Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Advisory Committee

March 25, 2025 at 10:30AM

Virtually via Zoom

1. Welcome
2. In attendance:
3. Becky Christie, Co-Chair, Committee Member
4. Steven Saunders, Co-Chair, Committee Member
5. Amy Boone, Human Rights Specialist
6. Joseph Weru, Director of Human Rights
7. Tuan Le, Committee Member
8. Keith Miller, Committee Member
9. Dotty Foley, Committee Member
10. Alan Milsted, Committee Member
11. Adriana Brooks-Baymon, Committee Member
12. Jaclyn Grant, Committee Member
13. Kelli Hyland, Committee Member Emerita
14. Katie Driscoll, Committee Member
15. Karen Carpenter, Committee Member Emerita
16. Ann Phelan, Committee Member
17. Anne Fracht, Committee Member
18. Ann Dorr, Committee Member Emerita
19. Alexandra Selman, Human Rights Specialist
20. Rob Smith, Secretary, Committee Member

Absent: Nate Hoover, Asela Jayasinghe, Michael Gaffey, Leonardo Luczynski-Badia, Mary Kae Marinac, Lauren Giordano, Mary Jarowiski, Tommy Stoddard

II. Review of February Minutes

1. Add to minutes:
2. Becky was unable to attend February meeting
3. Identify Steven as a Committee Member
4. Alan moved to adopt minutes subject to above corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of Revised Bylaws

1. Reviewed changes proposed by Subcommittee
2. Subcommittee’s intent not to incorporate large chunks of legal compliance language into bylaws—let the laws speak for themselves.
3. Removal of mandates for Office of Human Rights employees.
4. Question: Who could fill officer positions for the Committee? Could Emeritus members fill those positions?
5. Proposal to add language to Article V Section 1 limiting officer positions to voting members of the Committee.
6. Rob moved to adopt proposed revisions subject to addition to Article V Section 1 listed above. Motion approved.
7. Rob to send copy of revised bylaws to Joseph for submission to Legal and to full committee for record keeping.
8. Proposal to add updates to bylaws as agenda topic for subsequent meetings until approved by Commissioner.
9. Proposal to save finalized bylaws on Office of Human Rights website so as to eliminate confusion regarding the current, approved version.
10. Joseph will work with Victor Hernandez to post links to Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law on Office of Human Rights website.

IV. In Person Meetings vs. Virtual Meetings—Discussion re: Next Meeting

1. House and Senate have submitted bill extending remote participation for Open Meeting Law compliance to Governor for signature.
2. Encourage people to get in touch with Governor’s office and encourage her to sign the bill.
3. Go to next meeting item before deciding what to do regarding next month’s meeting.

V. Cadency of Meetings and Compliance with Open Meeting Law

1. Proposal to move full committee meetings to quarterly basis and hold monthly subcommittee meetings instead.
2. Subcommittees would present what they’ve worked on at the quarterly full committee meetings.
3. Given current political environment it was recommended not to make significant changes to the way Committee operates.
4. Question: Does Open Meeting Law compliance create too much of an administrative burden to the Committee convening more than one subcommittee at a time?
5. Caution against holding more than one subcommittee at a time. Possibly have 1 standing subcommittee to handle business matters and then have ad hoc subcommittees to deal with substantive matters as needed.
6. Restraints subcommittee has yet to meet.
7. Propose initiating Guardianship subcommittee next.
8. Someone will need to function as Secretary for each subcommittee.
9. A Human Rights Specialist shall be assigned as a support person for each subcommittee.
10. Having subcommittee(s) meet on recurring monthly basis would reduce the need for reposting.
11. Rob to distribute Meeting Minutes checklist to Committee.
12. Guardianship Subcommittee
13. Feeling that Carol Coyne’s presentation at last month’s meeting did not address the Committee’s guardianship recommendations.
14. 2018 recommendations expressed concerns about individuals being notified of their rights and having the support necessary to exercise those rights.
15. Proposal to table this discussion and raise it again when the Guardianship subcommittee meets.

VI. OHR Updates

1. Amy
2. Continuing trainings.
3. Department issued memorandum in February re: camera usage in common areas.
4. Question: why was Committee not asked to review memo before it was issued?
5. Alexandra
6. Receiving questions re: PBS, trying to connect PBS experts with providers.
7. Continuing to advocate for individuals being at forefront of discussions.
8. Joseph
9. Northeast Inclusion summit.
10. Have engaged with Legal re: individuals’ use of THC in group home setting.
11. Discussion re: how Human Rights Committees can be more effective in supporting people, as opposed to focus on the makeup of the committees’ personnel.

Meeting Adjourned 12:14PM