

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2013 3:30-5:00PM

Agriculture Building Conference Room

4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Attendance: Sondra Cannon, Jeff Delaney, Mary Lee Gilmore, Darryl Hughes, Rosa Lee, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, John Sorrentino, Sherri West, Daniel Weiss, Linda Zucaro

- I. The Call to Order at 3:35PM was followed by the Salute to the Flag.**
- II. The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting for July 1, 2013, were approved as amended, following a motion by Sondra Cannon, with a second by Linda Zucaro.**
- III. Treasurer's Report – Sondra Cannon distributed the report to members present, and the report was approved by acclamation. The balance as of 9/1/13 was \$1915.60. Linda Zucaro submitted a bill for refreshments of \$14.11 on 6/2/13, leaving a current balance of \$1901.49. Sondra also relayed information from member Charles Brown encouraging MCHRC planning for future events, including estimated expenses and any ancillary costs for the remainder of the year and for 2014. After a brief discussion, it was determined that Sondra will develop a working document estimating 2014 expenses to be presented at the October Full Commission meeting, and asked members to send any anticipated estimated expenses to her by the next meeting.**
- IV. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
 - A. Membership – Letters seeking the intention of delinquent members Randy Thompson, Leroy Hill, and Manny Castillo were sent by Sherri, and Linda reported that only Manny had contacted her as of this date. Manny indicated that he would like to remain a member and was glad that some evening meetings had been scheduled. Linda proposed that Manny be permitted to remain a member, as it is helpful to have a connection with the NJ Division of Civil Rights. If he doesn't attend, we will request another member from the Division of Civil Rights. A formal vote on the membership status of Randy Thompson and Leroy Hill will occur at the October Full Commission meeting. Linda contacted Monmouth Medical/St. Barnabas to inquire about a representative from that organization. Kathy Kelly, Vice President of Community Outreach, whose membership application is attached, was approved by acclamation**

to represent Monmouth Medical/St. Barnabas Health, and she will be formally voted on by the membership at the October Full Commission meeting.

- B. Communications – Carolyn Schwebel discussed the distribution of MCHRC documents, such as the MCHRC flier and updates to the Monmouth County Hate/Bias Hotline, to various public and news outlets. She also discussed their efforts to plan and publicize the October MCHRC Workshop and to add the MCHRC to New Jersey’s 211 information site.
- C. Incident response and Reporting –Jeff Delaney received and responded to one call regarding police report terminology. He directed the caller to the Prosecutor’s Office, Director of Professional Responsibility.
- D. Resource Development – Rose Lee continues to work with Linda Zucaro to learn her role, and they have urged the creation of a calendar of events which would highlight activities throughout the county that touch on the MCHRC’s mission. There was also a follow-up discussion on ordering tee-shirts for all members to wear at local events. Darryl asked about the criteria for submission of community events that would be publicized, with a consensus developing around those events that clearly address the core mission of the MCHRC—hate crimes/bias, and creating greater awareness of vulnerable communities within Monmouth County. Members are encouraged to email any events from their respective groups and constituencies to Rosa Lee: cynanthus@verizon.net.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Update on second Police Academy seminar-Oct. 15-16-John Sorrentino reported on the planning for the upcoming workshop, “Closing the Gap: A Law Enforcement Response to People with Disabilities.” Thanking Carolyn and John Schwebel, and Linda Zucaro for their help in developing the program and in securing speakers, he discussed the agenda for the two day event. Primarily geared to frontline officers, with a maximum of 45-50 attendees from Monmouth County law enforcement expected, the goal of the workshop is to provide them with an instructional guide and an array of resources promoting effective responses in working with this population. Carolyn Schwebel recommended that he substitute "disabled" or "accessible" instead of "handicapped," for the parking segment by Mark. John plans to finalize the program after a Wednesday meeting with the Prosecutor’s Office, which is co-sponsoring the workshop, and will begin to publicize soon thereafter. All MCHRC members are also welcome to attend. He is

hopeful that the program, which is a follow-up of a program presented last year, and that has received interest from other NJ communities, will be expanded in future years to reach a wider audience. See the Flier attached.

- B. Update on 2014 Project Proposal on Veterans Services - As Angel Quiles was not present, there was no update on a workshop tentatively planned for the Spring, but John Sorrentino suggested that there are many already-existing resources available. Darryl recommended the creation of a sub-committee to work on the program and tasked it to develop a framework and budget to be discussed at the November Executive meeting. John Sorrentino agreed to work with Angel Quiles and Sami Elmansoury, who volunteered at the last meeting, and Darryl will reach out to them.
- C. Follow-up on open action items from August meeting minutes
 - 1. Discussion of a future dialogue on race and community outreach as a response to the Trayvon Martin case was carried over to November.
 - 2. Youth Interfaith Initiative-Fatima Jaffari was not present, so there was no report on the August 20th Interfaith meeting that she mentioned at the August meeting.
 - 3. Oct. 7th evening meeting program – Discussion of the program for the next Full Commission meeting took place. Sherri will notify all members, and invite the Monmouth County Freeholders to a screening of “GenSilent,” a 62 minute documentary emphasizing the healthcare needs and bias in the aging LGBT community. The invitation, which describes the film in greater detail, is attached to the minutes. The meeting will begin with a short business meeting at 6:30PM, followed by the film and a discussion led by MCHRC member, Danny Weiss, and light refreshments to be served, with Darryl Hughes and John Sorrentino offering to assist Linda Zucaro. The meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Presbyterian Church, 352 Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury, NJ.

VI. New Business

- A. An exploratory discussion about the MCHRC lending advocacy support for the needs of the aging LGBT community in Monmouth County took place. Darryl began with a summary of a recent discussion with Danny Weiss, who then thanked Linda Zucaro for suggesting the topic. Danny talked about the unique role of the LGBT community in Monmouth County, which has the largest LGBT population in New Jersey, and one which is growing, particularly those of retirement age. He suggested inviting the Freeholders to

the October 7th meeting so as to expand the discussion to more stakeholders. Both of these suggestions were approved by those in attendance. More discussion at the October 7th meeting and in future MCHRC meetings will occur.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary

See Accompanying Documents on the Following Pages:

- 1. Kathy Kelly's Membership Application**
- 2. October Workshop Flier**
- 3. October 7th Meeting Invitation to Freeholder**