

**MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday, May 6, 2013 3:30-5:00PM**  
**Agriculture Building Conference Room**  
**4000 Kozlowski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728**

**Attendance: Sondra Cannon, Jeff Delaney, Fatima Jaffari, Angel Quiles, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, John Sorrentino, John L. Terrell, Sherri West, Linda Zucaro; Guests, Martira Garcia and Sami Elmansoury.**

- I. Call to Order – Salute to the Flag- at 3:35PM.**
- II. Approval of the March 2013 Minutes without change.**
- III. Treasurer’s Report – Inderjit Sawhney could not be here but reported no expenditures, so the balance of \$2200 remains.**
- IV. Core Team Reports: Police/Community Relations – John reported that Jerry Turning, Jr., will help John with the second Police Academy seminar on disabilities. The dates for the Police Academy are Oct. 15-16. He has reached out to the Mass State Police, and Linda asked about contacting other speakers about the program.**
- V. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
  - A. Membership – Linda has no new report, having not received applications from any prospective members. Talisha Crank, a member representing the NAACP as secretary, has resigned from that position, but would like to remain on the Commission. Linda replied that she felt that she could remain as a community participant, but Talisha believed that someone from the Executive Board of the NAACP should be appointed to represent the group. There followed a discussion as to whether members could remain if not representing an organization, with the consensus being that community members may continue to participate. In June a formal vote on Daniel Weiss, prospective member whose application was submitted earlier in the year, will take place. Sherri will reach out to the Cchange Center at Brookdale to see if they are interested in resuming their participation. Fatima Jaffari introduced Sami**

Elmansoury from Marlboro, who attended the meeting as a guest. He is an active community member in Marlboro, participating in the New Leaders Council, is an entrepreneur in education, and is also working with the State Department on a counter-radicalization program.

- B. Communications – Carolyn distributed New Jersey hope and healing fliers in Spanish and English for members to bring to their respective groups. This effort has been established by the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, with a grant from FEMA. To contact them online: <http://www.disastermentalhealthnj.com>
- C. Incident response and Reporting – A brief discussion about the procedures relating to the Hotline occurred. Louise Pierce, Charles Brown, and Dave D’Amico need to be notified that James Terrell will chair the committee, serving with Charles and Dave. Martira Garcia from Hazlet appeared at the meeting to relate an issue relating to child support and custody problems, having contacted the Hotline previously. Several members gave her suggestions for legal resources and other services in the area that she can access.
- D. Resource Development – No report.

VI. Unfinished Business - Linda reported on the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at 7PM at the Monmouth Chinese Christian Church in Middletown, and talked about a program that she has been organizing along with Fatima Jaffari. Sami Elmansoury made some suggestions about the theme, and a brief discussion followed, with one idea emerging, “American Muslims: Reclaiming the Dialogue.” Linda is planning a panel of diverse voices, with Fatima the moderator. Linda asked Carolyn to organize the logistics of the program with Ted Lee, and we will also look into serving refreshments.

VII. Group discussion on goal setting for 2013 – 2014 – The discussion to select a working goal for the coming year took place. Angel Quiles summarized his idea of a workshop that would address the problems of the families of returning veterans, and he responded to questions about his workshop. Other possibilities including discrimination resulting from Hurricane Sandy, immigration involving status, and

marriage equality. Of the four issues, keeping in mind the MCHRC's mission and the ability to complete the project, members discussed the choices. Sondra Cannon suggested that the focus of Angel's workshop be limited to an issue like PTSD or, as John Schwebel argued, adjustment to civilian life, and its effect on the community. A consensus developed around the ideas of the "stigma towards returning combat vets and the impact on their spouses, families, and community." A motion was offered to accept Angel's concept but with the provision that he narrow the scope of the program to fit the mission of the organization. A roll call vote was taken, with the Ayes, James Terrell, Jeff Delaney, Sherri West, and John Sorrentino; Nays-Linda Zucaro; Abstention—Carolyn Schwebel. The program needs to be refined in time for the June meeting.

**VIII. New Business – None.**

**IX. Adjournment was at 5:15PM.**

**Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary  
5/6/13**