

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

Meeting of 12 September 2000

Conference Room A,

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order John Lyons, Vice chair, at 7:07 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests

Present: de Leon, Graebner, Schimps, Shaffer, Shoffner, Eastman, Shulman, Keele, Lyons, Miller and Botzler; Anna Decicco (HSU intern)

Excused Absent: Giovannetti,. Unexcused absence: Taylor. Guests: 1

B. Approval of Minutes

Keele moved (Shaffer seconded) to approve minutes, with one correction
Section E.3.c. should read "Facing History and Ourselves"

C. Public Comment.

Jim Hogue, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, summarized his role as a facilitator and advocate to help influence government organizations to fully recognize and enforce the legal rights of people with disabilities.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Shulman had about 12 calls.

a. The Humboldt County Grand jury requested attendance by a Commissioner at their next meeting to summarize the complaints registered with the Commission on inadequate medical care or other poor treatment and conditions at the Humboldt County jail. After some discussion, a few cases were recalled over the last 3 to 4 years; Keele will summarize the Commission information with the Grand Jury.

b. Ms. Carrie Slack, a College of the Redwoods Sociology teacher requested a Commission presentation at an introductory sociology course on Wednesday 15 November to summarize the responsibilities and work of the Commission. Shoffner will attend

c. Humboldt State University's Youth Education Services (YES) program will have some of their students attend future Commission.

d. One caller claimed discrimination at a redevelopment senior housing project. Shulman has not yet been able to successfully contact the caller.

e. Senator Chesbro's office referred a man who claims that the Center for Child Advocacy, a local court affiliated group, was requiring his attendance at Alanon meetings which contained a strong religious message contrary to his personal religious beliefs. Shulman contacted Judge Buffington who is sending a written response to the Commission.

2. Keele had two items.

a. The Civil Liberty Monitoring Project information has been received

b. The 5th Annual Hate/Bias Crimes Conference meeting will be held in September.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM) - Miller

Shulman has sent out Draft #2 of the tabulation form for citizen complaints and Draft #3 of the Citizen Complaint Follow-up Questionnaire

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) - Shoffner

Shoffner had no new information to report; the group is meeting in Fort Bragg.

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Shaffer

a. Giovannetti still is working on the program on Native American Concerns.

b. Giovannetti met with Principal Pat Daly of St. Bernard High School.

c. Shoffner will become a member of the St. Bernard High School Board

d. Lyon has contacted the Southern Poverty Law Center for information on some programs.

e. Eastman will coordinate the Human Rights Month activities. Shoffner suggested approaching KEET-TV about having a program about human rights matters for Human Rights Month

f. Shaffer is continuing to work with HSU Professor Keri Gelenian to establish a Facing History in Ourselves program. At this point, the Facing History in Ourselves organization is not supportive of establishing a program here without more demonstrable community support.

g. Shaffer called and complimented The Ink People for their continued support of human rights issues in the community.

h. Shaffer proposed developing a program for the Professional Development Catalogues of the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) entitled "Youth Educating Against Homophobia," with support enlisted from the Commission, HCOE, Eureka City Schools, the Integrity program, and the Northcoast Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Keele moved (Schimps seconded) that the Commission support this workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

i. Botzler announced the HSU Campus Week of Dialogue on Race scheduled for 2 to 6 October 2000. He proposed having the Commission develop a poster for a possible poster session at the Conference as well as to have available for other community events in which the Commission participates. Decicco volunteered to help develop the poster. Shaffer and Botzler will meet with to view the poster before the Conference

4. Hate Crime Information Network - Keele

The Hate Crime Information is serving as the sponsor of the State Attorney General's office hearings on 4 October in Humboldt County. The hearings are designed to improve the reporting of hate crimes in California. Testimony will be received from several groups, including Native Americans.

5. Finance - Keele

No change in finances

6. Neutral Observers

Shulman will meet with other members of the Neutral Observer's Committee, Tamara Falor (County Counsel) and Supervisor John Woolley to discuss the means by which other human rights commissions have expanded their services beyond that specified in the founding legislation. Shulman is arranging to have a 4 October meeting with Fred Persily and other available Neutral Observer members and one Supervisor to discuss more detailed information about what other California commissions are doing to expand the scope of their services.

7. Community for Common Ground - Botzler

Risk Manager Kerr is completing the survey of County departments and preparing a summary for John Murray, County CEO.

8. Other Committees and Liaisons

There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

9. Contact Reports

a. Botzler reported on 4 contact reports. In all cases the complainants decided to not pursue the case any further or were currently addressing the problems on their own.

F. Unfinished Business

1. The annual retreat was moved to 6 January 2001. All members were requested to confirm that they could attend the retreat at the next (10 October) meeting.

2. Shulman moved (Keele seconded) that the phone message protocol be adopted, as revised. Motion passed unanimously

3. Shulman moved (Shoffner seconded) to table the discussion of the Speaker's Bureau and move the discussion to item E.3. for the October meeting.

G. New Business

No new business was considered.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned 9:55 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 10 October 2000, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary