

**Sullivan County Human Rights Commission  
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, April 28, 2016**

Present: Lorraine Lopez, Judy Balaban, Isaac Diebboll, Peggy Johansen, Bill Liblick, Gabriel Bertonazzi, Kathie Aberman, Sam Encarnacion (on speaker phone)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to Isaac Green Diebboll, new Commissioner

- I. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Postponed due to technical difficulties.
- II. Executive Committee Report (met 4/26/16)
  - A. May is our annual meeting when we elect a new Executive Committee. Sam and Roland are appointed Nominating Committee. They will poll commissioners, create a slate, and bring it to the next meeting.
  - B. Our Strategic Plan (on the website) needs to be revisited after the summer. At that point, what will we do to move forward with bringing the volunteers (from the Dialogues) in more fully?
  - C. Judy spoke to Laurie Bertsch about the by-laws. They did not have a secretary for a while, but now the by-laws are being typed. When that is done, they will be sent to the commissioners for us all to look at and make recommendations before the next Executive Committee meeting of the Legislature (5/19/16).
- III. Executive Director's Report
  - A. EEOC training: Lorraine is going 6/21-6/22.
  - B. Lorraine was interviewed by a journalist from S.C. Democrat
  - C. Lorraine is looking to partner with other agencies (via S.A.L.T.) and create forums of interest to the community
- IV. Issues Committee Report – No new complaints
  - A. Prior complaint: young man wanted Legal Aid to appoint a lawyer, but he hasn't filed the necessary paperwork.
  - B. Prior complaint: a woman was accused of fraud by Crystal Run because of an error in DSS reporting. Although DSS corrected the error, (and sent a letter to that effect), Crystal Run still won't work

with her. She has a medical condition and wants only to be able to see her regular doctor. Lorraine will be contacting DSS and CR to resolve the misunderstanding.

V. Outreach Committee Report

A. Eileen Haworth Weil Scholarship Brunch – The event went very well and guests and honorees seemed pleased. Bill: the brunch was excellent: the honorees, the atmosphere, etc. However, thinks it is important to acknowledge attending candidates in a non-political way.

B. Dialogue2Change Initiative

1. Dialogues will begin next week; we are still recruiting participants.
2. Lorraine wrote to school superintendents and has heard back from Ivan Katz (Fallsburg) and William Silver (Liberty).
3. Lorraine will be going to Fallsburg with Desmond to talk to students and staff tomorrow morning.
4. Steering Committee coordinators have been doing a great job getting everything organized and ready.
5. Isaac spoke about an outreach process that would stress using the data from the dialogues to connect with legislators. Isaac will be on the Documentation & Evaluation Committee to help with this.

C. Hasidic/Orthodox Community Forum – tentatively set for June 9

1. A gathering of the Hasidic/Orthodox community and year-round community to share concerns, foster understanding, and bring people together.
2. The heads of the summer camps would be invited, 20 or so, including the ambulance corps; leaders from the year-round local community will also be invited.
3. Biggest concern is that the Hasidim is a growing population; their leaders need to talk to their people, so we can work together; we should build a better relationship.

4. Bill is working on this: Jerry Orsek and Tony Cellini will help to organize this discussion, which they envision as the first of many.
5. Bill will set up an Outreach Meeting with Kathie, Isaac, Lorraine, Cellini and Orsek to plan the structure of this event.

VI. Public Comment

A. Marty Colavito, Director of Preventative Services (Catholic Charities) and Annette Foy

1. S.A.L.T. (originally B.A.T.S) – a coalition of 20-30 agencies acting as a resource for any need. Its mission is to collectively integrate with the community to solve problems:
  - create more sharing between agencies, help people navigate to services more easily
  - bring human touch to the community, engage people's fears and traumas
  - collectively we can prevent problems, we don't have to react to problems
  
  - S.A.L.T. (Sullivan Agencies Leading Together) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 9 a.m. at the Stroebel Center. Next meeting is 5/19.
  
  - Next meeting will be a presentation about DSRIP and “cultural competency” in healthcare.
2. HRC partnering with Catholic Charities: Marty will get us a list of services provided for us to have as a resource, and to be ambassadors.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved at 6:35 p.m.