

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

Meeting of November 13, 2007
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introduction of Guests:

Present: Botzler, Miller, Lochtie, Brake-Mills, Lyons, Herbelin and Sanders
Absent: Shaffer, Altschuler, Tharp, Tillinghast, Depucci, Filar, and Munsee
Guests: Donald Holt and Christina Allbright

B. Minutes:

Miller moved to approve minutes of October 9, 2007. Brake-Mills seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Telephone Calls, Correspondence and Contact Reports:

1. Calls

Brake-Mills reported receiving no new calls.

Miller reported receiving two calls:

One concerning financial aid for indigent burial.

The other regarding service dogs in the courthouse, the conduct of the private security in the courthouse, caller went to C.A.D.

Lochtie reports receiving four calls:

A person called concerning pursuing Title III action and the need for a referral to Placer County Human Rights Commission. She will contact with information.

The Fortuna City Council needs a representative from HCHRC to accept a proclamation on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6 p.m. Lochtie or Altschuler were suggested as possible representatives to accept the proclamation.

A regular caller had continued discussions regarding housing with an ongoing issue of housing rights. Discussion was held concerning housing. Open Door Health Center's social workers may be able to help individuals use and the possibility of housing through Redwood Community Action Agency (RCCA), maybe.

The last call was a complaint concerning Americans with Disability Act (ADA) service animals discrimination by business owners. Discussion was held regarding whether ADA can allow removal if the animal is disrupting normal activities of the business. Regarding animals in grocery stores, Health Department vs ADA. The people themselves determine if their animals are "service animals." There seems to be some gray area. It was suggested that a referral to trainers, animal rescue or Tri-County Independent Living (disability advocates) would be appropriate.

Phone List for Coming Weeks

Altschuler	November 16-30
Miller	December 1-15
Lyons	December 16-31

2. Correspondence

- a. LECA member contacted HCHRC regarding meeting.
- b. A letter was received concerning the issue of rent control in Humboldt County
- c. We received a letter from the Manila Community Service District regarding policies we have concerning complying with the Brown Act. Lochtie sent them a copy of our policy that was prepared by county counsel.

3. Contacts

Donald Holt addressed concerns regarding the Sheri Moore matter. He and his wife are cancer survivors and receive mental health services. He wonders what is being done in the community regarding justice for poor and/or disadvantaged individuals. He is prior board member of Humboldt For Habitat.

D. Committee, Liaison and Case Reports

1. Finance

Shaffer reports \$749.82 is the current balance. A \$100 check was received from the Humboldt County Bar Association, and an additional \$246 was received from passing the hat. A note was made to send them a letter of appreciation. A \$102.96 check was issued for printing costs incurred by Altschuler.

2. Law Enforcement

A Coalition For Police Review meeting is set for November 14, at 5:30 p.m. at 917 Third Street, Eureka.

3. Outreach/Education

Our program was presented at the Campus Dialogue On Race, "Sticks and Stones Can Break Bones." It would be nice to provide the program to instructors in the future. Everyone agreed that Lochtie did an excellent job as facilitator.

4. Website

Munsee not present. Miller reports that he reviews the website and that nothing of substance is there that has not been dealt with.

5. Recognition

Botzler reports that he will be present at the December 4 Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the proclamation recognizing Human Rights Month. The Board of Supervisors, Fortuna and Arcata have all responded positively. A reply will be sent back to those communities that sent an acknowledgements. Brake-Mills suggested public service spots in the media.

6. Internships

a. Will Mond contacted a number of police review committees and reported they have varying degrees of authority. None of the committees can force certain discipline on a particular officer. All are now private hearings due to the recent Copley case. Some committees open part of their meetings until considering specific complaints. Berkley and San Francisco committees have not yet returned calls. There

are three types of commissions. He will report on each type in an upcoming spreadsheet.

b. Christina Allbright reported on the issue of insurance, stating that a public commission could reduce the risk factor for the county, thereby reducing insurance rates for the county.

7. **Event Calendar** – The event chair was not present – members report that activities for Human Rights Month (December) are being worked on.

8. **Educational Forum** – No report.

E. Unfinished Business

1. **Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC)** – The public forum has been set for December 4, 2007 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. pending approval by the Board of Supervisors.

A rough draft of the letter being written to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors by Botzler was discussed. Lochtie moved that we send the letter to the Board of Supervisors as amended. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous approval.

Lochtie reports that the League of Women Voters approved the third forum and have no conflict of interest. The condition for their involvement is that there must be a balanced panel, that is representatives from law enforcement must participate. She also reports that Access Humboldt will broadcast the event, but not live. The cost is \$35 per hour, with one hour setup.

Miller reports that he has spoken to Supervisor John Wooley, who is agreeable to the forum being at the Board of Supervisors Chambers. We will need formal approval of the Board of Supervisors.

It was suggested that HCHRC send out invitations with a notice of the “anticipated” date and location, so we can plan the event in advance of the Board of Supervisors presentation.

Discussion was held regarding advertising the event with the “expected date.” The committee is to work out the final wording on the letter to invitees and the press release. Sanders will do the letters to invitees under his signature as secretary. Miller will contact Mitch at KMUD.

2. Citizens Forums

a. Discussion was held mentioning our public forums as being part of Human Rights Month in the press release.

b. Altschuler not present.

c. No report regarding My Word – Shaffer not present.

3. Latino Net happened, it was a success, but we had no presence.

4. Our information cards will be included in homeless backpacks distributed by the Methodist Church.

5. Question was raised whether we can get free copies with use of county copiers. Botzler will follow up and report back.

F. New Business

1. The Humboldt Area Foundation may help bring presenters up for the final forum.
2. Discussion was held concerning having a HCHRC presence at the Humboldt County jail. Miller asked whether HCHRC wants to continue responding to the jail. Brake-Mills stated that she believes we need to continue to respond and she needs someone to assist with backup. Miller and Lyons volunteered to be part of the committee regarding the Humboldt County jail.
3. Sanders gave a presentation about 290 registrants being treated like second-class citizens concerning residency. Albright would also like to present on 290 registrants, which is encouraged by the commission.
4. Seroptimist International has asked if someone from HCHRC would be willing to speak at their 7 a.m. meeting. Both Byrd and Brake-Mills volunteered.

G. Announcement

Lyons advised he is having a medical procedure on November 16, and will be unable to attend the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 6 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Neal I. Sanders