

**MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, December 2, 2013 3:30-5:00PM
Agriculture Building Conference Room
4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728**

Attendance: Members--Nina Anderson, Sondra Cannon, Patrick Collum, Jeff Delaney, Sami Elmansoury, Mary Lee Gilmore, Darryl Hughes, Fatima Jaffari, Rev. Ricky Pierce, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Philip Smith, Sherri West, Linda Zucaro. Guest—Joseph Annecharico, Monmouth County Department of Human Services

- I. The Call to Order was followed by the Salute to the Flag at 3:40PM and brief introductions of all members present. Joseph Annecharico of the Monmouth County Department of Human Services will be substituting for Charles Brown, who is on extended medical leave.**

- II. The October 2013 Meeting Minutes were approved with minor corrections.**

- III. Treasurer's Report and the 2014 Draft Budget. There have been no expenditures since November, so the present balance stands at \$1664.87, and the report was approved. Sondra requested that all expenses for the remainder of this year be submitted within the next week so as to be covered by this year's budget. She then reviewed the 2014 draft budget (see documents below). Joe Annecharico is plans to review the budget and to get back to us with his review. He suggested that we be more specific in our request for future programs, Examples of programs and mentioned using the county print shop as a cost-saver. Members present endorsed the draft budget.**

- IV. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
 - A. Membership – All members present introduced themselves. At present we have 32 full voting members, and Linda states that she is happy to pursue any group or institution recommended by any member of the committee. Carolyn congratulated Linda on her work in getting new members.**
 - B. Communications – John Schwebel discussed the 2014 Calendar which will be posted on the website, and it was approved.**
 - C. Incident response and Reporting - Darryl mentioned a report of bias in Ocean County relayed to him by a colleague, suggesting a larger discussion of protocol used by the MCHRC. Carolyn mentioned the general policy statement on the website. Linda summarized some of the history of reporting bias incidents, then suggested a small sub-group might meet to write a protocol that would create awareness within the membership. Darryl will reach out to Danny Weiss and Jeff Delaney to volunteer to develop a policy by the March Executive meeting.**
 - D. Resource Development – no report.**

- V. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Follow-up on second Police Academy seminar - Carolyn distributed a comment to Darryl's email regarding venues at various sites in the county**

and a discussion about ADA compliance and communication issues ensued. Linda will contact Chief Sorrentino to get the evaluations on the October workshop. She and John stated that an email from Darrell contained incorrect information about ADA requirements for the Police Academy, clarifying that is not true that there is an ADA exemption "because it is used by police officers."

- B. Update on 2014 Project Proposal on Veterans Services Announcement-Angel Quiles, Sondra Cannon, & Darryl Hughes – As Angel was not present, Sondra moved to table the activity until there is a specific idea that can be presented to the committee by the working group, and Darryl and Sondra will reach out again to Angel.
- C. Youth Interfaith Initiative Update-Fatima Jaffari presented an update on the Interfaith Youth Initiative, Garden State Mosaic. She described an energetic kickoff meeting with 32 youth signing up, with more applications being accepted. Many county faith communities are participating, with approximately two meetings a month taking place until the end of April. She is still seeking applications from youth from middle through high school, with anyone from the public willing to attend any of the sessions. She is still seeking facilitators for the February and March meetings, and they need not have any background on the religious traditions discussed. Sherri will send another email seeking volunteers for these meetings. The next planning meeting will be on Dec. 4th at St. Roberts in Freehold.
- D. Chhange Big Read Update – Sherri West relayed the planning on events for a scheduled Big Read project being organized by the Chhange Center at Brookdale. The MCHRC previously endorsed our participation in events dealing with the topic of violence against women, and several programs are being planned along those lines. She will report back in January with more specifics.
- E. Exploratory discussion of aging LGBT community, which was an initiative suggested at an earlier meeting, will to be carried over to the January meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Selection of Vice Chair – John Sorrentino has had to resign due to his appointment to a new position in Sea Bright. According to the bylaws, Darryl can appoint a replacement until the next election. Carolyn recommended Linda Zucaro, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- B. Future dialogue on race and community outreach as a response to the Trayvon Martin case – Carolyn gave a quick summary of the issue, as presented in the American Psychological Association article, (<http://hellenville1.wix.com/time-to-act.>), and there was a brief discussion of a future workshop based on some specific suggestions from the article regarding Stand Your Ground and related laws, creating community awareness, and reducing incidents related to the incident. At the January Executive Committee meeting we will revisit this issue as it pertains to Monmouth County.
- C. Future workshop on Fair Housing Issues – Linda discussed the email from Frank Vespa-Papaleo about conducting a workshop on behalf of HUD,

including a training, and this will be discussed at the January Executive meeting.

- D. Nominations for the Earl S. Teasley Humanitarian Award and Venue – Ricky Pierce announced the selection of Reverend Terrence Porter, President of Affordable Housing Corporation of Red Bank, and Pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Shrewsbury. Darryl will notify Rev. Porter and make arrangements for his attendance at the February meeting. A brief discussion of the venue for the award presentation was held. Darryl will reach out to Danny Weiss to see if the offer of the Watermark is still possible, with a decision by the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment at 5PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary