

MASW Human Rights Task Force
Meeting Report
1 pm, January 22, 2009
Center for Social Justice
606 East Capitol, Jefferson City
573-635-1648

Present: Carol Zablocki, Nancy Browning, Deb Hume, Eric Krekel, Karen Lowenstein, Andrew Bailey (MASW intern, UMKC student), Bob Quinn (MASW Executive Director), Don Love (reporting)

1. New participants and issues:

- a. Deb Hume, Columbia, assistant professor UM Columbia Psychological Sciences: Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition. They are making a well-organized effort to get legislators, the attorney general and law enforcement agencies to be aware of the problem of trafficking and to take preventative actions. A large percentage of victims are probably homeless US teenagers, a number are immigrants forced into prostitution, and a number are immigrant laborers (roofers, gardeners, etc.) who have been trapped into debts that enslave them.
- b. A.J. Bockelman, St Louis, PROMO (statewide LGBT equality). Promo will start an institutional membership with MASW. A likely representative for the HRTF is Nathan Gerth, an intern for Maria Chapelle-Nadal, St Louis. Promo is especially interested in safe schools, anti-bullying, and an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification.
- c. Dan Viet, Columbia ACLU, Coalition to Control TASERs. The group is working on central Missouri communities to at least provide adequate training on the use of TASERs and to have policies restricting their use. They expect to have a bill on TASERs presented in the legislature soon. **The HRTF supports the efforts of the Coalition to Control TASERs to put reasonable limits on the use of TASERs so that law enforcement officers restrict their use to situations where there is an imminent threat of physical harm that can't be addressed by less lethal means.**

2. Bill Tracking: for now, Don has bill tracking information on this website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/muuanlegislation/>

Information is more easily accessible there, and easier to update.

As the session progresses, Bob Quinn will have more to say about proposed legislation.

Please share your perceptions and priorities with the Task Force.

3. HB227 Human Rights. This bill weakens Missouri's Human Rights law in several ways. See Eric Krekel's comments at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/muuanlegislation/human-rights--general/human-rights-bill--hb22>

4. Lobby Days, etc. Is your group, agency, etc. planning a lobby day or other event at the capitol? Let us know so we can encourage participation by other MASW members and collaborators.

Are you planning events in other parts of the state? Might the event be a good occasion for a HRTF meeting in another location? Let us know.

5. Next Meeting

It occurs to me we may not have weighed all factors in selecting meeting days. Thursday afternoons work for a number of members but they may not be the best for making contact with legislators, which is often a big motivation in having meetings in Jeff City during the session. I will consult with Bob Quinn on the finer points of meeting scheduling. Let us know what you think.

Did anyone have trouble with the teleconferencing? No one called it, which surprised us.

The next meeting is scheduled for **1:15 pm, Thursday, February 26, at the Center for Social Justice.**