

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of October 2, 2008  
5 p.m. Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Altschuler, Herbelin, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shelter
- b. Excused: Brake-Mills, Duncan(intern), Lochtie, Shaffer, Tharp, Tillinghast
- c. Guests: There were no guests in attendance.

B. Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved as presented.

C. Public Comment

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

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-mails

- a. Telephone calls – Sanders reported on five calls. One related to a complaint regarding the molestation of the caller's daughter by someone in the sheriff's department. Another caller wanted information about a homeless forum. An out-of-town caller wanted help regarding employees' rights and was referred to local legal services. Another local caller reported a jail incident and said she'd send additional information for our consideration. The additional information has not yet been received. A final caller wanted help in dealing with harassment by her ex-husband and was encouraged to reconnect with her attorney or to contact another attorney. Altschuler, because of a personal situation, was unable to answer the phone this month, and Lochtie was not present to report. Sanders suggested that phone responders call the person assigned for the following month to remind her or him of his upcoming assignment and to share any relevant information.
  - i. Phone list for coming weeks
    - 1. Lochtie (October 1 – 15)
    - 2. Shelter (October 16 – 31)
    - 3. Munsee (November 1 – 15)
    - 4. Miller (November 16 – 31)
- b. Correspondence – Sanders received a notice from Eureka City Schools about an agency fair to be held on October asking whether The Commission wanted to participate. Sanders will respond saying that we are not able to participate this year but will be interested in considering it for next year. The Commission also received a letter from The Code Enforcement Task Force in response to our invitation to collaborate. The letter indicated that this may be a possibility in the future. Shelter reported having received correspondence from The Humboldt All-Faith Partnership announcing a meeting of Arcata city council candidates to debate the issues of poverty and homelessness at The Arcata Recreation Center on October 7.

## E. Committees

- a. Finance (Shaffer)
  - 1. Shaffer was absent but had sent a report of a balance of \$776.40.
- b. Outreach and Education (Tharp)
  - 1. Tharp was absent, so there was no report. Munsee reported that the resource cards were ready and on hand.
- c. Website
  - 1. Munsee reported that the website is up-to-date
- d. Recognition
  - 1. No report
- e. Internship
  - 1. Duncan was absent. Altschuler reported that Duncan continues to work on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Committee.

## F. Unfinished Business

- a. Las Enforcement Review Advisory Committee
  - 1. Sanders reported that the committee has submitted a grant application to The McLean Foundation to establish a pilot project establishing a police advisory board and an auditor. The committee is receiving good support from law enforcement and from other factions of the community. It is hoped that a committee proposal will be submitted to The Commission next month for approval.
- b. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - 1. Altschuler has a meeting on October with Linea Mandel of The County Board of Education to discuss collaboration.
- c. Homelessness in Humboldt County
  - 1. Shelter distributed an agenda for the special Commission meeting to be held on October 11 at The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship in Bayside to gather information about the situation regarding the homeless/houseless of Humboldt County. Commission members were reminded that this meeting will include a potluck lunch at The Fellowship. Shelter also reported that The New Directions program in Trinidad has worked so well that the police chief there wants to suspend the pilot program and convert it to a contracted program.
- d. Forum on Proposition 8
  - 1. According to Altschuler this forum will be held during the last week of October if it can be organized within the next week. The theater at College of the Redwoods will be the location. Herbelin will help structure the forum.

- e. Mental Health in Humboldt County
  - 1. Miller had nothing new to report, and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until January when it will be reconsidered.
- f. Humboldt County Code Enforcement
  - 1. Miller reported that the Code Enforcement Task Force will submit its report to the County Board of Supervisors on October 14.
- g. Immigration Issues
  - 1. Miller had nothing to report.
- h. Forms regarding Conflict of Interest
  - 1. Sanders distributed these forms to be completed by commissioners and returned to Munsee at the next meeting to be submitted to the clerk of The County Board of Supervisors.

G. New Business

- a. Voter Fraud
  - 1. Herbelin had received an e-mail relating to restrictions on voting. Sanders referred the e-mail to the Elections Office, an action The Commission deemed appropriate.

The Commission adjourned at 6:10.

Jean Munsee, Secretary