

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation - Insurance Diversity Program

300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1700 - Sacramento, CA 95814

www.insurance.ca.gov/diversity



Insurance Diversity Task Force 2nd Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date & Time

June 11, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM PST

Location

California Department of Insurance (CDI)

CDI Sacramento (Headquarter Office):

300 Capitol Mall, 17th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

I. Task Force Meeting Call to Order

a) Roll Call – Conducted by California Department of Insurance (CDI) Staff – Shannon McCollum

- Attendance: Mark Morales (2024-25 IDTF Chair), Vikita Poindexter (2024-25 IDTF Vice Chair), Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Linda Akutagawa (joined at/around 11:34 AM), Imelda Alejandrino (joined at/around 10:57 AM), Annalisa Barrett, Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias, Pradip Khemani, Jose Plascencia, Cecil Plummer, Tommy Smith, Marquita Thomas, and Chandara Phanachone (Commissioner Designee)
- Absent: Alycia Anderson and Kelly Huang

b) Establishment of Quorum – Quorum Established

II. Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

No public comments received.

III. Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Motion to approve minutes from the 2025 1st Quarterly Insurance Diversity Task Force (IDTF) moved by Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubia (IDTF); seconded: Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner (IDTF)

- Meeting minutes from 2025 1st Quarterly IDTF **approved**.
- Task Force member Marquita Thomas abstained.

IV. Introductions

Task Force: Mark Morales (Outgoing Chair), Vikita Poindexter (Outgoing Vice Chair), Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Annalisa Barrett, Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias, Pradip Khemani, Jose Plascencia, Cecil Plummer, Tommy Smith, Marquita Thomas, and Chandara Phanachone (Commissioner Designee & Chief, Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation (OIDI))

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CDI Staff: Jennifer Van, Director, Insurance Diversity Program; An Kim, Manager, Insurance Diversity Program; Shannon McCollum, Manager, Insurance Diversity Program; Miguel Bastidas, Chief Deputy Legislative Director; Stesha Hodges, Chief, Health Equity & Access Office; Maxine English, Manager, Office of Strategic Planning & Initiatives

V. Task Force Administration & Elections Process

a) Procedural Overview:

Jennifer Van, Director, Insurance Diversity Program (CDI), outlined the election procedures for the 2025-2026 Insurance Diversity Task Force leadership. The candidate slate included:

Candidate for 2025-2026 Chair: **Vikita Poindexter**

Candidate for 2025-2026 Vice Chair: **Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias**

b) Candidacy Statements:

Vikita Poindexter read her Candidacy Statement for the Task Force Chair.

Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias read her Candidacy Statement for the Task Force Vice Chair.

c) Action Taken - Roll Call Vote & Election Outcomes:

Motion to approve the slate moved by outgoing Chair Mark Morales (IDTF); seconded by Pradip Khemani

Jennifer Van (CDI) – Conducted roll-call voting for the Poindexter-Cobarrubias candidate slate:

- Ayes: Mark Morales, Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Annalisa Barrett, Pradip Khemani, Jose Plascencia, Cecil Plummer, Tommy Smith, Marquita Thomas, and Chandara Phanachone (Commissioner Designee)
- Nays: None recorded.
- Abstain: Vikita Poindexter and Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias
- Absent: Imelda Alejandrino, Linda Akutagawa, Alycia Anderson, and Kelly Huang

Confirmation of 2025-2026 Insurance Diversity Task Force Leadership: Vikita Poindexter confirmed as Chair; Dr. Fabiola Cobarrubias confirmed as Vice Chair.

VI. Department Welcome Remarks & Recognition of Service

a) Welcome Remarks:

- Michael Martinez, Chief Deputy Commissioner, acknowledged the current state of affairs, and encouraged members to prioritize well-being and mental health while commending them for their continued commitment to advancing the important mission of this Task Force and the Department. Chief Deputy Martinez emphasized the Department's support for the work of the Task Force and its members.
- Chief Deputy Martinez also emphasized that the mission of the Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation remains critical, particularly as other industries and states look to California as a model.

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- Chief Deputy Martinez congratulated the first-ever all-women leadership slate who were just elected into office by the Task Force, which represents a significant milestone in representation and inclusion for the future of this group.
- b) Recognition of Task Force Leadership:
 - Outgoing Task Force Chair Recognition:
 - On behalf of Commissioner Lara and the California Department of Insurance, Chief Deputy Martinez thanked Mark Morales for his four years of leadership as Chair, his steady leadership during a period of growth and transformation of the Insurance Diversity Program as part of the Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation.
 - Shared that a Department certificate of recognition would be presented to Mark at a future date.
 - Task Force Member Reappointment Recognition:
 - Martinez recognized Dr. Cobarrubias on her reappointment to serve another term on the Task Force through March 2027, highlighting her deep contributions to board diversity work and health equity.
 - Task Force members and CDI staff offered heartfelt messages of thanks and appreciation to Morales, while joining in congratulatory remarks to Dr. Cobarrubias.

VII. Policy & Legislation Updates

- a) Miguel Bastidas, Chief Deputy Legislative Director, stated the department currently has 13 bills they are sponsoring. He gave a summary of a few:
 - [SB 547](#) (Rubio) or the Business Insurance Protection Act, is currently with the Assembly Insurance Committee
 - [AB 597](#) (Harabedian) regarding Public Insurance Adjusters, is currently with the Senate Insurance committee
 - [SB 525](#) (Jones) regarding Manufactured Homes Coverage, is currently with the Assembly Insurance committee
 - [AB 843](#) (Garcia) regarding Language Access in Health Care, hasn't been referred to a committee yet
 - [AB 554](#) (Gonzalez), or the Protecting Rights, Expanding Prevention, and Advancing Reimbursement for Equity (PrEPARE) Act of 2025, hasn't been referred to a committee yet
- b) Chandara Phanachone, Chief of the Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation (OIDI), gave an update on [SB 354](#) (Limón), or the Insurance Consumer Privacy Protection Act, which would modernize the state's insurance privacy laws, and provide greater consumer protections for Californians. She stated it was recently voted off the Senate floor by 27 to 10 votes. The bill is headed to the California State Assembly.

VIII: 2024-2026 Strategic Plan – Updates & Discussion

- a) Update on 2024-2026 Strategic Plan:

Chandara Phanachone, Chief, OIDI, emphasized that the Office of Insurance Diversity & Innovation is a permanent fixture at the Department which demonstrates the

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Commissioner's commitment to equity and innovation. She presented the Task Force with a detailed timeline and progress update for the Strategic Plan. Of note was that all projects are progressing as planned, with all moving beyond the conception and initiation phases. 67% of the projects are in the planning and design phase with 33% of projects in the execution phase.

Four Pillars of Impact:

- **Pillar 1: Public Relations and Communications**
Effective communication is essential in promoting awareness and engagement with diversity efforts.
 - Progress Update(s): Planning Board Diversity Webinars – KPMG, etc., National Association of Insurance Commissioners' engagement, pending publication of State of Board Diversity Report, and Diverse Business Enterprises Fact Sheets.
- **Pillar 2: Community Engagement**
Strengthening relationships with industry stakeholders, advocacy groups, and diverse business communities remains a priority.
 - Progress Update(s):
 - 2025 CA Supplier Diversity Symposium - Hosted a Session on "Future of Responsible Innovation" with Task Force members;
 - 2025 Blue Shield Supplier Diversity Summit – Speaking engagement to share results and impact of the California Insurance Diversity Survey and progress of OIDI
 - On the Horizon: Engaging with board directors on a future Board Leadership webinar
- **Pillar 3: Access to Opportunities**
One of the main goals is to improve access to procurement and capital for diverse businesses.
 - Progress Updates: 2025 Diversity Dialogue – Corporate Directors Forum, 2025 CA Supplier Diversity Symposium, and 2025 Insurance Diversity Summit (on the horizon)
- **Pillar 4: Recognition and Accountability**
Promoting accountability within the industry is critical to advancing supplier and board diversity efforts.
 - Progress Update: 2025 Insurance Diversity Index

Task Force members discussed the need for:

- Better engagement with younger, digitally savvy audiences through social media and video
- Continued investment in partnerships with universities and national research think tanks
- Highlighting of successful board appointments and supplier partnerships in future case studies

The session concluded with an invitation for members to suggest further collaborations or case study profiles for inclusion in the Department's materials

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Jennifer Van, Director, Insurance Diversity Program (CDI), asked the Task Force for guidance on how to thoughtfully present the 2025 Insurance Diversity Index amid heightened political sensitivity around DEI initiatives. She noted the importance of celebrating companies that are advancing inclusive practices while being mindful of unintended risk for those continuing their efforts. Mark Morales recommended highlighting organizations that demonstrated year-over-year improvement.

IX. 2025 California Supplier Diversity Symposium Recap*An Kim, Manager, Insurance Diversity Program (CDI)*

- CDI co-hosted the 2025 CA Supplier Diversity Symposium (Symposium) on March 13, 2025, in Sacramento, CA in partnership with the California Statewide Coalition on Diversity Initiatives
- Key Highlights:
 - 33 speakers, 32 exhibitors, and 316 attendees
 - Majority of attendees identified as small and diverse businesses
 - Positive feedback: 89% satisfied, 95% would recommend the Symposium to others
 - Popular session: "Meet the State Advocates" hosted by the Department of General Services
 - Task Force members praised the Symposium for its practical benefits and networking opportunities.

X. 2025 Insurance Diversity Summit Planning*Jennifer Van, Director, Insurance Diversity Program (CDI)*

- Save the Date: October 14 (Summit)
- Location: ASU California Center Broadway, Los Angeles, CA

Van asked Task Force members for session topic ideas. Smith suggested how small business can use AI tools and strategic networking. Khemani suggested a live AI demo. Alejandrino offered to speak at the networking session.

XI. Past/Upcoming Events & Announcements

- Upcoming Events:
 - Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) National Conference: June 23–26, 2025 – New Orleans, LA
 - National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) Conference: August 19–22, 2025 – Las Vegas, NV

XII. Future Meeting Agenda Items

No agenda items proposed.

XIII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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XIV. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Mark Morales (IDTF)
Seconded: Marquita Thomas (IDTF)
Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM PST.