

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

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Altschuler, Brake-Mills, Herbelin, Holt, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Sanders, Shaffer, Shelter, Tharp, Tillinghast
- b. Excused: None
- c. Guests: Three

B. Minutes

- a. Minutes of November 6, 2008, were approved as presented.

C Public Comment

- a. A guest reported widespread chronic abuse and unsafe conditions at The Arcata Trailer Park. He has been in contact with The Fair Housing Authority and has been referred to the lawyer referral service. His goal in addressing The Commission was one step in publicizing the situation to the community.
- b. Another guest, a Yurok tribal member, addressed The Commission to articulate her concern regarding inadequate and unequal resources available to clients of the county mental health services. She was referred to NAMI for help.
- c. A third guest had been at the meeting of The Commission last month to discuss the closing of the pediatric respite program at St Joseph's Hospital. Further investigation has revealed to her that St Joseph's, as a private entity, is entitled to determine its offerings.

D Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

- a. Telephone Calls – Munsee reported having received a call from a researcher at UCLA looking for information regarding discrimination in housing and employment. He was referred to Heather Addison at The Housing Bureau. Sanders had advised one of the guests present regarding harassment at his trailer park and had two calls pending. Brake-Mills presented a revised form for contact reporting. Several suggestions were made by Commissioners, and the form will be revised by Brake-Mills and e-mailed to Commissioners for final approval.

Telephone Assignments

Sanders	December 1 – 15
Shaffer	December 16 – 31
Holt	January 1 – 15
Brake-Mills	January 16 - 31

- b. Correspondence – A letter was received from a jail inmate. Sanders said that by this time, the inmate has an attorney and is not in need of our assistance. An e-mail was received including a resume of a community member who offered to serve as a resource to The Commission.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Finance (Shaffer)
 - Shaffer reported a balance of \$776.40 after having written two checks, one for printing the resource cards, and one for printing materials related to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- b. Outreach and Education
 - There was no report as Tharp was not yet present.
- c. Website
 - Munsee reported that the website was up to date.
- d. Recognition
 - Brake-Mills suggested recognizing Shelter for his outstanding work with the homeless. The Commission agreed that this is a worthy suggestion and will consider it at an opportune time.
- e. Internships
 - There was no report as Duncan, our intern, was not present.

F. Unfinished Business

- a. Homelessness in Humboldt County
 - Shelter explained why the special meeting with the homeless/houseless community could not be arranged for the previously set date of December 6. It was agreed that there were no acceptable dates in December, and that this meeting will be re-scheduled for Saturday, January 17. The meeting will take place at The Endeavor from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. using the same format as that employed at the meeting in October. It was also agreed that this will be the second in a series of meetings on the same topic in an attempt to educate members of The Commission on the situation regarding homelessness/houselessness in the county. The third meeting will be held after the county report on the topic is released and will likely relate to that. Shelter also said that a group of people from HSU and one from Eureka are working to get the county to declare a state of emergency to facilitate the provision of shelter during the winter months.
- b. Law Enforcement Review Advisory Committee
 - Sanders distributed the cover letter to the proposal regarding the establishment of a law enforcement review advisory program. The letter and the proposal will be sent to members of The County Board of Supervisors and will be presented at the Board meeting on December 16. Members of The Commission were encouraged to attend the meeting.

- c. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Altschuler reported that Ms Mandel of The County Office of Education has distributed an e-mail to all county personnel to gather resources for the formation of a curriculum focused on human rights to be implemented next year. Will Mond's committee at HSU is also gathering resources. Ms Mandel is also collaborating with Altschuler in putting out a joint press release regarding the project, and Altschuler is waiting to hear from The Board of Supervisors regarding declaring next year a special Declaration of Human Rights Year focusing on community awareness and relevant activity.
- d Humboldt County Code Enforcement
Miller had no new information
- e. Immigration
Miller had nothing new to report.
- f. Conflict of Interest Forms
Munsee said that she had submitted forms returned to her to the Clerk of The Board of Supervisors. Outstanding forms will be turned in by various Commission members.

G New Business

- a. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 8, NOT the regularly scheduled first Thursday of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20.

Jean Munsee, Secretary