

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Executive Board Meeting

Monday, May4, 2009/3:30p.m. – **5:00 p.m.**
Human Services Building, Room 239

Agenda

Members Attending: Carolyn and John Schwebel, Sherri West, Phil Smith, Linda Zucaro, David Cohen, Janice Sweeney, Kay Guadagno, Earl Teasley, Diane Schwarz, Leroy Hill, and Amy Mallet, Monmouth County Freeholder.

- I. Call to Order at 3:30PM– Salute to the Flag
- II. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes, minutes were approved with minor corrections.
- III. Chair’s Report- Earl discussed the conflict of interest relating to the letter to the President of Brookdale regarding diversity in college leadership. With that in mind, Earl would like to direct any future issues regarding diversity at Brookdale to the Economic Issues Core Team. Earl did not want the perceived conflict to distract from the larger issue.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report- Phil Smith reported a reimbursement for the trolley tours in the amount of \$300, for a total of \$1651.00, which should give us sufficient funds for the Monmouth County Fair. Linda mentioned another possible expense for a fall Youth Core Team Workshop, plus table cover. Earl added that the types of expenses to date have been the various community functions attended by members. To date, we have spent about \$1350.00, with the remainder of \$1650. Phil will meet with Mr. Brown, the new Human Services Administrator to learn any new procedures.
- V. Core Team Reports
 - A. Police and Community Relations- Earl reported that the team has not met but they are working on finding a meeting place that is accessible, hopefully in Asbury Park. John Schwebel has toured the possible meeting places and reports some problems with the facilities, and now is waiting to hear from Chief Kinmon. An alternate location is Red Bank. Linda Zucaro also mentioned use of her church, and Janice Sweeney, the Housing Office on Third Ave., which now houses the Asbury Seniors. John has completed all of the certificates to those attending the March, “Building Trust Workshop,” and these were mailed out last week.
 - B. Youth Awareness- Linda reported that Pat Collum is no longer serving in his former job, and, though continuing in Monmouth Educational Services, he has resigned from being the County Superintendent’s representative to the MCHRC. He has asked Carol Morris to appoint another representative. In the interim, Pat is willing to serve until his replacement is chosen. The group met on April 27th at Pat’s office, with Gail Becker, Director of Special Education in Long Branch, willing to be the new Chair. At the meeting plans for the fall workshop were discussed, with a tentative date of Oct. 2, 2009, at Long Branch High

School, and like past workshops, a morning presentation. The next meeting is May 19, 2009, at 3:30PM, at Pat Collum's office at the MOESC on Hope Rd., Tinton Falls. Two of the possible workshop topics are dealing with non-normative characteristics (autism, visual perceptions, for example), interpersonal issues and cyber-bullying, or Title IX, but no definitive topics have been selected.

- C. Economic Issues- Linda reported on the bus tour to be held on Thursday, May 7th, and circulated the agenda, along with explaining that an exhibit area to publicize the MCHRC materials and others will be available. Linda asked for volunteers to help with the exhibit. Linda is planning to step down as Chair of the committee on June 1. Sondra Cannon is willing to take over the Chair of this team.

VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams

- A. Membership- Kay Guadagno spoke with Lolita Jacobs and she is planning on attending the next meeting, with plans for her to submit her application for future consideration. Earl reiterated Carolyn's suggestion that prospective members to attend a meeting. There has still been no response from the Asbury Park NAACP, but Phil will reach out to his contact to get replacements for those who have resigned. A short discussion was held about the procedures for application when a member is representing an organization as opposed to an individual, with no definitive resolution. Leroy will forward the individual interested in representing the NAACP an application to be submitted.
- B. Communications- Carolyn mentioned that they are eager to publicize any information on the MCHRC.
- C. Incident Response and Reporting- Leroy reported there were no incidents this past month, with the exception of a call from a Brookdale employee, but Earl has not heard from the individual again. Earl is also waiting for a report regarding an issue of employer accessibility.
- D. Immigration Working Group- no meetings have been held, but Toby Shylit Mack asked for a reappointment as liaison to the MCHRC from the Sheriff's Office, which has lacked a representative for some years. Freeholder Mallet mentioned that the Mexican Community is being branded in the current swine flue outbreak, reading a portion of a letter from a constituent concerned about the failure of HHS to reveal the town of a case of the H1-N1 virus. Kay Guadagno mentioned that the Public Affairs Division at the County has done an excellent job of addressing these issues. It was decided that no correspondence from the MCHRC was necessary at this time.

VII. Old Business

- A. Utilizing the Development Workshop- Sondra distributed the PowerPoint at the last meeting and Earl would like for us to review it. Sondra has not received any responses to date.
- B. Letter to Brookdale Community College Board of Trustees/Response from Board Chair- Carolyn Schwebel distributed information tracing the discussion of this issue from the July, 2008, meeting. Diane Schwarz felt that the letter should have been viewed by the entire Executive

Committee before being sent, and Kay Guadagno commented on her concerns on procedures used in this instance, stipulating that any letter sent from the Full Commission should be reviewed. Earl said that that has not been past procedure. Various proposals were made, which included the need to make a policy regarding any letter issued on behalf of the Commission. Another issue addressed the issue of the Brookdale Trustees' Chair obtaining the address list of all members and sending them a letter directly, rather than replying to Earl's letter. This may be a matter of operational policy that needs to be considered for the future. Diane Schwarz moved that all public statements and correspondence on public issues be approved by the Executive Committee in advance and given to the Full Commission for their consideration; seconded by Kay Guadagno. Janice Sweeney suggested that procedures need to be written for all Core Teams. Earl discussed his role this matter, which may have added to the confusion of some members because of his delay in delivering the letter (from October to January). The delay was due to Earl's desire to work with parties involved, including the Administration at Brookdale. John Schwebel strongly supported Earl, commenting that there was no conflict of interest, and likened Earl to a whistle blower, calling attention to the lack of Brookdale staff diversity. He said that if we will be so closely governed, he, himself, as a member of the Equalizers, would not be able to speak on access issues.

Earl confirmed that he had let Brookdale know several times that he would be sending the president a letter from MCHRC with our concerns regarding Brookdale's lack of diversity in hiring. Carolyn moved to table Diane's motion, saying that there was not enough time to properly address such a drastic policy change, which was passed by the members.

A special meeting on this issue will take place at 2:30 p.m. before the regular MCHRC meeting on June 1, 2009. As Janice suggested, Earl will ask our secretary to send the notice of that special meeting to all MCHRC members.

Phil reported that Barry Johnson's mother died; the obituary was in Sunday's Asbury Park Press. Earl said that he would like our secretary to send a card from the MCHRC. The secretary is also asked to send minutes of all meetings to members along with the email reminder.

There was discussion of available handouts for the June 7 Pride day in Asbury Park. Earl would like fans; Phil will check the supply. Earl said that someone was going to check the date of the Latino Passport day, so that we could be represented there; that information should be obtained.

- C. Election Procedures- At Janice's request, referencing Robert's Rules, Earl asked Linda to submit a written report from her nominating committee, with meeting dates, etc. As Linda clarified, she had given the oral report

at the last meeting in April, it is in the minutes, and that is all our bylaws require. (Robert's Rules is only used to address items not covered by our bylaws.)

- D. Dave Cohen asked about nominations for officers presented at the April meeting. Linda clarified that she had presented a slate of officers, with a name for each position: chair, Linda Zucaro; vice chair, Fatima Jaffari; secretary, Sherri West, ;and treasurer, Phil Smith. There was also one nomination from the floor, for Earl Teasley as chairperson.

Linda announced that she is withdrawing her name for chairperson from the slate of candidates.

Janice said that she wanted to be involved in tallying the election. Sherri, as secretary, as per bylaws, will supervise, with Carolyn, Kay and Janice assisting the vote counting and written tally for the minutes.

- E. Annual Meeting & Certificates - Earl has written a letter that he will send this week to those who will be given certificates: Barry Johnson, Lynn Miller, Barbara McMorrow, Chief Hill, Pat Collum, Tom & Maxine Daniels, Howard West, Sr., and the other members who were officially voted out of the commission, as noted in the previous minutes.
- F. Resource Development- Kay mentioned that the table cover has been ordered and may be available on Thursday.

VIII. Calendar

- a. Special Executive Board Meeting – June 1, 2009, 2:30 p.m
- b. Next Full Commission Meeting – June 1, 2009, 3:30 p.m.
- c. Next Executive Committee Meeting – July 6, 2009, 3:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Submitted by Sherri West and Carolyn Schwebel.