

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014

Present: Judy, Roland, Sam, Catherine, Gabriel, Eric, Kathie.
Meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

- I. Approval of last month's minutes – Sam made a motion, Roland seconded, minutes were unanimously approved

- II. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Hispanic Heritage Month – October 16, 2014 Legislative Board Meeting – Excellent response from families and the community. Eric gave a great speech with a history of the origin of Hispanic Heritage Month. Over 30 people attended.

 - B. Liberty Rotary Group – November 6, 2014 – Eric spoke, being invited back after the Back-to-School video he made was shown to students. Meeting was attended by people from BOCES, Boys & Girls Club, teachers, Superintendent, etc. They asked what we (HRC) need, and Eric asked for access into Liberty schools for our anti-bullying presentations.

- III. Executive Committee Report
 - A. Meeting with Legislative Chair Samuelson – Eric is working to set up this meeting to discuss various issues (i.e., Laura Quigley is concerned that Family Services is asking people who need services to do things that are not legal; the SC EEO officer is not responding to claims; complaints about the police and the need – possibly – to have a police review board to resolve issues in the community). We should include Ira Steingart in this meeting also.

 - B. Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for November 20 from 5 – 7 p.m.. Helen Budrock will facilitate, and she will

receive a stipend (required by her contract with Sullivan Renaissance). Judy has emailed the last three Strategic Plans to Peggy for her to get them to Helen.

IV. Issues Committee Report

A. Six complaints

1. Three employment

- One with County (said she was sexually slandered)
- One at the Hospital
- One at a construction site: abusive language, hostile environment

2. Three law enforcement

- One jail (in pre-trial detention on sexual abuse charge, not getting mental health treatment, not getting access to the law library_
- Two criminal justice (Roland is working on them)
 - A young woman claims she called the police for help, and instead, they threw her on the pavement, injuring her. So far, she has not been able to produce a witness or sworn statement. Roland still needs to interview the police officers.
 - A young man claims the police came to his house and beat him up, loosening two teeth. He needs to produce dental records, etc. He has produced a written statement from his girlfriend, who was with him in the house at the time. Roland is still pursuing this claim.

- V. Outreach Committee Report
 - A. Judy at SCCC (Susan Rogers, Psychology Professor, invited Judy to speak) – 6 or 7 students were present. They are interested in facilitating, but maybe on their own. Judy invited them to come to our monthly meeting.
 - B. Olweus kickoff at Tri-Valley – Judy A.M., Sam P.M. – The D.A. did workshops with kids. Well-presented by senior students, kids responded well.
 - C. Rights of the Accused – November 8 at the Duck Farm – Gabriel organized; Lawrence Gold will present
- VI. Old Business

Discussion of expanding recognition of people who contribute to the community to other groups (after Hispanic Heritage Month). The question is: should the various ethnic/racial/religious communities take the initiative to choose folks from their community, or should the HRC do this? We decided to meet (Kathie, Sam, Catherine) to discuss this issue and come up with a plan. Kathie will get the date set. (Recognition Committee)
- VII. New Business – none this meeting
- VIII. Public Comment – no public in attendance
- IX. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.