

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of January 8, 2009
5 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Present: Altschuler, Holt, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Sanders
- b. Absent: Brake-Mills, Duncan(intern), Herbelin ,Shaffer, Shelter, Tharp, Tillinghast
- c. Guests: none

B. Minutes

- a. Minutes of December 4, 2008, were approved as presented.

C. Public Comment

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

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

a. Telephone Calls

- 1. Sanders reported four calls. One person with a landlord/tenant complaint complained of malpractice by Northern California Legal Services. The complainant had made a complaint to the State Bar and it was suggested that he could contact a malpractice attorney. Another caller reported problems with The Arcata Police Department and was advised regarding the complaint process and the possibility of filing a civil suit. A third caller also had a complaint about The Arcata Police Department and its treatment of his disabled brother. This person was advised to work through Mental Health. Finally, a caller was dissatisfied with the work of a public defender. He was referred to a caseworker at The Redwood Coast Regional Center.
- 2. Holt reported having received four calls all of which were referred to Miller. One call was for additional resource cards and another to report dissatisfaction with all social service agencies in the county. None has been helpful in a child abuse and custody case in which she is involved. She was referred to Laura Eastman. Other calls were repeats.

Telephone Assignments

January 16-31	Brake-Mills
February 1-15	Altschuler
February 16-28	Lochtie
March 1-15	Miller
March 16-31	Munsee

b. Correspondence

- 1. Sanders reported having received a letter about the molestation of a teenager. The letter was not asking for action but was intended to apprise the Commission.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Finance (Shaffer)
Shaffer was not present, so there was no report.
- b. Outreach and Education (Tharp)
No report
- c. Website (Munsee)
Brake-Mills had noticed that the list of commissioners is not current. Munsee is aware of this and will have the list updated by the next meeting. Miller said that our domain will expire at the end of January. He will pay to have it extended as economically as possible and be reimbursed by Shaffer.
- d. Recognition
Brake-Mills was not present, so the item was tabled temporarily.
- e. Internship
Altschuler reported having had contact and discussion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Program with Duncan.

F. Unfinished Business

- a. Law Enforcement Review Board
Sanders reported on having presented The Commission's proposal for a law enforcement advisory review process to the Board of Supervisors and having addressed the Eureka City council at which meeting he suggested collaboration between the two entities. Loretta Nicklaus contacted Sanders to discuss details of the proposal and will be in touch again later as the projects develop.
- b. Homelessness in Humboldt County
There was discussion as to whether a meeting scheduled for January 17 at The Endeavor with members of the homeless community had been arranged. Sanders will contact Shelter to confirm the arrangements and email the rest of the commission.
- c. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Altschuler plans to meet again with representatives from the County Office of Education and will report back to The Commission regarding plans for programs and activities related to The Declaration. He will also draft a letter to be sent to various governmental agencies at the local, county, state, and federal level telling about the proclamation of next year as a year of universal human rights which was adopted by The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. A draft of the letter will be circulated to all commissioners before being signed by Sanders and sent.
- d. Code Enforcement
Miller said that The Board of Supervisors is working on a hybrid model for code enforcement based on the work of the task force.
- e. Immigration
There was no report, and it was agreed to drop this item from future agendas unless an issue surfaces

G. New Business

a. Commission Meeting Time

The Commission will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room A in the County Courthouse in Eureka.

Members discussed the need to recruit new members to The Commission, and Altschuler suggested that Tillinghast be asked to see if there might be someone in the Ministerial Association who might be interested in serving. Sanders offered to send e-mails to all commissioners encouraging personal recruitment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05.

Jean Munsee, Secretary