

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Full Commission Meeting

Monday, August 4, 2014, 3:30 – 5:00PM

Agriculture Building

4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Attendance: Nina Anderson, Sondra Cannon, Jeff Delaney, Mary Lee Gilmore, Darryl Hughes, Janet Kolibas, Ronan Neumann, Jeffrey Schwartz, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Sherri West, John Curley, Freeholder

- I. The Call to Order was followed by the Salute to the Flag and introductions of the members. Darryl gave a brief description of the mission and activities of the commission, and introduced two new members, Ronan Newmann, Chief of Police from Deal, and Jeffrey Schwartz, Acting director of Human Services, both of whom introduced themselves and described their role.**
- II. Approval of June 2014 Meeting Minutes – motion by Sondra Cannon, seconded and approved with minor corrections.**
- III. Treasurer’s Report – Sondra Cannon distributed the Treasurer’s Report and there is a present balance of \$1805.60 (8/4), after a domain registration expense of \$15.00.**
- IV. Discussion: Darryl Hughes suggested that we spend a good part of this meeting in brainstorming topics for future meetings. He suggested highlighting specific issues that deal with our mission, perhaps showcasing different groups and different parts of the community. Inspired by Freeholder’s Curley’s discussion in June, Darryl mentioned a future item of discussion or theme-- homelessness and socio-economic inequality in Monmouth County and its impact on residents, particularly in the realm of bias or discrimination. Freeholder Curley suggested that it would be good to have more young people included in the programming. Jeffrey Schwartz also mentioned the role of Hurricane Sandy as an exacerbating factor for all residents in terms of inequalities. More general discussion of issues followed, with suggestions by Sondra Cannon to collaborate with groups like MOSAIC and Chhange. Freeholder Curley suggested starting with the existing**

town Human Rights Committees, with outreach to get more people aware and involved in these issues.

Darryl then gave a presentation on Language Diversity throughout the Meridian system in Monmouth County and Ocean Counties. Based on statistics from 2013, at the 95 Meridian locations, there were services provided in 64 languages (up from 50 in 2010), thus revealing the amazing language diversity in the patient population, with Spanish and French/Haitian Creole, Russian, Arabic and Portuguese heading up the list in the two-county area, along with sign language interpretation available. The healthcare structure has also changed from an old model of immediate patient care to a continuum of care, where the needs of the patient are no longer episodic. Therefore, language services are changing to accommodate this new reality, as the demand continues to grow. Patient demographics are fueling the demand for new services, mandated by federal law in providing interpretative services.

V. Other Business

- a. Membership - Membership retention strategy – Carolyn Schwebel introduced potential member Ronan Neumann, who was then voted on unanimously and welcomed.**
- b. Communications – any changes in contact info please notify John. Carolyn mentioned that all communication should be cleared through the committee before sending to the public.**
- c. Incident Response and reporting- Bias complaint response protocol committee – no report**
- d. Report on the MOSAIC Project – no report**
- e. Big Read Event update with schedule to be sent to members.**

VI. Adjournment took place at 5:00.

Submitted by: Sherri West, Secretary