

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of April 2, 2009
5:00 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
- b. Absent: Shelter, Tillinghast
- c. Guests: There were three guests present.

B. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended.

C. Public Comment

- d. There was no public comment.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Contact Reports

a. Telephone Calls

1. Miller reported having dealt with four calls. One was from an asthmatic person who wanted us to know about an undesirable workplace environment. He was counseled to continue to work with an interested supervisor. Another call was from a victim of domestic violence who had made a number of contacts but was dissatisfied with the responses she had received. She was referred to the office of the District Attorney and instructed to call back if she did not get the help she needed. Another call was a garbled and unintelligible call from a homeless person, and the final call was from a mentally ill woman who needed someone to listen to her.
2. Munsee reported on seven calls. Someone called for help with a tenant-landlord dispute but couldn't be reached on a return call. Someone called from children's services requesting resource cards which Munsee delivered. A person called for information regarding joining the Commission. She was referred to the website and invited to attend the next Commission meeting where application forms would be available. A woman reported being cheated in business and was referred to North coast Legal Services and to Adult Protective Services. The program coordinator from the jail called to get information about inmates' access to help from The Commission. She was referred to Miller. Finally, a woman called again about the alleged illegal removal of minor children from her home. She did not answer return phone calls.

3. Herbelin reported having dealt with five calls. Some were duplicates of Munsee's, but in addition, she received information that Mental Health Services has a new phone number which is 268-2945. She also took a call about undesirable living conditions in a transitional living facility but was unable to help the person because of difficult communication on the part of the caller.

Telephone Assignments

April 1-15	Sanders
April 16- 30	Herbelin
May 1- 15	Brake-Mills
May 16-31	Holt
June 1-15	Lochtie
June 16-30	Munsee
July 1-15	Miller

b. Correspondence and E-mail Contacts

1. Sanders reported having received an e-mail inquiring about joining the Commission. He responded with the appropriate information. Also he received a letter from Economic Services of Humboldt County telling about a Youth-For-Job Program. Discussion of this program led into a discussion of resources for obtaining an intern. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting. Information was also received about a fair being held to celebrate the signing of The American Disabilities Act. The event will take place at Redwood Acres on July 24 . The Commission was invited to have a table at a cost of \$25. Miller will get more information about this and report back to The Commission.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Lochtie)

1. Lochtie reported a balance of \$831.40.

b. Outreach and Education (Altschuler)

1. Nothing new to report.

c. Website (Munsee)

1. Munsee will check the status of David Heise who is listed as a commissioner on the website but has not attended meetings.

d. Recognitions

1. Lochtie reported on the memorial service for Jack Shaffer at which she represented the Commission

F. Unfinished Business.

a. Law Enforcement Advisory Committee (Sanders)

Sanders reviewed the history of this project for guests and reported that the committee's proposal is still in the hands of the county staff and is expected to be returned to the Board of Supervisors soon. Sanders will contact commissioners when a presentation to the supervisors is scheduled, and he will contact the District Attorney to see if he will address the Board of Supervisors in support of the proposal.

b. Homelessness (Shelter)

Shelter was not present. Sanders had contacted the chair of the Planning Commission and been referred to Kirk Girard as a contact person for someone to address us regarding a plan to deal with homelessness in the county. Miller will contact Girard and make arrangements for a person to come to the next meeting of the Commission. It was decided that the committee on homelessness needs to be reconstituted. Brake-Mills and Munsee will work on this committee.

c. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Altschuler reported contact with Linea Mandel at the County Office of Education. She is working with others in the school system to formulate a list of sixty classroom activities to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This resource will then be distributed throughout the county for use in the current semester and in the fall. Altschuler will e-mail the list-in-progress to all commissioners for contributions of ideas.

e. Code Enforcement (Miller)

No new information was reported.

f. Commission Vacancies

Sanders sent numerous letters to faculty at HSU advising of four vacancies on the Commission. It was noted that three visitors at this meeting indicated interest in joining the Commission.

G. New Business

- a. After discussion of the desirability of a liaison with inmates at the jail, it was agreed that Miller will contact Karen Kesey, the program director, to see what, if anything, can be arranged. He will report back on this issue at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40.

Jean Munsee, Secretary