

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission
Meeting of June 3, 2010
5:00 pm Conference Room A
Humboldt County Courthouse Eureka, California

A. Attendance and Introductions

Present: Adame, Altschuler, Brake-Mills, Herbelin, Heise, Miller,
Munsee, Sanders

Absent: Lochtie, Seidner, Shelter

Guests: There were four guests including two from Project Health

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended to change the phone schedule .
Munsee will answer phones from June 16-31, and Shelter will answer
phones from July 1-15 as originally scheduled.

C. Public Comment

a. Items not on the Agenda

Loren Canon and Dawn Dickenson from Project Health gave background on their organization which is dedicated to establishing positive policies regarding health access and treatment to transgender people. The organization works in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Eureka to educate the public about transgender issues. The goal in Humboldt County is to establish a county-wide policy of inclusion and, in the long term, to establish a clinic especially for transgender people. Their goal in addressing The Commission was to inform us and the residents of the county about this segment of our population and to send the message that California law prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression. They pointed out, however, that the Humboldt County non-discrimination policy does not make this same explicit prohibition. Miller suggested that they look into using Access Humboldt as a way of educating the public, and Heise suggested the use of the 20-minute interview program on KHSU for the same purpose. Sanders suggested the policy of asking the county to clarify its policy and suggested the Human Rights Commission as a vehicle to present a language change to The Board of Supervisors. He invited the members of Project Health to return to a meeting of The Commission with a proposal for our consideration.

b. Items on Agenda

There were none.

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

a. Telephone Calls

1. Sanders reported a call reporting harassment during a sweep by the sheriff's office of homeless people in Southern Humboldt County. Sanders suggested that the complainant attend a Commission meeting to detail the complaint and request assistance. He also received two requests for resource cards and delivered some to The Open Door Clinic and The Red Cross. Finally, he responded to a caller from Indiana by referring him to a local agency.
2. Herbelin received a call from a person complaining about treatment in a county correctional facility while being dressed and placed in the facility. She was advised to wait to see if charges were placed against her and then to work through her attorney. A man who had been assaulted a year ago called to say that he had just learned that the District Attorney had rejected his case. He was advised to go to civil court. A homeless vet from Southern Humboldt called to say that law enforcement is "hunting people" in his area. He was advised to attend the July meeting of The Commission. Another man had a complaint against Garr Neilsen but had filed a complaint.

Telephone Assignments

June 1 – 15 Heise
June 16 – 31 Munsee
July 1 – 15 Shelter

b. Correspondence

1. Herbelin shared a thank-you card and article on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sanders received and shared information about a funding research workshop. Sanders also reported that he is attending meetings of a group considering what we in the county should do in response to the immigration law recently signed into law in Arizona and said that Latino Net is planning to have a forum in July at their regularly scheduled meeting. He also mentioned that on July 29 a nationwide day of non-compliance is scheduled to occur.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance (Lochtie)

1. Sanders reported a balance of \$821.40.

- b. Outreach and Education
 - 1. Herbelin suggested that applications for both The Citizen Law Enforcement Liaison Committee and for The Human Rights Commission be put on the Commission website. Munsee will have this done.
- c. Website
 - 1. Munsee will post the above-mentioned applications, and Miller will look at the list of speakers and/or topics listed under the speakers' bureau with an eye to updating it.
- d. Recognition
 - 1. Sofia Pereira was thanked for her contributions to The Commission and best wishes were extended to her as she moves on in other areas.

F. Unfinished Business

- a. Homelessness
 - 1. Shelter was not present so there was no discussion of this item. It will be considered next time.
- b. Law Enforcement Liaison Committee
 - 1. Sanders reported having participated in an interview on KHSU in which he encouraged his audience to apply to serve on this committee.
- c. Collaboration With Access Humboldt
 - 1. Miller reported having visited Access Humboldt's facility and attended an orientation meeting. He plans to take a basics class offered in July and hopes to be ready to video the forum on immigration issues in September. Future general orientation sessions are scheduled for June 16 and July 19 at Eureka High School.
- d. Plays – No report as Seidner was absent.
- e. Student Video Project – Altschuler had no report.
- f. Forum on Immigration Issues in the county
 - 1. Munsee reviewed the report from the first meeting of the committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 16. Sanders suggested that an attorney for immigrants' rights, Glen Lum, might be a person to contact to participate in the forum.
- g. Public input into General Plan
 - 1. Miller will review the plan and meet with Dan Taranto. The Commission will discuss again at the next meeting.

- h. Adopt-A-Highway
 - 1. Available Commissioners will meet to work on June 12. i.
- i. Event Calendar
 - 2. This item was put off until the next meeting.
- j. Bylaws
 - 1. Altschuler moved and Herbelin seconded a motion that term limits for Commission officers be eliminated. The motion passed unanimously.
- k. Election of Officers
 - 1. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously.

Chair	Neal Sanders
Vice-Chair	David Heise
Secretary	Jean Munsee
Treasurer	Maggy Herbelin
- l. Annual Report
 - 1. Sanders reported that he has begun to work on this report.

Jean Munsee, Secretary
Humboldt County Human Rights Commission