

MASW Human Rights Task Force
Meeting Report: 1:30, Thursday, May 27, 2010
Center for Social Justice
606 East Capitol, Jefferson City

Present: Eric Krekel, Carol Zablocki, Nancy Browning, Stu Murphy, Don Love (reporting); Christine Woody tried calling in but we hadn't started the call.

1. Sparkplug Foundation Grant:

a. Bob says we need to commit expenditures from the grant by 6/30, but the events can be later. We have about \$4000 left, not counting the Harris books. Don will get specific figures from Bob and work on a budget that will allow us to make final spending decisions at our June 24 meeting.

We agreed that a committee of Don, Stu and Bob would make decisions about expenditures that haven't already been agreed to by HRTF when it's not convenient to gather the TF. (After the meeting: Don suggests we substitute "MASW staff" for Bob; that way we could use Christine unless Bob specifically wants to be involved. We've always checked with Bob on anything that we had any doubts about, and he sees our meeting reports.)

b. Racial Profiling/Preventive Policing.

David Harris's visit will be July 21 and 22 in central Missouri and St Louis.

We will commit enough grant money that Springfield and KC can have a similar event to focus attention. Springfield and KC will be able to tailor events to fit local conditions. (Ken Burton likes Lori Fridell, formerly of the Police Executive Research Forum and now a professor at U of Southern Florida, and will sound her out on availability. http://criminology.usf.edu/faculty/data/lfridell_cv.pdf)

The Attorney General releases 6/2 the tenth year of data collected on racial profiling. Rick Rosenfeld, UMSL, who has been analyzing the data, expects a continuation of the trend toward more profiling of African-Americans.

Jack Colwill and Chip Huth of the KC PD Leadership Academy look like good prospects for input from police professionals on training that reduces profiling and other forms of abuse. <http://unleashingrespect.blogspot.com/> We will see if we can arrange to have them speak in central Missouri, with the grant paying expenses. (After the meeting: Columbia Police Chief Ken Burton says he is willing to host an event for law enforcement commanders; this will make it easier to begin a dialog with those who have been unresponsive to us so far.)

The screening of Ten Rules for Dealing with the Police (http://flexyourrights.org/10_Rules/) went well in Columbia; it's a pretty hard nosed depiction of aggressive police tactics, but Burton thinks citizens need to stand up for their rights, and demand a higher standard of law enforcement. Columbia will probably buy several copies of the video. It would be good for MASW to have copies available.

We received 24 copies of Harris's Profiles in Injustice. Six went to St Louis, Carol took six to Springfield. CC is monopolizing seven, but we'll get KC their share soon.

c. A new grant for the coming year: Christine has a prospect.

2. Updates:

a. **Springfield Human Rights Commission** Carol reports: The Springfield Mayor's Commission for Human Rights and Community Relations presented its Strategic Plan to the City Council's Plans and Policies Committee on May 22. Plans and Policies accepted the entire Strategic Plan as written. While city staff wanted the HRC to prioritize the actions based on budgetary costs (the HRC has been budgeted \$10K for 2010-2011), the HRC decided not to since each action is considered equally important and the HRC wanted to stress the idea of safety and well-being for all citizens of Springfield. Carol Zablocki has been asked to address Springfield's City Council on June 14th when Council will hold a public hearing prior to voting on the plan's acceptance by Council.

b. **Tasers:** The Taser-free group is distributing a petition for a city ordinance to ban tasers.

3. Other Events

a. **Universal Design.** Columbia HRC staff ran out of time to organize an event this spring. We'll get back to it in the summer and fall. We should start developing a statewide strategy to affect policies.

b. **fair housing:** Eric reports about 23 attended the symposium in Columbia and 13 in Jeff City.

c. **Universal Design Summit,** St Louis, 10/9-12: <http://stlouis.uds4.org/>

4. Legislation: See Bob's end of session report:

<http://www.masw.org/immediate%20issues/documents/EndofSessionWrapUp2010.pdf>

5. **MASW Annual Conference:** Don will formally suggest a breakout panel discussion on racial profiling for the June 15 planning committee meeting.

6. **Next meeting:** 1:30, Thursday, June 24, 606 E. Capitol, Jefferson City.