

Kansas African American Affairs Commission Meeting Agenda

[Join Teams Meeting](#)

[1 785-414-8630 #](#) Topeka, Kansas

Phone Conference ID: 911693070 #

Friday, April 30, 2021

4:00 pm- 5:30 pm

- I. **Call to Order and Welcome**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Chairman's Opening Comments**
- IV. **Public Comment**
- V. **Minutes** – Friday, March 24th, 2021
- VI. **Special Guests:** Jessica Noble, Executive Director, Kansas Volunteer Commission
The Kansas Volunteer Commission presents five Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) learning sessions intended to provide participants with an introduction to DEI concepts and vocabulary. The five-part course developed by Dr. Bongi Wenyika, addresses the following topics:
 - History, Immigration, Assumptions and Myths About What is American
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Definition, Dimension and Types of Diversity
 - Dynamics of Inequality
 - Understanding Disability by Challenging Ableism Through Inclusive Practices
 - Raising Awareness of LGBTQIA Challenges in Communities

Prisca Barnes, President and CEO Storytime Village, Inc.

Update on the Kansas African American Literacy Coalition

The African American Literacy Coalition will increase the number of African American students in Kansas who can read at a proficient level by the fourth grade, through the approach of governance, advocacy, and community organizing in collaboration with nonprofits, statewide organizations, school districts, and institutions of power across the state of Kansas.
- VII. **Commissioner District Reports/Updates**
- VIII. **Executive Director Update**
- IX. **Action items:**
- X. **New Business:**
- XI. **Old Business**
- XII. **Announcements**
- XIII. **Adjournment**



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

PRESENTS A FIVE-PART INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

CREATED BY
DR. BONGI WENYIKA, PHD, MHR

REGISTER TODAY AT
[KANSERVE.ORG](https://kanserve.org)

COURSE OPENS MARCH 29, 2021

African American Literacy Coalition

BE THE VILLAGE.

The African American Literacy Coalition will increase the number of African American students in Kansas who can read at a proficient level by the fourth grade, through the approach of governance, advocacy, and community organizing in collaboration with nonprofits, statewide organizations, school districts, and institutions of power across the state of Kansas.

THE ISSUE:



85% of African American fourth graders are below proficient in reading.

Effects of low literacy include:



Higher rates of high school dropouts



Unemployment and low-paying jobs



Higher rates of incarceration



Poor health outcomes

THE SOLUTION:

GOVERNANCE:

Support existing policies and create legislation that support and protect the holistic development and health of Black children and their parents in Kansas.

ADVOCACY:

Support organizations, students and teachers currently working on literacy efforts and better conditions for public schools.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING:

Engage the surrounding communities throughout the state of Kansas, develop new and local leaders, facilitate coalitions, and develop relationships with the community.



Next Steps:

Sign up to receive more information about the coalition and notifications about future meetings at:

storytimevillage.org/literacy-coalition

Future Timeline:

March – April:

Coalition-building and recruitment

May:

Introduction of the coalition, goals, and mission

June – July:

First Meeting: vision, campaign, education, and advocacy planning