



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 23, 2010**  
**Human Resources Training Room**  
**575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Victor Amstadter, Lucy Andrews, Patricia Boyd, Mario Castillo, Dale Geist, Elizabeth McCarthy, Evelina Molina, Judy Rice (Chair), Art Warmoth (Officer-at-Large), Roger Jack Young, Ann Zimmer

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Chris Rohde (Vice-Chair) (notified)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nadine Jaillet

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Michael Ellenwood, Disability Services & Legal Center Board of Directors, Adam Brown, Disability Services & Legal Center Executive Director

**I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS:**

Rice called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM and opened the meeting asking Commissioners to introduce themselves with their name, district, and one thing they would like to accomplish as Commissioners this year.

- Boyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> district: the deaf community's right to access
- Amstadter, 4<sup>th</sup> district: driver's licenses for undocumented workers
- Andrews, 5<sup>th</sup> district: elder rights
- Zimmer, 3<sup>rd</sup> district: the CHR being more visible in the community
- Warmoth, 3<sup>rd</sup> district: humanizing the immigrant community
- Geist, 1<sup>st</sup> district: fair treatment of immigrants
- Rice, 5<sup>th</sup> district: structuring a tri-level CHR Junior Commission
- McCarthy, 5<sup>th</sup> district: building bridges between different groups
- Young, 1<sup>st</sup> district: obtaining proof of undocumented families being separated
- Molina, 3<sup>rd</sup> district: making human rights a relevant issue to young people and expanding human rights to include environmental justice

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:**

McCarthy asked for her name to be removed from Item IX Activity Reports, Partnerships with Organizations & Agencies, under Junior Commission. Zimmer motioned to approve the February 23, 2010 Agenda with the above change. Seconded by McCarthy. All in favor. Zimmer motioned to approve the January 26, 2010 Draft Minutes. Seconded by Andrews. All were in favor.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Rice announced that the San Francisco Field Office Director, Detention & Removal Operations, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and another individual from that office, agreed to be guest speakers at the March Commission meeting. A Commissioner asked: if ICE is out of county jurisdiction, does that affect the questions asked of the ICE representatives? Rice suggested limiting questions to what affects Sonoma County, and explained that Sonoma County ICE activities are controlled by the San Francisco office. Rice encouraged Commissioners to feel free to ask questions, but to ask in a spirit of courtesy and respect.

Rice next announced a CHR work group meeting she and Rohde scheduled for March 8, 2010, beginning at 10 AM and ending at an undetermined time. The purpose is to work on plans for the Junior Commission project, 2009/10 Human Rights Awards, and immigrant issues. Rice invited Commissioners to join the work group meeting, and to let Jaillet know if they will. The meeting will be in LaPlaza B, conference room #150. Young, Zimmer, Warmoth, and Andrews plan to attend.

### **IV. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

Rice announced there has been no movement. The vacancies are: none in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, one in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, none in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, two in the 4<sup>th</sup> District, and none in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, totaling three openings.

### **V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:**

There were no updates.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Disability Services and Legal Center (DSLCL)

Michael Ellenwood, head of DSLC Board of Directors, first thanked the Commission for their work, then introduced Executive Director Adam Brown, and gave some history of DSLC. It was founded in 1976, and formerly called Community Resources for Independence (CRI). A frustration was that CRI had been in the community for a long time but was not well known. Changing their name to DSLC helped reinvent the agency. Approximately 2,000 persons per year in Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino counties with physical, mental, psychological disabilities, and post traumatic stress disorder are served. DSLC does outreach, and will do physical modifications.

DSLCL is seeking to provide a better understanding of the mentally disabled, and to humanize the group. Ellenwood explained that some disabilities are more obvious than others, stating that one using a wheelchair has a more obvious disability than one sleeping under a bridge. Rice asked how Ellenwood saw the CHR and DSLCL working together. DSLCL would like to partner with the Commission in bringing attention to county-wide mental health awareness activities, and asked for assistance with promoting and event planning.

Warmoth asked the demographics of persons served. Brown answered approximately 40% claim physical disability, 40% mental disability, some claim sensory disability (vision/hearing), and range in age from 25-63.

Andrews asked what their funding source is, and if clients self-qualify. Brown responded that they are federally funded, that disabilities are self identified, and added that DSLC does not do background checks or ask for medical records at their independent living center.

Rice asked if DSLC had ever had a county wide proclamation recognizing disabilities. They have not.

Rice thanked both Ellenwood and Brown for their presentation.

### Web Streaming of Commission Meetings

Rice announced that a member of the public suggested having Commission meetings streamed live on the web. Diane Reilly Torres heard that the Board of Supervisors had expanded their contract with the company that web streams their Board meetings, to include videoing other Boards and Commissions, on a first come first served basis. Discussion followed and Commissioners asked the following: are meetings archived and available to view later? Which website is used for streaming? Can the Commission email address or phone number show while streaming? What does one have to do to access?

The group identified positive reasons for Commission meetings to be streamed live, allowing easier access for anyone unable to physically attend, and helping with public access to Commission business. Many asked if streaming could start with the next Commission meeting in March. Boyd volunteered to research. Geist motioned to authorize Boyd to move forward with research to have CHR meetings streamed live. Andrews seconded. All were in favor.

### Reform Immigration for America:

No report.

### Media Outreach with KBBF Bilingual Radio Station

Molina gave some history on KBBF. It is the first bilingual radio station in the country, founded in 1971, broadcasting 1,000 watts from St. Helena. Radio is a vehicle for news, and quite a tool for outreach to the Mexican and Latino culture because in Mexico and Latin America radio is the primary communication method. Molina would like to host round table discussions with the Sheriff, etc., and with Rice possibly facilitating, so the community can listen and call in with questions. Molina would like to submit a proposal to the KBBF General Manager and Board of Directors, to partner with the Commission in a bilingual, culturally sensitive way. Molina was asked how much this would cost, and she expressed the opinion that there would be no shortage of sponsors available.

Zimmer asked why limit outreach to KBBF since there are other public radio stations, such as KCRB and KSRO. Molina responded that there is quite a difference in having a regularly scheduled spot versus an occasional interview.

Young motioned for Molina and Rice to move ahead with proposal talks with KBBF management. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

### County of Family Unity Follow-up

Geist summarized a meeting called by Supervisor Brown. The general topic was law enforcement and the immigrant community, and also included some about ICE holds, car impoundment, and the County of Family Unity Ordinance. Commissioners were asked to focus more broadly on immigrant rights. A project for Federal Immigration Reform, involving a far reaching survey on the state of the immigrant community, was discussed. Supervisor Brown is the President of the National Association of County Supervisors, and as such appointed Supervisor Carrillo to a national task force on this subject. The survey is a massive amount of work, and would give Sonoma County a chance to influence national policy.

Rice asked third district Commissioners to clarify with Supervisor Zane what she wants her appointees to do or not do regarding involvement with the County of Family Unity Ordinance.

Zimmer shared that at Supervisors Zane's request Zimmer met with a gentleman from Interfaith to discuss a particular paragraph of the County of Family Unity Ordinance that she was uncomfortable with. He is now rewriting the paragraph.

### CHR Newsletter Review

Rice asked for comments on the text of the draft CHR Newsletter. Rice will slightly revise before sending out. Warmoth, Geist, and Andrews expressed approval of the newsletter as is.

A list of group email contacts Jaillet has was passed out. Rice asked Commissioners to provide Jaillet with contact email addresses to send the newsletter to.

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

### Attendance Report Distribution:

The attendance report was distributed to Commissioners.

### Correspondence:

The February mailbag was electronically distributed earlier.

## IX. **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

### Strengthening the Commission (Rice):

Commission newsletter and media outreach were discussed earlier.

### Outreach to the Public:

#### ◇ **Events (Rohde):**

No report.

#### ◇ **CHR Website (Warmoth):**

Part of the CHR website will be a Human Rights Directory, linking to human rights organizations. A list of organizations the CHR wants to link to needs to be created, and Geist recommended someone spearhead the project to obtain links. Andrews volunteered.

### Partnerships with Organizations & Agencies:

#### ◇ **Human Rights Organizations:**

##### Elder Abuse (Rice):

The Guerneville forum held today was a success. The next forum will be April 8, 2010, at Vintage House Senior Center in Sonoma, with Supervisor Brown.

##### Race Equality Week:

Rice asked for a volunteer to be a member of the Race Equality Week and Festival planning committee. Boyd volunteered.

##### Immigrant Issues:

- Process Issues Dialog / Forum (Rohde)  
No report.
- County of Family Unity/Family Integrity Ad Hoc (Geist)  
Rice announced that letters with further questions went out to Sheriff Cogbill, Chief Freitas, and Chief Schwedhelm.
- Drivers License & Vehicle Impound Policy Issues Ad Hoc (Amstadter)  
No report.
- Humanizing the Immigrant Community Ad Hoc (Warmoth)  
No report.

##### Committee for Immigrant Rights Sonoma County (CIRSC) (Geist):

No report.

##### Family Justice Center (Boyd):

No report.

##### Family Violence Prevention Council (Boyd):

No report.

Human Trafficking (Rice):

The group has not met in approximately five months.

Cinco de Mayo Committee SR (Warmoth):

The Committee is organizing the event for May. Warmoth asked if the Commission wants to order t-shirts to again hand out at the table this year. Jaillet will email Warmoth with quantities and sizes of t-shirts left over from last year's tabling.

Junior Commission (Rice):

Zimmer called Sonoma County Office of Education and spoke with interim Assistant Superintendent Gail Wright. Wright sent an email to county high schools asking them to contact Zimmer if they knew of a program similar to the proposed Junior Commission program, and if they have interest. Janet Parmer, a Counselor for Petaluma High School, responded to Zimmer with interest.

**X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:**

- Update on KBBF – Molina/Rice
- SSU Programs relating to Junior Commission - Amstadter

**XI. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Omar Malfavon, Interim General Manager of KBBF, said it would be an honor to work with the CHR, and he is open to a proposal. He estimates the number of listeners at two million. The station broadcasts 24 hours per day, and can be picked up in Oakland and San Francisco. Molina will set up a meeting with herself, Rice and Malfavon.

Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) instructor Dan Walsh offered to provide Jaillet with an email address contact at SRJC to send the CHR newsletter to.

**XII. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 5:30 PM at Human Resources Training.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Zimmer motioned to adjourn and Andrews seconded. Rice adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.