guest Speaker Sarah Zimmerman makes a comment regarding the phone lines and asks if the right number is provided and if there is any issues with the phone lines.

Chair Tom instructs Phone Line operator Minnie to check the phone lines to ensure that they are working.

Chair Tom, thanks Sarah for informing everyone about the possible issue with the phone lines.

Chair Tom then repeats the request for any public comments with agenda item number two and instructs Minnie to proceed with any public comments from the phone lines.

Seeing none, Chair Tom moves forward with the next agenda item.

ITEM #3 ACTION ITEM

***Approval of the March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes***

Chair Tom introduces item number 3 of the agenda: Approval of the March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks Minnie, if there were any public comments on the public participation line.

Hearing none, Chair Tom asks if there was a motion to approve the Minutes from the March 21, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Paulina Gonzalez Brito motions to approve.

Commissioner James Hicken seconds the motion.

Chair Tom asks Ms. Ramos to call roll.

Ms. Ramos calls roll:

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| *AYE* | *NAY* |
| *Chair Stephanie Tom* | *None* |
| *Commissioner Greg Young*  |  |
| *Commissioner Byron Lopez* |  |
| *Commissioner Jim Hicken* |  |
| *Commissioner Manisha Padi* |  |
| *Commissioner Paulina Gonzales-Brito* |  |
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Chair Tom recognizes the Minutes as approved.

ITEM #4

***Guest Speaker Sarah Zimmerman and Brandon Dawkins***

Chair Tom introduces item number 4 of the agenda: Guest Speakers Sarah Zimmerman and Brandon Dawkins.

Guest Speaker Ms. Zimmerman introduces herself as a SEIU consultant and hands off to Brandon Dawkins to introduce himself.

Guest Speaker Mr. Dawkins introduces himself as Vice President of Organizing for SEUI and passes it back to Ms. Zimmerman

Guest Speaker Ms. Zimmerman informs everyone that she is also on the advisory committee and expresses her excitement with speaking to everyone regarding outreach and best practices from their experiences. Her goal is to give everyone the key ingredients that they believe will be helpful in making CalAccount successful.

Mr. Dawkins moves forward with discussing outreach and how SEIU provides a variety of assistance to members.

Mr. Dawkins provides the commission with experiences and ways that can help be successful in outreach.

Ms. Zimmerman continues the presentation with examples of additional outreach efforts that work and what is needed to get to scale.

Ms. Zimmerman speaks on the ways that partnering with coalitions can help reach goals. By focusing on the target groups and who would be the most interested in this program. She mentioned community college members could be a great target for CalAccount.

Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Greg Young thanked the guest speakers and agreed with the points that were presented, specifically the community college route. He continued to speak about the importance of trust and gaining trust in the communities. Cybersecurity is a concern, so education would need to be incorporated in. If the issue of fraud occurs, the trust is gone.

Chair Tom asks if there are any other questions.

Commissioner Byron Lopez thanked the guest speakers. He also works with SEIU and understands the different communities. He brough up how some of the workers are required to have checking accounts and how knowing your target audience is important for success.

Chair Tom asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from those in the room.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from those on the phone.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks the translator to translate.

Spanish Translator Ruiz translates.

Hearing none, Chair Tom moves forward with the next agenda item.

ITEM #5

***RAND Update***

Chair Tom introduces item number 5 of the agenda: RAND update.

RAND member Elizabeth Marsolais provides a brief update on the status of the report. She informs all in attendance that the report will be posted and published on July 1st. RAND will not be speaking on any further details until the report is published on July 1st in which there will be a public comment period that provides opportunity for further questions and comments.

Chair Tom asks if there are any questions from the commissioners.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from those in the room.

Guest speaker Sarah Zimmerman asked if Ms. Marsolais was able to provide any obstacles that RAND has came across in their findings.

Ms. Marsolais informed her that they are waiting until July 1st to speak further on any findings.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks if there are any additional questions or comments from the public.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks the translator to translate.

Spanish Translator Ruiz translates.

Hearing none, Chair Tom moves forward with the next agenda item.

ITEM #5

***Public Comment and Adjournment***

Chair Tom introduces item number 6 on the agenda: Public Comment and Adjournment

Chair Tom asks if there are any questions from those in the room.

Seeing none, Chair Tom asks if there are any questions or comments from the phone lines.

Seeing none, Chair Tom announces the next Blue Ribbon Commission meeting and adjourns the meeting.