

Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color in California

Members:

The Select Committee features a bipartisan group of legislators who represent the diverse constituencies and different geographical regions of the state of California:

Sandré R. Swanson – Chair	Dem-16 (Oakland)
Steven Bradford	Dem-51 (Inglewood)
Nathan Fletcher	Rep-75 (San Diego)
Warren T. Furutani	Dem-55 (Long Beach)
Richard S. Gordon	Dem-21 (Palo Alto)
Shannon L. Grove	Rep-32 (Bakersfield)
Tony Mendoza	Dem-56 (Norwalk)
Anthony J. Portantino	Dem-44 (Pasadena)

Purpose of Committee:

The California Select Committee on Men and Boys of Color will examine key issues affecting the health and well-being of men and boys of color in California for the purpose of developing a comprehensive state policy, and programmatic recommendations to improve the health, educational and economic outcomes for this population. The recommendations will focus on six key areas—Health, Education, Employment and Wealth, Violence Prevention, Youth Development, and Juvenile Justice—with the relevant state agency (i.e., legislative, administrative, executive order) being assigned responsibility for carrying out the Committee recommendations.

Key Activities:

The Select Committee will conduct hearings beginning in August. The first hearing will take place in Sacramento and will outline the issues and highlight prior research and findings. There will be a series of local meetings to discuss models and best practices that successfully address the disparities. At the hearings, facts and opinions will be presented from witnesses with varied backgrounds, including Members of the Legislature and other government officials, interest groups, and academics, as well as citizens likely to be directly or indirectly affected. These hearings will also occur in Oakland, Los Angeles, and Fresno. The final meeting will again be in Sacramento and will outline the Select Committee's findings and recommendation. In general these hearings will:

- Raise public visibility of the issues facing young men and boys of color and the importance of addressing these concerns to the state as whole.
- Bring the Legislature directly to the key regions representative of the issues impacting young men and boys of color;
- Inform the Select Committee's recommendations by detailing approaches that the Legislature, state agencies and other players can take to improve the life outcomes of men and boys of color.

While format for the committee hearings will be finalized in conjunction with legislative Tri-Caucus staff, it is envisioned that each regional hearing will include:

- Testimony made up of recognized regional and state experts who can address the six core areas-- Health, Education, Violence Prevention, Juvenile Justice, Employment and Wealth, and Youth Development-- in a historical and political context;
- Respondent panels of policymakers, faith leaders, grassroots leaders, and opinion leaders actively engaged in priority issues;
- Engagement and dialogue with media leaders in each region to constructively address the challenges that surround narrowly defined media messages about issues facing boys and men of color, and to determine ways to increase the number of positive stories and messages;
- A summary panel that would identify cross-cutting issues and produce the policy platform.

Proposed Select Committee Outcomes:

- Increase awareness among state and local policymakers, leaders, and the public of the critical issues facing BMoC and what it means for California's future
- Coalesce stakeholders around a shared vision and action plan for BMoC and California
- Engage policymakers and leaders to work together on specific strategies to realize the vision
- Identify legislative and administrative actions that can be taken

Project Deliverables:

- Synthesis of available research and data on conditions of young Boys and Men of Color in CA
- Review of policy and best practices research on strategies and programs that improve the health and well-being, and life expectancy of men and boys of color
- Focus groups with key stakeholders and with interest in addressing issues related to BMoC
- Summary materials and policy briefs to inform hearings on BMoC
- Partnerships to support the Select Committee hearings on BMoC
- Policy recommendations and final report
- Communications and dissemination of final report
- Recommendations regarding establishment of permanent Commission on the status of BMoC will be provided

Draft Schedule

August 17, 2011

- Sacramento Hearing—Draw on prior research and findings to give members an overview of state of BMoC in key areas (health, education, jobs and wealth, juvenile justice, etc.); Frame state's stake in improving the health and success of BMoC; identify strategic challenges and opportunities for state leadership and action to turn around outcomes for BMoC; Lay out Select Committee's Vision for Change, Key Objectives, Hearing Approach and Schedule.

Fall 2011

- Oakland Hearing—Present description of state of BMoC in the region; identify and discuss models and best practices that successfully address the disparities; consider role state departments and agencies can play in taking these solutions to scale.

Spring 2012

- Los Angeles Hearing—Present description of state of BMoC in the region; identify and discuss models and best practices that successfully address the disparities; consider role state departments and agencies can play in taking these solutions to scale.

Summer 2012

- Fresno Hearing—Present description of state of BMoC in the region; identify and discuss models and best practices that successfully address the disparities; consider role state departments and agencies can play in taking these solutions to scale.

August 2012

- Sacramento Hearing—Presentation of final report, findings, and recommendations, and Select Committee Members plans' for furthering the recommendations.

