

MASW Human Rights Task Force  
Meeting Agenda: 1:30, March 25, 2010  
Center for Social Justice  
606 East Capitol, Jefferson City

To call in dial 1-800-377-8846 then type passcode 33269229 #

1. **Sparkplug Foundation Grant:**

- a. Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (**MIRA**) \$500 allocated. Christine and Stephanie are working on a Columbia service provider event with Centro Latino for the first week in April.
- b. Lenny Ziskind and/or Larry Brown: we still want to use these resources, but other projects have taken precedence.
- c. Enforcing **hate crimes laws**: we'll start with community policing in Jeff City, and a cooperative effort between the JC PD and El Puente, the local Hispanic support group. A similar project is underway with Centro Latino and the Columbia PD. These won't require grant money, unless there's some left over for refreshments and that sort of thing.
- d. Kevin Willmott's **The Only Good Indian** (<http://www.theonlygoodindian.com/>), 4 pm, Thursday, 3/25, at Lincoln U Langston Hughes Theater. Nancy will write a statement for grant documentation. We'll set up an MASW table, and collect evaluation forms. \$200 allocated from grant. A small dinner with Willmott is planned; anyone interested.
- e. **Racial Profiling**. David Harris affirms his interest in speaking at several sites in Missouri if his expenses are covered. He's a favorite of ACLU staff in St Louis; they are interested in collaborating. Don is working on identifying people and groups in St Louis, KC, Columbia and Springfield who would help plan a collaborative effort to improve policing along the lines of Harris's program.
- f. **Cultural competence/diversity training**: a number of groups in Columbia are interested in using this tool to improve communities. CMCA and CHRC want to use it as part of employment programs, to head off misunderstandings between employers and low-income employee trainees. The Center Project (LGBT community center: director Carol Snively is head of the MU graduate social work program) is interested in a grant to set up a program to combat LGBT prejudice. Noor Azizan-Gardner wants a MU cultural competence program for all MU students. Burton was better training for officers. The schools ought to be working on better anti-bullying efforts. Don is trying to facilitate cooperation and support.
- g. **Job Discrimination Forum** aimed at employee rights. MCHR, Columbia HRC (Marie and Steve Hollis), ACLU (Dan) have expressed an interest in this. This keeps being bumped back because of other things, but Columbia HRC continues to be interested.

2. Updates:

- a. **Springfield Human Rights Commission** update from Carol: The Strategic Planning Group passed the Action Plan March 9 and passed it on to the HRC for review and approval. At our last meet on March 17, the Commission passed the Action Plan after some minor editing changes. We are now adding estimated costs to the plan for next year's budget process and then it plan will go before a Council subcommittee. The HRC will be asked to make a presentation to that subcommittee as well City Council at a later date. The only substantial cost will be if the City agrees to implement the enforcement changes proposed in the Action Plan to make the HRC substantially equivalent to the MHRC.

b. **Tasers:** The Taser-free group is building support in Columbia for a ban, with backing from MASW Central chapter. Joan Bray has offered SB590 which creates a task force; it has been assigned to committee. Webber and Roorda have offered HCR 30 which creates a legislative committee to study “less lethal” (or “less than lethal”) weapons used by law enforcement; it hasn’t gone anywhere.

c. **Centralia nondiscrimination** ordinance: the Columbia public radio station KBIA had coverage 3/23, but the program doesn’t show up on the website yet. Jessica Orsini was interviewed and a Baptist minister; an ongoing dialog bodes well. (Here’s a KBIA program on a new Kirksville ordinance against housing discrimination based on sexual orientation: <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kbia/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1477488/news/Kirksville.Adds.Sexual.Orientation.to.Fair.Housing.Ordinance>)

d. DeAnna Alonso has a resource center in Jeff City for **foster care** kids and families. Her priorities are better services for kids who are aging out and better distribution of resources statewide; St Louis and Kansas City take everything. Central Chapter supports her effort to have some sort of educational effort at the Capitol.

She also wants Department of Corrections to track new inmates by participation in foster care. Criminal Justice TF contacts have helped her find the right person to talk to.

#### 4. Other Events

a. **Universal Design.** Columbia HRC will cooperate on a program in May to present information about UD to as many individuals and representatives of groups as we can round up. Leslie Anderson of Columbia Services for Independent Living will provide expertise and connections. We will try to bring Colleen Starkloff in as the presenter.

Springfield has a five year strategic plan to include UD in public accommodations, hotels, restaurants, etc.

Rachel Storch’s UD bill, HB1737, had a hearing 3/24. Homebuilders objected to some aspects but offered suggestions that were generally helpful. Don testified for HRTF.

b. **fair housing:** April is Fair Housing Month. Eric has events planned in Columbia and Jeff City.

Steve Hollis thinks an advocacy group should be working on fair housing issues. Bob Quinn and Don will schedule a meeting with him and Tom Lata, Columbia Community Development Coordinator.

Eric says Impediment to Fair Housing reports are good places to go to see the sort of problems that come up. Here’s Columbia’s most recent:

[http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Housing\\_Programs/documents/FairHousingDocument2010.pdf](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Planning/Housing_Programs/documents/FairHousingDocument2010.pdf)

c. **advertisements.** Steve says grant money is available from Columbia for public service ads on commercial TV or radio addressing social justice issues. Don will investigate the possibility of producing ads related to profiling and UD.

4. **Legislation:** The Chair hasn’t been able to keep this list updated with hearings, amendments, votes, etc., We need to see if we can develop a better way of doing this. Perhaps a Facebook page would work, on which everyone could post updates on the bills of interest.

a. ACLU brought Gary Johnson, former Governor of New Mexico to Missouri to speak about decriminalization of marijuana.

b. LGBT Equality Day was 3/24. There appears to be increased support for MONA (non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity) and Safe Schools (anti-bullying with LGBT as a protected category). MONA may be supported in committee.

c. SB852, limiting the effectiveness of the Missouri HRC: awaiting debate. HB1488: no hearing scheduled.

d. MIRA:

[HB 1231 - DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINATIONS - Davis, Cynthia L.](#); Requires Missouri driver's examinations to be administered in English. **Last Action/Date:** 03/17/2010 **Voted Do Pass.** **MIRA Position:** Oppose

[SB783 - Provides that certain aliens will receive in-state tuition at college and universities that meet certain requirements](#) **Sponsor(s):** Jolie Justus. **Last Action/Date:** 2/24/2010 - Hearing Conducted S Education

Committee. Senator Justus presented her bill in Committee and MIRA, the Service Employees International Union, Catholic Charities St. Louis, and National Education Association testified in support. In addition, Sen. Justus recognized 20 students who had traveled from Kansas City in support, and Sen. Pearce had them give a show of hands for their support of the bill. The students also had a chance to talk with both Senators after the hearing. No one testified in opposition! NPR, KBIA and other news outlets were present and carried stories about the hearing. The Committee did not vote on SB783 in executive session, so the bill will not be reported out of committee at this time. We will continue to keep you posted on the bill if there is any progress.

5. **Lobby days;** let's do what we can to support each other's efforts on special HR topics

a. UD, aging, disabilities, etc. Don missed one of these 3/23.

b. League of Women Voters

c. MASW Economic Justice TF on fair taxes

d. foster care

e. others

6. **Other events:**

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

7. **Next meeting:** 1:30, Thursday, April 22, 606 E. Capitol, Jefferson City.