

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES
Meeting of 14 November 2000
Conference Room A,
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order Joe Giovannetti, Chair, at 7:02 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Giovannetti, Schimps, Lyons, Shaffer, Eastman, Shulman, Keele, Miller, Graebner, Jewell and Botzler

Excused Absent: Taylor, Shoffner; Unexcused absence: deLeon. Guests: 5

B. Approval of Minutes

Shulman moved (Eastman seconded) to approve minutes, with two corrections. Passed unanimously

In Section D.4., Shaffer clarified that HCOE was not withdrawing their sponsorship. They simply were unable to sponsor.

C. Public Comment.

None given at this time. Two guests provided comments or asked questions during the meeting.

D. Correspondence and Telephone Calls

1. Graebner had one call on the answering machine. The call regarded the Youth Educating Against Homophobia program. Graebner referred the caller to the local schools to address some of her concerns.

2. Schimps received 12 calls on the answering machine. Four expressed concerns about the proposed "Youth Educating Against Homophobia" program, in particular that the Commission may be using the program to advocate a gay lifestyle in schools. One additional call was an inquiry about flu shots, there were two queries regarding law enforcement, and an inquiry about child welfare services

3. Shaffer noted receiving a phone call supporting and one concerned with the Youth Educating Against Homophobia program.

4. Shoffner reported (via Botzler) of a proposed letter being drafted for Sheriff Lewis regarding the high telephone rates in the County jail.

5. Correspondence was received from the editor of the North Coast Journal stating the position that she believed her reporter's quotes of Commissioner Shoffner were accurate.

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Committee on Law Enforcement Matters (CLEM)

a. Miller reported that data collection on citizen complaints is continuing. Taylor is compiling the information collected. Miller will check with LECAH on a standard set of data provided on citizen complaints by each department.

2. Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of Humboldt (LECAH) - Shoffner
No report

3. Outreach and Education Committee - Giovannetti

a. The Committee recommended adopting all three brochures developed by Anna Decicco and Lynn Gregory.

b. Shaffer is developing a letter to determine the levels of interest among county school administrators for human rights-related programs in their schools.

c. Giovannetti noted that the & November program on Native American Views on Tribal Sovereignty, sponsored by the Commission and the Hoopa Tribe, was very successful

d. It was announced that Maggy Herbelin had agreed to serve on the Speaker's Bureau for the topic of Mediation, Charles Herbelin is available to speak on Child Abuse, Joseph Dupris can speak on Native American Issues, and Sam Oliner has agree to speak on Altruism.

e. Shaffer clarified that the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) informed him that they were unable to sponsor the "Youth Educating Against Homophobia" program because

their staff was not involved in the planning and they were not contributing to the budget of the program. However, they were providing their facilities and listing the program in their catalogue.

4. Hate Crime Information Network - Keele
No report

5. Finance - Keele
The treasury holds \$112.77

6. Neutral Observers – Shulman

Shulman and other members of the Neutral Observers Committee met with Senator Wesley Chesbro earlier today (14 November) to discuss the Commission's request of Senator Chesbro to sponsor legislation to broaden the scope of topics covered by Human Rights Commissions in California to include prejudice and intolerance in its many forms and other issues that County Supervisors find divisive in their communities. Broadening the formal list of state-supported human rights topics would extend state sovereign immunity to these additional issues. If Sen. Chesbro is able to sponsor such a bill, the Commission will contact CAHRO and other human rights organizations around the state to encourage them to have their legislators support this bill.

7. Community for Common Ground (CCG) - Botzler

Dave Hardy and Botzler met with Supervisor John Woolley and County Risk Manager Kim Kerr on 30 October to discuss the proposed Mediation First Policy agenda item for the 7 November Board of Supervisor's meeting. The item called for actions: Board affirmation of the Mediation First Policy of December 1996 and a proposal to offer communication skills training on a voluntary basis to County employees. Discussions centered on the voluntary nature of the training program and for ways of assessing its effectiveness. Shoffner and Botzler attended the 7 November Supervisor's meeting where the agenda item passed unanimously. CCG is now assessing future plans and projects.

8. Other Committees and Liaisons
There were no other reports from committees or liaisons.

9. Contact Reports
None reported

F. Unfinished Business

1. It was moved (Eastman, Botzler) that Anna Decicco and Lynn Gregory be thanked for their work on the new brochure. Passed unanimously.

G. New Business

1. An agenda will be discussed for the 6 January workshop
2. A follow-up of a high school hate incident will be discussed
3. A possible change in meeting time of the Commission will be discussed.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, 12 December 2000, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room A, County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Botzler, Secretary