

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MINUTES

DRAFT

Meeting of 12 October 2004

Conference Room A

Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

Vice-chair Byrd Lochtie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Lochtie, Lyons, Aziz, Miller, B. Shaeffer, J. Shaffer and Botzler

Excused absence: deLeon, Tharp,

Unexcused absence: Stein

Guests: 3

B. Approval of Minutes

Lyons moved (Miller seconded) that the 14 September 2004 minutes be accepted as written. Passed unanimously. A brief announcement and discussion of Chair Maura Eastman's resignation was held.

C. Public Comment

1. One guest, a physician working with homeless persons, expressed concern with continued cases of purposeful injuries inflicted on them by others; a case was cited of the Sheriff's Department not following up with a recent assault.
2. One guest from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) announced a debate sponsored by the ACLU that was being held on 19 October 2004 at the Bayside Grange, 7 pm.

D. Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

1. Miller reported 61 calls, including 45 calls from one woman with a very wide variety of concerns. Miller believed the Commission was near the end of her list of resources and that she appeared to have alienated most potential sources of support among potential resources in the community. Miller encouraged her to not call further unless she had additional information on which the Commission could act and reminded her that as volunteers, we had limited resources with which we could provide support. Another call included a man who raised serious allegations about both a Eureka and an Arcata Police officer who appeared under the influence of drugs; the respective chiefs were contacted by the person and Miller later also spoke with Chief Douglas. A woman had some problems with the Blue Lake Police Department; she has not yet provided further information. A gay man raised a complaint against a California Highway Patrol officer for discrimination against himself and his gay partner when stopped during an emergency trip to the hospital; they have filed a complaint with the CHP. Three calls were received regarding issues for which adequate information has not yet been received to assess the nature of the complaint. Four calls were received providing information to the Commission or requesting information about the Commission meeting times. Two calls were received about landlord discrimination or property management problems; both were referred to legal aid attorneys. Two calls were received from very distraught or disturbed individuals; follow-up information was not provided by either caller. A Del Norte County woman complained about disrespectful treatment by a pharmacist and was referred to the grand jury, the D.A.'s office and the State Attorney General's office. A father complained about a local private agency worker who was not addressing the sexual abuse of his child by the mother's boy friend; he was filing a complaint with the local agency.
2. Lochtie reported 8 calls. One was from the Arcata Eye requesting to not be sent FAX material. One was from a woman concerned about inappropriate actions of a probation officer towards her son; she was encouraged to speak with the Probation Department or, alternatively, with an attorney. Two calls were received for L. Miller to ensure that consistent information was being given to a third person. A woman concerned about overmedication in a nursing home was referred to the Senior Resource Center ombudsperson. A woman complaining about improper foreclosure by a local bank was referred to the State Insurance Commission. A Eureka woman complained about being excluded by her parents from their property and rude behavior by the Sheriff's Department; she was referred to a legal aid attorney. A Sempervirens patient complained about not being able to leave; no further calls were received or actions were taken.
3. J. Shaffer reported that the fall catalogue of the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) is available, but few activities or events related to human rights issues were included.
4. Phone list for coming weeks.

Tharp	16 to 31 October 2004
Stein	1 to 15 November
Botzler	15 to 31 November

J. Shaffer	1 to 15 December
Aziz	16 to 30 December
Lyons	1 to 15 January 2005
B. Shaeffer	16 to 31 January
	1 to 14 February
	15 to 28 February

E. Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

1. Finance (Lochtie). There have been no known changes in the bank balance in the past month.
2. Law Enforcement Matters
 - a. Botzler left a message with Arcata Chief Randy Mendosa, chair of Law Enforcement Chiefs of Humboldt County (LECAH), informing him that a brief statement offering the Commission's assistance already appeared on the Arcata citizen complaint form, and expressing an interest in the inclusion of such an offer of assistance from a Commissioner on each of the local law enforcement citizen complaint forms; no response has been received.
3. Independent Observer Program (Miller)
The group continues to meet and the Sheriff appears more sympathetic to considering observers having access to private property during demonstrations.
4. Outreach and Education Matters (Shaffer)
 - a. No new information on HSU involvement with possible Channel 12 programs.
 - b. Botzler and Issac Carter (HSU) have exchanged voice messages about possible joint activities, but have not been in direct contact.
 - c. Goals for outreach activities will become a regular agenda item under Unfinished Business.
5. A brief summary of homeless resource cards distributed was reported by Miller and Jewell.
6. Calendar review of upcoming events (J. Shaffer)
 - a. November is the HSU Campus Dialogue on Race
 - b. November also is the month to submit information for the next year's HCOE catalogue.

F. Unfinished Business

1. Lochtie will discuss current progress on the airing of public service announcements at the next meeting.
2. The Patriot Act memo change from "persons" to "citizens" was put off until next month.
3. Lochtie will follow up on membership in California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) next month.
4. Rick will follow up on the availability of overnight accommodations in Arcata.
5. Lochtie will follow up with Eastman on the status of the annual report to the Supervisors.
6. The issue of same-sex marriage will be moved to next month's agenda
7. The issue of surveillance cameras in Humboldt County will be moved to next month's agenda
8. Miller will follow up about new information on the law enforcement subcommittee.
9. Botzler distributed the current Speaker's list, received some suggestions, and will distribute a revised list for discussion at the next meeting.
10. No report on progress for a new intern
11. No further report on a periodic column in the Times-Standard or other local media.
12. No other updates

G. New Business

1. Discussion on implementation of the draft was postponed to next month.
2. The joint project with HSU of encouraging a welcoming of students among local businesses was put off to next month.

H. Adjourn

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 November 2004, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Courthouse, Eureka.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Botzler, Secretary

Date: Thu, 28 Oct 2004 09:16:35 -0700
To: byrdloch@aol.com
From: Abdul Aziz <aa3@humboldt.edu>
Subject: Workshops on Racism at HSU

Hi Byrd,

I checked with the Multicultural department of HSU regarding the possibility of participation by interested members of the HRC. This is what I found out:

- (1). There is no room for an additional workshop.
- (2). On Nov 4 there is a special session in which the participants will break into different groups. They would discuss 'Racism and how to overcome it'. If any of the members is interested he/she could contact 'Multicultural Center' at HSU for more information. Their phone no. is 826-3364
- (3). A number of workshops will be held from Nov 2 to Nov 11. All are open.

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Best wishes.
Abdul Aziz