

Isabella Co Human Rights Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: January 05, 2015

Called to order: 5:15pm

Members Present

Kevin Daum
Shirley Decker
Maureen Eke, Chair
Laura Gonzales
Wendy Hovey
Elizabeth Husbands, Secretary
Robert Newby
Sue Poindexter, Vice-Chair
Ann Swift

Excused Absentees

Amy Shawboose

County Staff

David Ling

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Eke with a welcome to our guests and citizens in the audience. Maureen Eke also reminded the Committee that our meeting was being videotaped by Erica Hopcraft and that these sessions will be used for training purposes. Beginning in March the recordings will be posted to our website and will be played on air by MAC TV.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by David Ling and seconded by Susan Poindexter. The motion was passed unanimously by committee members present.

3. General Public Comment

There were no public comments made by the audience members present.

4. Presentations: ALPACT (Guest: John Golaszewski, MDCR)

The presentation began with a brief overview of the Mi Department of Civil Rights and an overview of the current active Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT) groups. ALPACT is comprised of leaders and members of the community in various regions of Michigan: Southeast Michigan, Flint, West MI, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, and leaders from the law enforcement community. The members meet regularly to examine issues affecting police and community relations; potential conversations may include but are not limited to community perceptions of discriminatory enforcement of laws, racial profiling and excessive use of force by police officers. Two examples were cited where ALPACT meetings were effective in reducing community misperceptions related to crimes: one in Holland involved a hit and run accident where two Latino young men were killed in a hit & run accident and the other where the body of an AA man washed up on shore.

Building relationships to help break-down barriers & stereotypes

The Milton Hall shooting in Saginaw—excessive force case—helped spearhead the development of the Saginaw ALPACT to help better facilitate communication between police and

citizens. The other ALPACTs were proactive in that they were formed to prevent crisis or conflict situations from escalating rather than in a response to a specific event.

1. Meeting w/ US attorney
2. Identify community stakeholders--HRC
3. Identify key Law Enforcement stakeholders--CR
4. Convene a meeting with both groups-facilitated by CR
5. CR staff will be present at each ALPACT meeting

One of the key goals of ALPACT is to bring together at one table the leaders of multiple community organizations, who will meet regularly with the goal of educating one another on current issues and proactively. The major outcome of this is to create community connections so that when something does happen in the community citizens know the appropriate person(s) to contact.

Very little cost involved in the running of the meetings; leaders of organizations are typically at the table and are invested in continuing the meeting and rotate the hosting of the meeting.

5. Approval of December 2014 Meeting Minutes

The minutes will be approved via on-line review process as members were not all able to review.

6. HRC Executive Committee Elections

Maureen Eke will retain the office of Chair, Sue Poindexter will remain Vice-Chair; Elizabeth Husbands will remain as Secretary. A motion was made by Bob Newby and seconded by Wendy Hovey to close the nominations as presented for the current slate of officers. The motion was carried unanimously by those present.

7. Reports:

a. Eke: update on meeting with Margaret McAvoy

1. Email: the county will create a new email address for the executive committee.
2. Facebook page: No additional funding is available for the cost of hiring someone to develop and maintain this social media platform. Therefore this duty will be added to the intern's job description.
3. Missing Minutes: we will be working with the County staff to update the minutes on the website as quickly as possible. We will be working update the minutes in a batch over the next couple of months. Due to the change in staffing and the other delays experienced over the past few months a backlog was created.

b. Presentation to Isabella County Board of Commissioners (12/2/2014)

A meeting was held on 12/02/14. The Board was congratulatory of the work we are doing. Maureen Eke plans to contact the Chamber of Commerce for some presentation in the future. It was recommended that our presentation to the Board be placed on our Facebook page and on our website.

c. Support of the expansion of Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Public Act 453 of 1976 to include LGBTQ populations

Bob Newby, Laura Gonzales, and Maureen Eke attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the HRC in favor of supporting the expansion of the Elliott Larson Act.

d. *Future events/programs*

Review the list and be prepared to indicate which 8 events you will be participating in at the February meeting (remember each member is expected to participate in at least two events annually). Maureen Eke has reached out to Dr. Traci Guinn regarding the MLK Day Events. She is expecting our participation in the walk and will be looking for other avenues through which we can participate.

e. *Incident Report Form*

A few minor changes, age appears twice on page two, deleted a few unnecessary words, added some words. Discussion ensued regarding the intersection of the protected classes outlined in the Incident Report Form, the Non-discrimination Ordinances (Union Township & Mt Pleasant). Kevin Daum will work to review and conduct the discussion via email. We will review during the meeting in February.

8. Sub-committee updates:

a. *Study of Micro-Aggressions—Education sub-committee (Laura Gonzales/David Ling)*

Next meeting is scheduled for 01/24/15 at 10:00 the group will continue to work on the budget and presentations.

b. *Disability (Anne Swift)*

The committee has a brief meeting today. They are hoping to present to the Isabella County Commission on the ADA presentation on Feb 3 and 17. They are also looking in how other County Department receive their ADA updated information.

c. *Law Enforcement (Bob Newby)*

Planning a meeting with students on campus on how to have a non-threatening dialogue with law enforcement.

9. New Business:

a. *HRC By-Laws*

Maureen Eke will email the information to committee members for discussion during the February meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Maureen Eke at 7:04pm.