

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of September 4, 2008
6 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Lochtie, Interim Vice-Chair presided.

- a. Present: Altschuler, Brake-Mills, Herbelin, Lochtie, Miller, Shelter, Tharp
- b. Excused: Duncan (intern), Sanders, Shaffer

B. Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as corrected.

C. Public Comment

- a. There were no guests, so there was no public comment.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-mails

- a. Phone Calls - Brake-Mills reported having received four phone calls, only one of which necessitated a referral. The call dealt with a family situation, and the caller was referred to adult protective services. A person called from a university law school for information about The Commission. Miller reported a call about excessive force used by members of the Sheriff's Department during an arrest. The caller had filed a complaint with the department and an internal investigation is underway. Miller told the caller to call again if he was not satisfied with the action taken. Another caller called to report toxic substance in the ground but didn't want action from The Commission. He called to share information. Miller reminded commissioners to remember to give him contact sheets documenting phone calls. Brake-Mills said she'd like to see the contact sheets improved and offered to revise them. She'll bring a draft of new forms to the next meeting.

1. Phone List for coming weeks

1. Sanders (September 1 – 15)
2. Altschuler (September 16 – 30)
3. Lochtie (October 1 – 15)
4. Shelter (October 16 – 31)
5. Munsee (November 1 – 15)

6. Miller (November 16 – 31)

- b. Correspondence – Lochtie reported having received a notice regarding our e-mail account and its upcoming expiration. This was referred to Miller for investigation. Lochtie also reported having received a copy of the amendment to the Patriot Act Resolution requested by The Commission last year in which the word citizen is replaced with the word resident. She also read aloud a thank-you letter from Botzler to The Commission and distributed a copy of The Pyramid of Hate, a print-out from The Human Rights Commission of Sonoma County. This may prove useful later in the year as we present, "Sticks and Stones," our program dealing with discrimination in the classroom.

- c. E-mail – There was no report.

E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

- a. Finance (Shaffer)
 - 1. Shaffer was absent. No report
- b. Outreach and Education (Tharp)
 - 1. Altschuler reported that the resource cards have been sent to the printer.
 - 2. Website (Munsee)
 - Munsee reported that the LERAC minutes have been posted.
 - 3. Recognition
 - Brake-Mills recognized Shelter for outstanding work in the community in working with the homeless population and in improving community support for The Endeavor.
 - 4. Internship (Duncan)
 - No report. Duncan was not present.

F. Unfinished Business

- a. Law Enforcement Review Advisory Committee
 - 1. Lochtie reported that this committee has been meeting weekly and is working to put in place a pilot program using an auditor and an advisory board. They have been approved by The McLean Foundation to apply for a large grant for this purpose. The committee also plans to apply to the Area Foundation for funding. They hope to submit a recommendation to The Commission at the November meeting.
- b. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - 1. Altschuler said that this committee will be meeting again within the next two weeks. He has recently heard from Will Mond, a former Commission intern, who has offered help from a club on the campus of HSU whose members are interested in working with The Commission on this project. Lochtie offered to contact the superintendents of schools in the county and in Eureka to inform them of the project and to encourage support.
- c. Homelessness in Humboldt County
 - 1. Shelter told The Commission of several situations involving homeless people in the Trinidad area and suggested that this will be an area of concern in the near future. Brake-Mills reported that she has arranged to hold the special meeting of The Commission on Saturday, October 11, at The Unitarian Fellowship in Bayside. The purpose of the meeting will be to educate The Commission on homelessness in the county. The meeting will be from 9:00 – 5:00. Participants will represent various segments of the community with an effort being made to hear many points of view. Each participant will be asked to address The Commission for fifteen minutes and to remain for fifteen minutes more of discussion and questioning from The Commission. Shelter, Brake-Mills, and Munsee will continue to organize this event.

- d. Mental Health in Humboldt County
 - a. No report
- e. Humboldt County Code Enforcement
 - b. Miller said that The Task Force studying code enforcement in the county is still meeting and will probably be ready to make recommendations to The Board of Supervisors soon. Lochtie said that the Law Enforcement Review Advisory Committee has sent a letter to the task force telling of its work which might be of interest and of use to the task force.
- f. Immigration Issues
 - a. Miller reported on a recent ICE raid on Sun Valley Floral Farms and pointed out that this may be an issue that will coming before us in the near future. Lochtie commented on the complexity of the issue.
- g. Commission Meeting Times
 - a. The Commission decided to set the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. as its regular meeting time. Accordingly, the next meeting will be on Thursday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m.
- h. Forms regarding conflict of interest
 - a. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

G. New Business

- a. Tharp suggested that The Commission organize and sponsor an educational forum On Proposition 8 to be moderated by The League of Women Voters. This forum would be taped and played on channel 12 after the forum in order to reach and inform a wider audience. Lochtie will contact The League to investigate the possibility of their participation. She said that The League is very busy just before this general election, so The Commission would have to be responsible for the organization and logistics. Tharp and Altschuler will be responsible for this project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jean Munsee, Secretary