

MASW Human Rights Task Force
Meeting Report 1:30, Thursday, September 23, 2010
Center for Social Justice
606 East Capitol, Jefferson City

1. Racial Bias in Law Enforcement

- a. David Harris is still working on a date in November. KC and Springfield are ready and eager. [Springfield will be 11/10 and KC 11/11.]
- b. St Louis is concentrating on profiling of Latinos.
- c. Columbia activists have been concerned about a SWAT incident in February. Ken Burton just released a video made by the city entitled Traffic Stop Do's and Don't's, which is helpful and is evidence of a determination to communicate better with citizens. We're still looking for an opportunity to bring Colwell and Huth to central Missouri and to work on the Attorney General's profiling data.
- d. Don has been slow to get Jeff City underway, but that should start soon.
- e. John Chasnoff (ACLU), Rick Rosenfeld (UMSL) and Don have been lining up ducklings before approaching the AG's office. We would like the AG to track the residencies of drivers so clearer results can be computed, computer discrepancy indices for more types of stops, provide more help to departments and advocates, and set performance standards for officer training.
- f. John and Don will be looking at possible legislation.
- g. The Ten Rules video is a good resource to help citizens know how to assert their rights.
- h. The Holocaust Museum has \$500 to do programming outstate.
- i. We need to look for more small grants to support programming.
- j. profiling in other contexts is also important.

2. Updates:

a. Springfield Human Rights Commission

Chief Paul Williams says the AG's report flawed, presumably meaning that it doesn't deliver useful information.

HCR is arranging conflict resolution training for city officials. A mother is suing the school district because it refused to provide least restrictive services for her child.

b. **Tasers:** The Columbia ordinance goes to a vote in November.

3. Other Events/issues

a. **Universal Design.** We need to work on programs in different cities and on state policies and legislation. Possible small grant for programs? Don has started working with Extension. Here's an example of an Extension resource:

<http://missourifamilies.org/features/housingarticles/housing5.htm>

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

c. **Fair Housing:** This could be a good issue for us.

Urban Housing Alliance: rights of tenants'; we could do some collaborative events

d. **Foster Care:** better record keeping by Corrections, better distribution of funds for adoption, education on issues at the Capitol and in communities

- e. **discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity:** work with PROMO on non-discrimination and safe schools; support community efforts at non-discrimination; support anti-bullying and anti-suicide programs. Scott Perkins has been working on the establishment of local groups to promote simple suicide intervention strategies as part of an effort to raise awareness of the problem of suicide and the need for more resources to fight it.
- f. **Other discrimination:** We might be able to work with small business associations on discrimination in retail businesses. This has been an issue for Columbia HRC.
- g. **Restorative Justice:** our best strategy on this may be to work with the Criminal Justice Task Force.
- h. **Immigration:** support education and advocacy related to English-only policies, profiling, equal protection by police, etc.
- i. **Tasers:** better state-wide standards.
- j. **Religious tolerance:** watch for threats, support good policies.
- k. **Racial discrimination:** a Columbia coalition is working to create awareness about 1923 lynching. HRTF supports.

5. **MASW Annual Conference:** 11/4/10

6. Rod Chapel nominated MASW for an award from the JC NAACP for work on racial profiling.

7. **Next meeting:** 1:30, Thursday, October 28, 606 E. Capitol, Jefferson City.