

**MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Monday, July 12, 2010/3:30p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**AG Building Conference Room**

**4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728**

Attendance: Sherri West, Linda Zucaro, Janice Sweeney, Julius Ramsey, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Dave D’Amico, Bob Williams, Charles Brown, Sondra Cannon, Jeff Delaney.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:30, followed by the salute to the flag.
- II. The May 3, 2010, minutes were approved, following a motion by Dave D’Amico and seconded.
- III. Chair’s Report: Carolyn reported on the instances of bias she continues to see, recounting her recent experience after writing a letter concerning accessibility at a local building and the virulence of the anonymous online replies she received as an example. Linda echoed her concern by stating this is typical of much of today’s commentary on the web. Even though not typical of the entire community, as John Schwebel pointed out, it is imperative that the Commission continue to be vigilant and address instances of bias when and where they see it. Both Phil Smith and Dave Cohen are on the mend, and Dave plans to come to the next meeting with historical materials.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Carolyn reported that Phil Smith fell and broke his hip, now at home recovering, so no report was available.
- V. Core Team Reports
  - A. Youth Awareness – Linda Zucaro announced that the next meeting of the team will be on August 18, 2010, at 2PM at the Shrewsbury Presbyterian Church. The team continues efforts to form Human Relations groups in various school districts and has made appointments to speak to community and school groups in Wall and Red Bank Regional during the month of August. Also, the Fall workshop will be on Friday, Oct. 22, from 8-12, the theme to be “Cyberbullying: Part II,” focusing on practical steps to address cyberbullying.
  - B. Police and Community Relations – Since there is presently no chair, no meetings have taken place. Dave D’Amico, a member of the committee, reported that the most significant instances continue to be bias incidents. Efforts to get new members for the committee are ongoing.
  - C. Economic Issues – Sondra mentioned that the group has not met, but is in contact with someone in the county working on similar issues.
- VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams
  - A. Membership: candidates – Janice Sweeney reported on the applications to membership of Randy Thompson, Asbury Park, employed by The Arc of New Jersey, and Kendall Baldwin, Belford, Allied Health and Science High School sophomore. Both applications were circulated to the

Executive Committee for members to examine, while Janice and others comments on their qualifications for membership. Janice conducted a telephone interview with Randy, reporting his good leadership and communication skills. Janice recommended Randy for membership to the MCHRC, seconded by Sherri West, and approved by the Committee. Kendall Baldwin, Belford, New Jersey, would join as a youth member as she is a sophomore in high school, and very active in a variety of school and community events dealing with discrimination. Janice recommended Kendall as a Youth representative, seconded by Sondra Cannon. Linda spoke highly of her, and noted that she is already participating actively on the Youth Core Team. Her application to membership was moved by Linda Zucaro, seconded by Sondra Cannon, and approved. The Full Commission will vote on both applicants at the August 2nd meeting. Janice also spoke about other prospective members, including Ronni Reed, Staff Development Leader at Monmouth County, who is planning to apply, having been impressed by the Affirmative Action Workshops presented by the MCHRC. There may also be someone from PFLAG submitting an application.

- B. Communications – Carolyn wrote to Tom Pavinski, Executive Director of the Office on Aging, had sought input for a forum on needs of the senior population. She described accessibility issues, while another woman reported issues relating to transportation as ones currently in need of attention. Linda mentioned that we once had a representative from that office, and it would be good to reach out to see if we could have another representative. Charles Brown offered to discuss the idea with Tom to see if he, or a staff member, could join.
- C. Incident Response and Reporting – Dave mentioned that the Hotline has been inactive short of one communication received from the County. Dave reached out in the form of a telephone call, but has not heard back to date.
- D. Resource Development – Kay Guadagno was not present, but she has been very busy acquiring materials for the Fair, temporary tattoos and post-it pads, and, while the Commission will not participate in this year's Monmouth County Fair, the materials will be used for other events throughout the year.
- E. Immigration Working Group – Sherri is meeting with Cecilia Reynolds at her office on Wednesday to follow through on comments Cecilia made on immigration issues at the June meeting on the need to develop more knowledge of immigrant communities in the county. She is also working with the Ocean Township League, and the League's Immigration Group at the state level on detention issues. Dave D'Amico plans to contact the Prosecutor's Office for updates on 287g.

## VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Bylaws – Linda reported on the history of the revision process, which has involved three reviews of the bylaws discussed at meetings over the past year, followed by a more recent revision undertaken by Janice, Linda, and Pat Collum. Copies of the draft bylaws were circulated at the meeting, and emailed for review and comments by all members over the next month, with any specific recommendations sent to Janice Sweeney

or Linda Zucaro. After fine-tuning and review by Communications, a final vote will be taken at the October Full Commission meeting. Hard copies will be made and will be mailed to each member of the Committee once the final revisions have been addressed. It is possible the bylaws will have to be changed depending on the results of the Reorganization Study Committee.

- B. Reorganization Study Committee – Sondra, Chair, reported that the committee will meet at July 19, 2010, 10AM, at the Human Resources Office at Brookdale, and gather information on how to restructure, including the history of the group, how the core teams evolved, and the results from last year’s retreat. Additional committee members are Ray Rodriguez and Pat Collum. Bob Williams agreed to be a resource for the committee in their considerations.
- C. Fair –The Commission decided not to participate in the Fair this year because of Phil’s illness, but plan to participate in future years and to have our own booth in conjunction with the Prosecutor’s Office.
- D. Internal Communications – Carolyn reported on information Sherri received and summarized from Freeholder Amy Mallet regarding communication with members. Freeholder Mallet consulted with County Counsel, Andrea Bazer, who recommended including a formal process in the bylaws for email communication, and made other suggestions relating to online discussions and decision-making. Counsel Bazel is willing to help the committee with appropriate language in the bylaws that will conform to county statutes regarding public meetings and commissions. John Schwebel discussed the updating of the Directory, mentioning that Dave D’Amico relayed the resignation of J.D. Pierson due to personal time commitments.

#### VIII. New Business

- A. Immigration Workshop – Carolyn mentioned Cecilia’s request that a county-wide conference over the next year be held on immigration. Linda argued that this would represent a substantive issue that would be of benefit to Monmouth County. Discussion took place as to the logistics of having a conference. Linda will ask Cecilia to come to the September meeting with a proposal for a conference to be sponsored by the Commission. An appeal was made to all interested members to come to the September meeting with suggestions.
- B. Dave D’Amico asked for individual participation on behalf of a benefit for the children of deceased State Trooper Marc Castellano, to be held on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, from 1-6PM at The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel and Dauphin Grille.

#### VIII. Calendar

- A. Next Full Commission Meeting – August 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m.,
- B. Next Executive Committee Meeting – September 13, 2010, 3:30 p.m.)  
(Second Mon.)

VIII. Adjournment was at 4:40PM.

Submitted by: Sherri West, Secretary, as Corrected (9/13/10)