

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of July 2, 2009  
5:00 pm Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse

- A. Attendance and Introductions
  - a. Present: Farber-Bush, Heisi, Herbelin, Holt, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Pereira, Sanders, Shelter
  - b. Absent: Altschuler, Aronoff, Brake-Mills
  - c. Guests: There were two guests present.
  
- B. Minutes
  - a. The minutes were approved as presented.
  
- C. Public Comment
  - a. One guest voiced concern that police have been confiscating and destroying personal belongings of homeless persons, including medicines necessary to their well-being. She said that personnel from the mobile medical clinic have been meeting with representatives of The Eureka Police Department but have not found them receptive to these concerns. She felt that the police do not recognize the right of the homeless to their possessions.
  
- D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-Mail Reports
  - a. Telephone Calls
    - 1. Lochtie reported two calls. One was a request for more resource cards which she arranged to have delivered. The other was from a person in Rochester, New York, to whom she sent a fact sheet about The Humboldt Commission and a referral to the Commission website for additional information.
    - 2. Munsee reported having received three calls. One was from a person reporting a correction to our resource cards. Munsee confirmed that the information in question was correct on the cards. A second caller complained about conditions at a motel in Orick and was referred to North Coast Legal services. The third caller had a complaint about a situation at HSU but was unable to talk at the time contacted so will call back later.

Telephone Assignments

    - Miller (July 1 – 15)
    - Sanders (July 16 – 31)
    - Shelter (August 1-15)
    - Pereira (August 16 – 31)
    - Heisi (September 1 – 15)
  - b. Correspondence

1 Sanders reported having received two letters. One was from a jail inmate whom he visited and counseled regarding working through the judicial system.

2. Lochtie distributed two publications of interest.

c. E-Mails

1. One carbon-copied e-mail was received from a homeless person complaining about being harassed by The Eureka Police Department while sleeping.

E. Committees, Liaison, and Contact Reports

a. Finance (Lochtie)

Lochtie reported a balance of \$831.40.

b. Outreach and Education (Altschuler)

Altschuler was not present. Munsee and Pereira reported on having staffed a table at the Oyster Festival in Arcata. They agreed that few people were interested in Human Rights Commission information at this event but felt that the effort had been worthwhile as a means to help make our presence known in the county. It was agreed to attend another public event, possibly one with more informational booths. Commissioners thanked Farber-Bush for having procured a new supply of resource cards. The problem of circulating resource cards was discussed, and commissioners agreed to send lists of possible recipients to Sanders who will compile a master list from which commissioners will choose ones for which to be responsible. This will ensure that the cards are widely and adequately distributed as needed throughout the community.

c. Website (Munsee)

Munsee reported that the website is up-to-date.

d. Recognition (Sanders)

There was no action in this category.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Law Enforcement Advisory Committee (Sanders)

Sanders said that there was nothing new to report as the Board of Supervisors is preoccupied with budget considerations now.

b. Homelessness in Humboldt County

Shelter reported having received a grant of \$20,000 to implement his New Directions Program. He has signed a contract with the city of Arcata and is waiting for a designation of locations from which to work.

c. ADA Celebration (Respect for Abilities Day) on July 24

Sanders will submit the application for participation and attend this event.

d. Jail Liaison

The Commission agreed, with his agreement, that Sanders will deal with occasional necessary visits to people in the jail.

G. New Business

a. Latino Net Health Fair

Lochtie reported that this event will take place the second Sunday in October at The College of the Redwoods. She will attend as well as Herbelin and Munsee. Plans will be firmed up at the next meeting. Sanders will look into getting resource cards printed in Spanish.

b. Election of Officers

Commissioners voted on and unanimously approved the following slate of officers for the coming year.

Chair - Neal Sanders

Vice Chair – Sofia Pereira

Secretary – Jean Munsee

Treasurer – Byrd Lochtie

Jean Munsee, Secretary