

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of April 1, 2010
5:00 p.m. Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Present: Altschuler, Herbelin, Heise, Lochtie, Miller, Munsee, Pereira,
Sanders, Seidner,
Absent: Adame, Brake-Mills, Shelter
Guests: Dan Taranto

B Approval of Minutes

Lochtie moved and Pereira seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting in March. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

a. Items Not on Agenda

1. None

b. Items on Agenda

1. Dan Taranto reviewed for The Commission a history of the practice of public participation in general planning in the county. He displayed a chart showing the decline of public participation from 1984 when the practice was a vital part of the county's general plan to the present when only a vestige remains in the general plan and when the new housing element contains no public participation policy at all. He pointed out that these changes are contrary to regulations established by The CEPAK Committee's document of 1984. He feels strongly that procedural changes like these should have been effected through the established procedures, if at all, and that public participation is vital to the process. He asked The Commission to consider this issue and to write a letter to The Board of Supervisors noting the problem of educating the public and the disappearance of the public participation section of the general plan.

D. Telephone Calls, Correspondence, and E-mail Reports

a. Telephone Calls

1. Altschuler reported that a woman called regarding a child custody problem. She called back a few days later to say

that the problem was solved. Someone called from Alaska with a job-related problem but could not be reached on call-back. Someone called from The Job Market to request resource cards, and Andrea from The Community Health Center also called to ask for cards. Munsee will deliver these. Sanders reported that new cards are being updated It was agreed to continue distributing those we have before printing more. Altschuler offered to update the resource sheet to be used in addition to the resource cards. Michael called from HSU asking for an update on field placement. Heise will call him with the information.

Telephone Assignments

April 1 – 15	Sanders
April 16 – 30	Miller
May 1 – 15	Pereira
May 16 – 31	Herbelin
June 1 – 15	Heise
June 16 – 31	Munsee

b. Correspondence and Contacts

1. Sanders reported that he had sent a letter to The Times/Standard about the Wiyot Vigil, but it had not been printed. He also said that he'd received a permit application from CalTrans for the Adopt A Highway program, and he passed around information from NorCAN, a non-profit association of which The Commission is now a member. Lochtie reported that a photo contest is being held in May to draw attention to the stigma and problems experienced by the mentally ill and their families. Herbelin said that she has been asked to speak to The Quakers about The Commission, explaining who we are and what we do.

c. E-mail contacts

1. Sanders received an e-mail from Eureka Main Street saying that a program related to mental health is being planned to be held in May at The Arkley Center.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Lochtie)

1. Lochtie reported a balance of \$821.40 in The Commission account.

b. Outreach and Education

1. There was nothing further to discuss in this area.

c. Website (Munsee)

1. There was discussion about placing an indicator on the website indicating when it was most recently updated. Munsee will contact the webmaster to see if this is possible. It was agreed that the listing of speakers on the speakers' bureau is outdated. Munsee will bring copies of the current list to the next meeting when members of The Commission will collaborate in updating it.

d. Recognition (Sanders)

1. There was nothing to report.

E. Unfinished Business

a. Homelessness (Shelter)

1. As Shelter was absent, there was no discussion.

b. Collaboration with Access Humboldt

1. Lochtie was not able to attend a training session and will not be able to do so in the near future. Miller volunteered to attend. Altschuler suggested a project to be aired by Access Humboldt. The topic would be myth-busting and would be the results of a video contest publicized to all schools in the county. Various county organizations were mentioned as possible donors of prize money. Seidner mentioned that she is aware of plays related to myth busting that were done in the 1970's, and she'll look into locating them. As a result of this discussion, Sanders suggested the possibility of sponsoring another public forum focused on myths regarding various groups of people in the county. Lochtie agreed to contact The League of Women Voters to see if they would be available to work with The Commission to produce a forum in the fall. A committee was formed to work on this project consisting of Miller, Munsee, Heise, and Lochtie.

c. HSU Volunteer Fair and Intern Discussion

1. Seidner and Heise attended the gathering and felt it was worthwhile. Six people expressed interest in working as interns and signed up to do that. Heise will follow up with this. Katie Whiteside of KHSU talked to Heise at the fair and was enthusiastic about the possibility of an interview

of a Commissioner. Sanders will contact her to make arrangements. Heise also announced a Social Services Agency Fair to be held on May 25 at the County Library from 1:00 – 4:00. The topic will be, “Connecting People With Resources.” This will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

c. Event Calendar Coordinator

1. Herbelin suggested that this task be made part of the regular duties of the vice-chair of The Commission. Pereira, the current vice-chair, agreed to assume the responsibility of updating the calendar on the website and of providing commissioners with calendars of upcoming events at Commission meetings where they will be able to sign up to participate.

F. New Business

a. Taranto’s letter

1. After some discussion as to whether this is an appropriate issue for this commission, it was agreed that Lochtie will share information from The League of Women Voters as to what action they took and the rationale behind that action. There was general agreement that this commission needs more information before taking action, and Miller and Herbelin agreed to contact the Planning Commission to hear what those members have to say about the issue. They will report back to this commission at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Jean Munsee, Secretary
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission