

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of February 13th, 2007
6 p.m., Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

The meeting was called to order by Chair Botzler at 6:10 p.m.

Attendance and Introduction of Guests

Present: Munsee, Tillinghast, Tharp, Filar, Botzler, Lochtie, Miller, Shaffer, Ward

Excused absence: Lyons

Guest: four guest were present

Minutes – Motion Filar, Second Tillinghast to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Public Comment – One guest voiced concerns about police brutality and stated support for a police review board to be established in the community.

Correspondence, Contact Reports, and Telephone Calls

Phone call reports

Shaffer reported that he received seven jail calls that he referred to Miller. He received multiple other calls. One caller reported that a youth in juvenile hall had derogatory comments made to them by a probation officer. Shaffer determined the internal procedure at juvenile hall for complaints and shared it with the caller. Shaffer reported about another caller who had concerns that a psychological assessment completed for a youth in juvenile hall was incomplete. Shaffer provided them with the procedure to request a new assessment to be completed.

Miller reported that he has been working on multiple jail calls and some calls referred to him from other commissioners. Miller reported that one caller stated a fear of local law enforcement in their interactions with their teenaged son. The caller had concerns about their status as a Native American family and felt discrimination in the community.

There was a report about a caller who felt he has been targeted and insulted based on his sexual orientation and that law enforcement has not supported his claims when he reports them. Tharp stated that she has spoken with this caller previously and had attempted to connect the caller to the Queer Humboldt group for support. The caller determined that he would turn to a church group for supports in gathering evidence and will contact the commission again if that is not effective.

Filar reported that a caller had been at a party in Arcata where the police came and broke up the party. The caller's friend, who is African-American, was arrested and the caller states that excessive force was used by police in the arrest. The caller intends to speak with a lawyer about the incident. Filar reported that a local attorney, Ira Black, wished to speak about a police review board. Filar encouraged him to attend this meeting.

Other Correspondence

Tharp reported that she received contact from the organizers of Challenge Day, an event held in local high schools, and that they are interested in doing a presentation to the

commission. There was discussion about the event and concerns raised about the follow-up supports that are needed following an event like Challenge Day. It was agreed that Tharp will invite them to speak at the March meeting for approximately twenty minutes. Tharp also reported contact from Michael Weiss who wanted to come and speak for about five minutes about local resources for the GLBTQ community. It was agreed that he is always welcome to come speak at any meeting.

Shaffer shared current professional development listings and other periodicals with the commissioners.

Shaffer suggested that the District Attorney be contacted and asked to attend a meeting to discuss reporting of hate crimes in the community, including to what extent does he receive reports and what his knowledge is of local hate crime issues. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and agreed that Tillinghast will contact him and invite him to attend the April meeting.

Botzler reported contact from a man who had a complaint about Humboldt State's University Police Department. Botzler will be meeting with the man to hear about his complaint and Miller offered to also go to the meeting. Botzler has already spoken with UPD and they are aware of the complaint and have made efforts to address it.

Botzler reported contact from a member of the California Conservation Corps program in Hoopa while at the volunteer fair. The CCC member requested that a commissioner contact them about possibly speaking to students at Hoopa High School on human rights issues. Lochtie offered to call the CCC member and make arrangement for the presentation. Various other commissioners offered to also go and speak if they are available.

Botzler received a letter from the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard University that requested data collection be completed by human rights commissions and they provided an example from Los Angeles County. Ward suggested that the commission respond by providing them with the commission website address where data is available as the annual report. It was agreed that this was a good idea and Ward will respond.

Phone Duties

Miller	15 -28 February	Lyons	1-14 April
Ward	1-15 March	Lochtie	15 – 30 April
Munsee	16-31 March	Tharp	1 – 15 May

Committees, Liaisons, and Case Reports

Finance (Shaffer) There is a current balance of \$865.51 in the commission account. Ward reported that the new resource cards have been printed for a cost of \$324.97 and Shaffer will reimburse Ward for the cost of the printing. Botzler will check with Christina Albright and John Lyons about reimbursement to the commission for printing costs because they were exploring funding sources.

Law Enforcement (Miller) Miller stated that he is still looking into the medical and mental health services at the jail and he hopes to have a report for the commission by May or June.

Outreach and Education (Tharp/Filar)

Public Service Announcements None planned at this time.

Periodic Columns – There was discussion about the recent columns submitted to the media and how to submit them. It was agreed that Ward would contact some local publications to determine the best way for the commission to submit articles in the future. Botzler stated that he received both negative and positive feedback after the letters to the editor and made that feedback available for the commissioners to read.

There was discussion about the KMUD interview that Botzler and Tharp participated in recently. They received lots of positive feedback from community members and said it was a good experience.

Web Site (Ward) No report

Recognitions No Suggestions

Internship (Ward) Ward received contact from a possible intern but they chose to go with a different internship. Botzler received contact from a number of people interested in internships while at the volunteer fair, but it is now past the date when the internship had to have begun. Ward agreed to email those who expressed interest. One guest present at the meeting expressed interest in an internship and stated that he is doing it as a volunteer role and not as a course requirement. Ward requested assistance with the role of internship coordinator and stated that she will be unable to fill that role after the summer. Tharp agreed to take on the role and to work concurrently with Ward at this time.

Event Calendar (Shaffer/Munsee) No report

Unfinished Business

Email Discussion Policy Lochtie shared about the process of developing the policy and the review of the draft by County Counsel. The newest draft incorporated all of the suggestions by County Counsel, was reviewed by Counsel and approved. Lochtie made a motion to adopt the draft as a policy and Filar seconded the motion. In discussion it was determined that the draft distributed to the commissioners was not the final version and the motion and second were withdrawn. Botzler agreed to send out the correct version and it was agreed that action on the matter would be held until the next meeting.

Education Encounter Presentation at HSU Botzler confirmed our time and date to present at the Education Encounter as March 4th at 9:00am. Lochtie and Ward are unable to attend the presentation. Munsee and Shaffer both stated that they may be able to participate. Botzler will arrange a meeting to review the materials and prepare for the presentation.

Career Expo and Volunteer Fair Botzler and Lochtie both participated in the event and stated that it was a good experience and they got many questions from people who did not know about the commission.

New Business

Citizen Law Enforcement Board Proposal Lochtie and Botzler reported that they met with Bonnie Neely and discussed ideas about the review board. Lochtie thinks that we should wait to adopt the proposal until after we have heard from Neely about whether the Sheriff's Department supports the proposal or not. There was extensive discussion about whether the proposal was extensive enough in scope to be effective. Some concerns about a greater scope for the proposal were that it may delay or prevent a board being implemented because it would require agreement from multiple jurisdictions. Lochtie explained that the format of the current proposal came out of discussions with Christina Albright and Bonnie Neely about what would be most successful in making it through to being implemented and what the community would be most comfortable with. It was suggested that the jail and juvenile hall should be included in the proposal. There was extensive discussion about the proposed role of the advisory board and whether an advisory board should be recommended instead of a review board. Botzler offered to check back in with Bonnie Neely about the response from the Sheriff's Department and Lochtie agreed to prepare a letter to be presented to the board along with the proposal. It was agreed to revisit the issue at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Ward