

Sullivan County Human Rights Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Present: Judy, Eric, Kathie, Donna, Lorraine, Sam, Peggy

Citizen participant: Ms. Stewart and her two children

- I. Approval of last month's minutes: Lorraine made a motion, all approved.

- II. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Care Core meeting – Nov. 19 – Eric attended in an effort to expand our network. They mostly do work in schools with drugs, etc.; aligned with BAT Coalition.

- III. Executive Committee Report – the committee has not met yet this month.
 - A. David Chavkin has withdrawn his application for the HRC.

- IV. Issues Committee Report
 - A. Ms. Stewart attending the meeting with a concern about her son and his school. He has an IEP diagnosis since age 4. She has had to strongly advocate for him. He has a 1-1 aide, but the school wants to send him out of the district, and Ms. Stewart is opposed to this. She feels that since she refused, she is called with every infraction to take him home. The school hasn't yet completed his M.S. behavior program. He was suspended last Wed for 2 days for refusing to do work. She was recommended to (1) document all interactions with the school; (2) follow up with all school channels (i.e. DASA rep); and (3) file a complaint with State Dept of Education.

- B. Sullivan County Adult Care: A man who works there feels he is being discriminated against as a male in a predominantly female environment. Anti-male comments from the supervisor. The recommendation has been for him to file with the EEO officer to straighten it out. He took it to Linda Levine, but is not confident because nothing has been done yet.
 - C. Follow-up of a woman with a complaint against Crystal Run. She was accused of forging documents, so they refused her service. The County investigated and stated that no forging was done, but Crystal Run still refuses her services (as reported by Legal Services there). Eric thinks she should file with NYS Legal Services and get legal aid there. Maybe it's just a case of miscommunications?
- V. Outreach Committee Report
- A. Tenant's Rights Forum – Nov. 5 – The forum was scantily attended, although Donna said it was very interesting and informative.
 - B. Ted Stroeble Recreation Center – Eric recommends that we not use it anymore, at least not for forums. They are inconsistent with the charge: we had to pay \$150 for the room. Then we were put in the small room instead of the large one, but we still had to pay for the large one.
- VI. Old Business
- A. Training for school facilitators (Oct. 31). We are still on with Cooke Elementary for Dec. 10, Jan. 21, and another date in Feb. Matt M. will organize another meeting date to plan agenda for the upcoming school programs.
 - B. Everyday Democracy – The initial coalition meeting was very positive; people attending acknowledged the value of dialogue for change. 33 people attended, and many listed what they were willing to do. The challenge is to maintain the high energy.

- VII. New Business
 - A. Eileen H. Weil organizational meeting for 2016 Scholarship Brunch – Dec. 9 at Kathie’s house, 5:30

- VIII. Public Comment

- IX. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.