

## **MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, November 4, 2013 3:30-5:00PM**

**Agriculture Building Conference Room**

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

**Attendance: Sondra Cannon, Jeff Delaney, Fatima Jaffari, Rosa Lee, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Philip Smith, John Sorrentino, Danny Weiss, Sherri West, Linda Zucaro**

- I. The Call to Order was followed by the Salute to the Flag at 3:35PM—Chief John Sorrentino conducted the meeting in Darryl Hughes' absence.**
- II. Approval of September 2013 Meeting Minutes – After some minor corrections the minutes were approved.**
- III. Treasurer's Report – Sondra reported no expenditures for the month of October, leaving a remaining balance of \$1664.87. Linda Zucaro recommended that a member of the Teasley committee make a purchase of two candles to be handed out to future recipients and Sherri will do so. A draft budget for 2014 is being prepared and was discussed during the new business portion of the meeting.**
- IV. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
  - A. Membership - Linda had no report. Sherri confirmed the sending of letters to Leroy Hill and to Randy Thompson, thanking both for their service.**
  - B. Communications – Carolyn requested that members speak up at the meeting due to the acoustics in the Ag Building meeting room.**
  - C. Incident response and Reporting-Discussion on Incident Report-Bias liaison role and ongoing complaint follow-up procedures, protocol, and training requirements, and open committee position. Danny Weiss will become the new chair. There was one call this past month which involved a charge of harassment in Asbury Park. The caller mentioned that the matter was disposed of, and Danny suggested that he get a copy of the resolution so indicating. Discussion regarding procedures and training will be carried over to the January meeting to get Darryl's suggestions.**
  - D. Resource Development – Rosa is having a problem developing a master calendar due to having to find the events far enough in advance, but the goal is to develop a master calendar with repeating events. Sherri will resend a Monmouth County website that could serve as a model for a master schedule and Linda offered**

to help with that effort as well. John Schwebel suggested that we have police advisor cards available to distribute to all police departments, and John Sorrentino has a file which he sends regularly to police departments and staff in Monmouth County.

#### **V. Unfinished Business**

- A. Update on 2014 Project Proposal on Veterans Services Announcement-Angel Quiles, Sondra Cannon, & Darryl Hughes - discussion continued to the December meeting. There are plenty of resources available for veterans, and Linda and Jeff gave Sondra some leads on resources for a future workshop. Pending attendance by Angel Quiles, this item will be discussed at the December meeting.**
- B. Follow-up on open action items from September meeting minutes:**
  - 1. Follow-up on the “GenSilent” screening feedback from the LGBT community – Danny said he received a good response to the screening, believing that it would lead to future events in Asbury Park, and Danny would be willing to initiate contact with officials to this end. Linda said the workshop ties in with a proposal made at an earlier meeting to have the MCHRC lend advocacy support for the needs of the aging LGBT community in Monmouth County.**
  - 2. Follow up from the Police Academy seminar- Compiling a list of acceptable ADA-compliant public facilities around the county for future MCHRC-sponsored events and meetings is important, and John stated that the only completely accessible facilities in the County are the Police and Fire Academies. Carolyn and John felt that there is not sufficient communication with county officials in these matters, and Sherri recommended that Sue Moleon attend the January 6, 2014 meeting to address this issue. John Sorrentino felt that the workshop was successful as was the venue, the Monmouth County Fire Academy, despite the last-minute mix-up, and is still evaluating the feedback. Linda agreed that the presentations were extremely competent and she shared a packet used at the workshop with the members present. John will bring the evaluations to next month’s meeting for further discussion.**
  - 3. Future dialogue on race and community outreach as a response to the Trayvon Martin case – After brief discussion, it was decided that Sherri would send the American Psychological Association article suggested by Carolyn out to the membership.**

The link is: <http://helenneville1.wix.com/time-to-act>. This item will be discussed at the December meeting.

4. Youth Interfaith Initiative-Fatima Jaffari updated the members about the Interfaith Youth Initiative that she is coordinating, Garden State Mosaic (Mobilizing Our Students for Action to build Interfaith Community), and a brochure describing the project was circulated to members present. The goal of the project is based on a similar effort led by Fatima, Project Understanding (involving Islam, Christianity, and Judaism in the Freehold area) that took place about 6 years ago. Fatima is now working with youth from the Sikh, Hindu, Humanitarian Universalists, Jewish, Muslim, and Catholic communities in Monmouth County, and is looking to include a Protestant group. The purpose of the project is to bring youth together to create awareness around the growing religious diversity in the county and nation so as to combat bias and extreme prejudice stemming from ignorance and/or misconceptions of these faiths. Applications are being distributed for students to apply for the program, with a kickoff date of Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013, at the Monmouth County Library on Symmes Road from 2PM-4:30PM. The first youth meeting will take place on Dec. 8th at Temple Shaari-Emeth in Manalapan, followed by meetings in March and April, with each faith group presenting information on their respective tradition. Fatima is working with Chhange at Brookdale and asked for facilitators from the MCHRC to help at each meeting (about 10 meetings in all). Linda volunteered to help, and Fatima will send Sherri a schedule of the upcoming meetings which she will email to the membership for them to volunteer for one or more of the meetings. Fatima also spoke about a budget for expenses relating to the events. Danny Weiss also mentioned the inclusion of professionals with knowledge of the role of religion in their professions and experience.
5. An exploratory discussion about the MCHRC lending advocacy support for the needs of the aging LGBT community in Monmouth County was scheduled, but, in the interest of time, it was decided to postpone this discussion to the January meeting.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. 2014 budget submission and 2014 strategic goals - Sondra distributed a draft of the proposed 2014 budget, with members providing input in prioritizing activities and anticipated expenses.

She will send the budget draft to Charlie Brown to get his feedback, and report at the December meeting.

- B. Chhange Big Read – The members present agreed to sponsor an event dealing with violence against women, one of the main themes in the book that has been selected for the grant, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, by Julia Alvarez. Sherri West, representing Chhange on the MCHRC, will coordinate this effort.
- C. Nominations for the Earl S. Teasley Humanitarian Award, to be given in February, are being requested. Members of the committee which will evaluate the applications are Reverend Ricky Pierce, Pat Collum, and Sherri West. Any person that is not a member of the MCHRC that has made contributed to furthering human relations in Monmouth can be nominated. Linda Zucaro suggested that there may be many people associated with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts that might be considered as well. Sherri will send an email asking members for applications to be sent to her at: [swest@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:swest@brookdalecc.edu).
- D. Jeff Delaney distributed and is seeking the Commission's endorsement of the idea of the Massachusetts model for policy and legal change that deals with violence against persons with disabilities, which was approved by the members present. See a copy of the information that he distributed below.

VII. Adjournment took place at 5:15PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary