

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission  
Meeting of February 4, 2010  
5:00 p.m. Conference Room A  
Humboldt County Courthouse  
Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

- a. Sanders introduced two newly appointed Commissioners: Dr. Cheryl Seidner Wiyot Tribe, and Kenna Adame, Yurok Tribe
- b. Present: Altshchuler, Brake-Mills, Adame, Seidner, Heise, Lochtie, Miller, Sanders, Shelter
- c. Absent: Pereira, Herbelin, Munsee
- d. Guests: Michael Hislop, DA Investigator  
Wallace and Sylvia -- John Lyons

B. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 7, were unanimously approved once suggested *minor* changes were made.

C. Public Comment

- a. Michael Hislop, who is running for Sheriff, spoke to the Commissioners about himself, his career, and his political platform for Sherriff in the upcoming election in June 2010. He spoke briefly on three topics:
- b. Budget
  - a. Service to Community
  - b. Leadership in Community

b. John Lyons appeared with several community members Wallace and Syvia regarding a female who is housed against her will at Granada Care Home in Eureka, CA. A woman, who was caring for her legal business, vacated her apartment and put everything in a storage shed under the authority of a "Power of Attorney". This has rendered the patient "homeless". There are no immediate family members in the area. A letter from the patient's niece in Ohio was read and circulated. Wallace is patient's "partner/boyfriend". Sanders and Miller will meet with patient at her care home to determine proper course of action.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and Case Reports

a. Telephone Calls

Pereira was absent. It is expected that she will report on calls she took at the next meeting.

Lochtie -- Will be updating information for the Volunteer Center of the Redwoods.

Miller took call from Wallace regarding his friend noted above who is at Granada Care Home against her will.

Miller took another call from a woman who feels discriminated against for housing due to her “dreadlocks” which she is not willing to cut. She is on SSI and there is no housing available to her. Shelter will work with Miller to refer her to NCRC for housing assistance.

#### Telephone Assignments

Munsee	January 16-31
Lohtie	February 1-14
Sanders	February 15-28
Shelter	March 1-15
Altschuler	March 16-31

#### b. Correspondence

Received letter from Brake-Mills regarding Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway project.

Sanders announced and distributed applications from the Board of Supervisors for the vacancies of the Citizens Law Enforcement Liaison Committee (CLELC).

Lohtie announced League of Woman Voters Forum on 2010 Census to target minorities on Thursday 02-25 from 6-8 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

Lohtie attended Community.net and they requested more Resource Cards. She would like 1200 in English and 500 in Spanish.

#### E. Committee, Liaison, and Case Reports

##### a. Finance

Lohtie reported a balance of \$821.40.

##### b. Outreach and Education

Lohtie reported that the Access Humboldt Project is still waiting to finish the construction. At that time, the Access Project will be open to the public for use and training.

Heise and Seidner will attend the HSU Volunteer Fair on Feb 26, 2010. They will be soliciting for a student intern for the Commission.

##### c. Website

Munsee was absent and Miller reported no correspondence via e-mail.

##### d. Recognition

The Commission recognized John Shelter for his award from the City of Arcata for **Non Profit of the Year**. He was subsequently sponsored by the Veterans to send him to New York to visit his

God Mother. This donation/award is similar to the “Make Wish Foundation”.

F. Unfinished Business

a. Homelessness

Shelter said stimulus money distributed to the Dept. of Health and Human Services is not being used to house single individuals rather they are focusing on families. Sanders formed an ad hoc group consisting of Miller, Sanders and Shelter, to identify “shovel ready” projects that could be the basis for obtaining stimulus funds for the homeless.

Eureka Shower project will open at the end of March 2010.

The kitchen is once again open at the NCRC.

b. Collaboration With Access Humboldt

Pereira was absent, but Lochtie reported on this item. The Access Humboldt Project is still waiting to finish the construction. At that time, the Access Humboldt will be open to the public for use and training. If the Commissioners wish to use Access Humboldt, we will have to attend training. The public Grand opening will be sometime in March 2010.

c. HSU Volunteer Fair and Intern from HSU

Commissioners discussed the need for an intern and the type of work we could use them for. A brainstorming session came up with the following ideas: website development, outreach and marketing, graphic arts background to prepare flyers etc., grant writing, homeless assistance and assistance with Caltrans Highway project.

Heise and Seidner will attend the HSU Volunteer Fair on Feb 26, 2010. They will be soliciting for a student intern for the Commission.

G. New Business

Outreach and Education

a. Caltrans Adopt A Highway project

Miller suggested that if the Commission were to adopt a highway that we, commissioners, must be willing to work on the project and that we do not depend on other volunteers to move forward.

Shelter offered assistance with his volunteer staff. We may also have our intern assist. Brake-Mills made commissioners aware that we will be volunteering and that we would be waiving liability to volunteer in this Caltrans program.

There was a unanimous vote to Adopt- A- Highway near Clam Beach on southbound Hwy 101. Sanders will sign the permit and Shelter will be our safety leader.

b. Speakers Bureau

The Commission is in the beginning stages of re-organizing the Speakers Bureau. A posted list of topics from our webpage was circulated. We will continue to discuss how the Commission can reach others and to provide support to the citizens of Humboldt County.

B. Update on Independent Observer Program

Miller reports the Independent Observer program is a continuing effort to eradicate abuse of power by authority. He states they need new members. Training will be provided.

C. Commission Meeting Times

Pereira has been absent because her work supervisor will not grant her the time off to attend meetings and a discussion ensued as to how to make the schedule work for everyone. It was decided that the meeting time and location will not change and if Pereira agrees, Sanders will write a letter to her employer asking that she be allowed to take off once per month to attend as a matter of community service. She is a valuable asset and the Commission does not want to lose her.

D. Candidate Speakers

After having Mr. Hilsop at the meeting to discuss his bid for candidacy, we would also like to invite the other candidate for County Sheriff. It was also decided that the Commission would like to invite the District Attorney candidates to speak with us but that we would like to wait until after the Primary election in June to extend that invitation.

E. Community Calendar Coordinator for Commission

Due to the Commissioners not all being aware of the Martin Luther King Jr. event held in Eureka, it has been determined that to stay apprised of local events, that a Coordinator position is necessary to capture all related events in Humboldt County and to place them on the Commissions posted calendar. Whoever agrees to do this, must be or be willing to become, well connected in the community in order to keep up with all the events. We will discuss the new Coordinator at the next meeting.

F. Statement of Economic Interest Forms

Sanders passed out the Statement of Economic Interest forms that each Commissioner must filled out, sign and present to our Secretary by April of this year. The forms are available online (and can be filled out online) at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) It is Form 700. If Commissioners have any questions contact Sanders.