

**Barnstable County Human Rights Commission  
Minutes of February 10, 2009  
Barnstable Superior Courthouse  
Room 11-12**

**PRESENT: Chairperson Jacqueline Fields, Rosario Gomez-Wixon, Michael Medeiros, Sherrie Hitchcock, Andrew Murray, Malcolm McDowell,**

**Coordinator: Mary Lohan**

- 1) **Open** Meeting opened at 7.00pm
- 2) **Public Comment** There was no public comment
- 3) **Minutes** The Minutes of December 1, 2009 were unanimously approved.
- 4) **Chairperson's Report** JF reported that a proposal she has spent many hours working on with the Mashpee Community Health Center was successful. The Health Center has been awarded a grant of \$150,000 over 3 years to support healthy immigrant families and to try to close the gap of health disparities among immigrant families on Cape Cod. The HRC has been awarded \$1,300 of this money.
- 5) **Coordinator's Report**  
ML passed around copies of her report. The difficulty involved with needing a lot of advance time to comply with purchasing procedures when the HRC needs supplies from the County was briefly discussed.
- 6) **New Business**
  - **Review of Ordinance** The Ordinance was reviewed and discussed with particular attention paid to the fact that the HRC gets many invitations to be present at various events. Hopefully now that it is a nine-member Commission, the HRC will be able to increase it's visibility and profile in the community.
  - **HRA Date Thursday April 9, 2009 8.00AM** High School Human Rights Academy students will present their human rights project at Camp Burgess on April 9. There is quite a bit of work that needs to be done in the meantime including school visits. School visit forms will be emailed to Commissioners and Town Reps.

- **HRC involvement in County organizations** The HRC has been asked to participate in the annual Youth Summit to be held at Cape Cod Community College on Friday, March 30, 2009. The HRC will host an informational table at this event and will also invite HRA students to participate and engage in a brief presentation. Michael M. shared with the group that Barnstable County has been named as one of the 100 best communities in the country for youth which is quite an honor.

- **MCAD update** It is hoped that the HRC will be able to meet with Director Malcolm Medley in the near future to work on establishing a memorandum of understanding between the BCHRC and MCAD.

- **HRC fundraisers** The HRC has generally had one fundraiser per year such as artist Rick Fleury's painting 'Patti's Buoy' and author Michael Cunningham's book-reading. Last year there was a benefit concert hosted by the Jewish Congregation in Falmouth and this past summer the HRC participated in Macy's 'Shop For a Cause'. **A fundraising strategy is needed for 2009.**

- **Town Rep & Commissioner-initiated activities** Anne Manton was applauded for her initiative in deciding to submit a proposal to the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank which netted the HRC some grant monies. Town Representative Margo KochRuthe of Wellfleet and former Town Rep Barb Steinau of Eastham put together a very successful forum on consumerism some time ago. More activities like these are needed and Commissioners and Town Reps are encouraged to feel free to initiate any activities that can benefit the HRC.

- **IIWG meeting/Immigrant Celebration 2009** New Commissioners were brought up to speed on the history of the IIWG and last year's first annual Immigrant Celebration. Plans are underway for the second annual Immigrant Celebration which will be held in July, 2009. Last year saw 8 celebrations in 9 towns, the goal for this year is 15 celebrations in 15 towns.

- **Yarmouth Community Project** JF reported that Chief Michael Almonte of the Yarmouth Police Department is working in collaboration with the HRC and other organizations to build and improve relationships with all of Yarmouth's diverse community.

- **HRC Website Update** Michael M. feels it is very important to update the HRC's website on a regular basis. He suggested that it may be possible for students from Cape Cod Tech to keep the site updated as a project.

- **Community Outreach** Michael M. shared his ideas for a proposal to create a brief presentation of the work that the HRC does that can be presented at various venues to promote visibility.

- **Print Promotional Materials** Michael M. distributed a draft informational flyer he has created about the HRC that can be posted on bulletin boards. Discussion ensued and Michael M. will present a revised version of the flyer at the next meeting.

- **Budget Update** Discussion of the request that all county agencies, including the HRC cut back 10% of their operating budget took place. It was pointed out that the Coordinator's salary can not be reduced as it is under contract. Any changes in salary would require a new contract and all that entails. The HRC's budget has been submitted.

**7) Old Business**

- **NPFH Sandwich Update** This effort is continuing and Town Rep Cynthia Denmat from Sandwich is doing a wonderful job.

- **Interfaith Planning Group** The Holocaust/Genocide memorial program will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2009. Details to follow.

**8) Other Business**

- **Mediation training** A motion to authorize Chair JF to move forward with seeking mediation training and possibly have 2 other HRC members also receive the training was seconded and unanimously approved.

**9) Executive Session** Executive session was entered into by unanimous roll call vote at 8.15pm. Members exited executive session at 8.38pm, again by unanimous roll call vote.

**10) Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 8.40pm

**NEXT MEETING: 5.30pm Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Barnstable Superior Courthouse, Rooms 11-12.**