MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION FULL COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Monday, **August 2, 2010**/3:30p.m. – <u>**5:00 p.m.**</u>
AG Building Conference Room
4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Attendance: Sondra Cannon, Kay Guadagno, Julius Ramsey, Janice Sweeney, Randy Thompson, Dave Cohen, Mildred Cohen, Linda Zucaro, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Marty Lefsky, Kendall Baldwin, Rev. Ricky Pierce, Ted Lee, Ruth Lax, Pat Collum, Cecilia Reynolds, Iris Moschell (representing Beatriz Olstenheld, Hispanic Affairs), Phil Welch, presenter, Monmouth Advocacy Team.

- I. Call to Order at 3:30 Reverend Ricky Pierce led the group in the Salute to the Flag.
- II. Approval of June 7, 2010 minutes, approved after motions by Dave Cohen and seconded.
- III. Chair's Report: Carolyn reiterated her desire to keep Earl's goals alive by working on the priorities important to him.
- IV. Treasurer's Report Phil was not present as he is still recuperating from his injury, but, in a call from Carolyn, noted that there are no changes to the budget.

V. Core Team Reports

- A. Youth Awareness Linda Zucaro reported that the next meeting will be on Aug. 18, at 2PM, at the Presbyterian Church in Shrewsbury. The team is working on organizing a second workshop on cyberbullying, which will be more participatory with a focus on successful programs that have been used in schools. The workshop will be held on Friday, Oct. 22, from 8-12 at the Ag Building. Another project is the creation of HRCs in schools, and members are meeting with area schools—Linda reported a successful meeting with educators in Red Bank, and meet with the Wall Alliance this week, to be followed by meetings with other schools. The current glossary of human rights terms on the website is also under review by Carolyn, and these will be updated soon.
- B. Police and Community Relations the group is not functioning yet.
- C. Economic Issues not functioning at present.

VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams

A. Membership: Dave Cohen congratulated Carolyn on the recent Asbury Park Press article regarding her advocacy for ADA activities. Dave also spoke of the creation of the MCHRC, stating that its work was needed more than ever, as "no power on the face of this earth can take down this country, but we can injure ourselves if we don't respect each other." With those comments, Dave stated that it is time to step down, but offered to help out whenever needed. Carolyn accepted his resignation with regret and led a round of applause for Dave's long service. Linda

followed with observations that, like Bob Honecker, Dave would continue to be "Mr. Monmouth County Human Relations Committee," A strong round of applause for Dave's many, many contributions followed.

New candidates for membership were then introduced by Janice Sweeney, Membership Chair. Kendall Baldwin and Randy Thompson, as individuals, not representing a group, were approved unanimously. Both will serve on the Youth Core Team.

- B. Communications John mentioned that since the last meeting he has not been able to make any changes to the website due to some technical changes at the County and is awaiting a response and resolution to the problem from the County Administrator. In the future we may be able to host our own webpage but a cost will be incurred. The Web page issue will be discussed further at the next Executive meeting. Sondra suggested requesting a representative from the County to the Commission. It was noted that we do have one, Charlie Brown. This will be discussed further at the next Executive meeting. Charlie did contact Tom Pivinski, Director, Office of Aging, to send a representative, but, due to cutbacks, he cannot appoint one at this time, so Charlie will continue to share relevant MCHRC information with-Mr. Pivinski.
- C. Incident Response and Reporting Dave did quite a bit of work on a call recently received but eventually the complainant wrote directly to the Prosecutor's Office.
- D. Resource Development Kay circulated materials that would be handed out at future events.
- E. Immigration Working Group Sherri reported on her meeting with Cecilia Reynolds to organize a workshop on immigration. A proposal will be submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee at the September meeting. Sherri also announced that the Latino Fair will be held on October 2, 2010, with the rain date of October 9, 2010. Volunteers include Randy Thompson and Linda Zucaro, and anyone interested in participating can contact Linda.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Bylaws Janice reported that she, Julius, Linda, and Pat met and worked on the bylaws. Pat will complete the bylaws summary, followed by additional editing by Carolyn. The County will mail a copy of the bylaws to all members in time for review and a final vote at the October meeting.
- B. Reorganization Study Committee Ray, Pat, and Sondra met to look at restructuring the core teams and will meet again on August 3. They plan to reach out to other members of the Commission and will report their conclusions at a future meeting.
- C. County-wide conference on immigration issues Cecilia proposed a round table on the impact of 287g is having on the immigrant community in Monmouth County. Cecilia will work with Sherri to find panelists, including immigrant families, to speak to this issue. This proposal will be discussed at the September Executive meeting.
- D. Honoring Earl Easley Linda will have the proposal ready for the September Executive meeting.

VIII. New Business

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A. Announcements:

- 1. All are invited to attend and participate in the Monmouth County Call to Service Day on September 15, 2010. Carolyn and John Schwebel will attend, and others were asked to participate.
- 2. Ted Lee commented on the recent murders in Freehold, as reported in an Asbury Park Press article, as an example of a bias crime. The article was sent to all members of the Commission for their consideration.
- 3. A League of Women Voters program on training citizens to be government observers will be held on Tuesday, August 10, at 7PM, in MAS 100 at Brookdale Community College.
- B. A Team presentation Linda introduced Phil Welch, Co-Chair of the A-Team, who gave a presentation on affordable housing in Monmouth County and answered questions from members.
- C. John Schwebel announced that an updated copy of the Directory was will be sent out to all members.

VIII. Calendar

- A. Next Full Commission Meeting: October 4. 2010
- B. Next Executive Committee Meeting September 13, 2010, 3:30 p.m.) (Second Mon.)

VIII. Adjournment at 5PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary