

Chairperson
Eduardo Rivera

Vice-Chair
Cara Berg Powers

Clerk
Jeffrey Miller



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Harry Danso
Kathleen Gervais
Edward Kwiyup
Mable Millner
Edward G. Robinson
Udeme Ukpog

**Meeting Summary
Monday February 4th, 2013
6pm
City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd Floor**

Members Present: Cara Berg Powers, Eduardo Rivera, Harry, Danso, Kathleen Gervais, and Edward G. Robinson

Members Absent: Jeffrey Miller, Edward Kwiyup, Mable Milner, Udeme Ukpog

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities, Caitlin Alcorn, Intern for the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

Guests: Christa Drew and Richard Schmidt from the Center for Nonviolent Solutions; Robin Currie from the Not For Sale Campaign; Kyla Pacheco, Ashley Becker, Stephanie Folan and Carolyn Cammarano from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gay Straight Alliance.

1. Call to Order: There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

2. Introductions: The Commission introduced themselves.

3. Approval of January 7, 2013 Minutes: Commission unanimously voted to approve minutes.

4. New Business:

a) Transgender education and awareness

Staff advisor and student members of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gay Straight Alliance introduced themselves. They explained that they are interested in collaborating with the Commission in the area of education around LGBTQ health issues. Ms. Turchek read the minutes from last month's minutes and referenced the Cambridge Human Rights Commission LGBTQ shelter survey discussed at last month's meeting. She reminded the commission that an LGBTQ report had been prepared by Clark graduate students and was available as a reference. Additionally she reminded the commission that the Point in Time 2012 report on youth homelessness in the city will be presented on February 15th. The Chairman



CITY OF WORCESTER HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
c/o JAYNA TURCHEK, ESQ., DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1152 | FAX (508) 799-1208
EMAIL: humanrights@worcesterma.gov



asked for recommendations for another survey in Worcester. Ms. Berg Powers suggested the need for a subcommittee to focus on the survey. Ms. Turchek suggested instead to assign specific tasks to each committee member. Mr. Robinson asked to assign specific tasks next month. The Chair recommended the Commission and the MCPHS continue to discuss ways of developing future collaboration. Members of the MCPHS Gay Straight Alliance asked for one point person on the Commission to stay in touch with as progress is made throughout the month. Mr. Robinson volunteered to be the contact.

b) Mediation video collaboration

Ms. Turchek introduced the Center for Nonviolent Solutions (CNS) and the possibility of furthering mediation services through a collaboration with the Commission on a video highlighting the benefits of mediation in multiple languages. CNS Executive Director Christa Drew highlighted the work of the center and its community mediation model and Mr. Schmidt, a volunteer with the center explained the benefits of mediation and the usefulness of a video highlighting these benefits. There was a discussion on the importance of mediation and Mr. Danso volunteered to participate in the video. Ms. Turchek asked for a consensus from the Commission to collaborate and for next steps from the Chairman. A motion was made and carried to have the Commission collaborate with CNS with Ms. Turchek as the lead contact.

c) Stand Against Racism: Friday April 26, 2013

Ms. Turchek described the upcoming event and asked for suggestions on how the Commission would like to be involved. There was a discussion of possibly co-sponsoring the event. Ms. Berg Powers suggested co-sponsoring with Press Pass for a screening of the documentary *The Central Park Five* the night before the event. A motion was made and carried to have the Commission co-sponsor the event and the Commission will be listed as a participating site for the annual YWCA Stand Against Racism.

5. Old Business:

a) Sexual exploitation educational materials

Ms. Turchek reviewed the discussion on the subject that took place at the last meeting. Ms. Berg Powers suggested the need for assigning next steps. Robin Currie, an advocate with the Not For Sale campaign volunteered her assistance. There was a discussion on how Ms. Currie/Not for Sale Worcester and the Commission could collaborate to disburse awareness and educational information to Worcester schools and/or other public locations. Ms. Berg Powers, with the help of other Commission members, will look into initiatives already in place at schools and report back.

b) April Fair Housing Month

Ms. Turchek introduced the upcoming fair housing training event on Saturday April 6, 2013 and asked for participation from the Commission. There was a discussion on how the Commission could be involved and individual members agreed to check their schedules and contact Ms. Turchek.

c) International Women's Day

Ms. Turchek explained that the day will be March 8th and asked if the Commission wanted to commemorate the day in any way. There was a discussion on extending an invitation

to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (ACSW) to possibly request a joint mayoral proclamation. Ms. Turcek will follow up with the ACSW.

6. Commissioners' Report:

Members attended the following community events and activities:

- Human Rights Commission and Press Pass screening of the film Flesh
- Human Trafficking Awareness Day Rally and Training
- Women Together community meeting
- Burncoat/Greendale Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) meeting
- Ambassadors of Peace meeting

7. Office of Human Rights Director's Report:

Ms. Turcek answered the Commission's question from last month regarding what complaint type is listed as 1516.1 on the Worcester Police Department BOPS report. 1516.1 is Neglect of Duty.

Ms. Turcek introduced upcoming events including the Bullying Prevention conference on February 28, 2013. She also announced the MA civil service examination registration has begun and encouraged members to share this information with others.

8. Location of Next Meeting:

The location for next month's meeting (March 4, 2013) will be confirmed by Ms. Turcek.

9. Public Comment:

No public comment.

The Chairman motioned to suspend the rules to discuss an item not on the agenda. Ms. Turcek suggested that he put the item on the agenda for next month. The Chairman agreed.

10. Adjournment:

On a motion that was duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission
Planning Calendar**

3rd Quarter (January-March)

1. Human trafficking/sexual exploitation materials
2. Transgender education and awareness
3. International Women's Day
4. Fair Housing Month (April)

4th Quarter (April-June)

1. May Day
2. Juneteenth
3. Loving Day

**Human Rights Commission
Monthly Meeting – Monday February 4th, 2013, 6pm
City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd Floor**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions (Commission Members and Guests)
3. Approval of January 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
 - a) Transgender education and awareness
MCPHS: Gay Straight Alliance
 - b) Mediation video collaboration
Center for Nonviolent Solutions
 - c) Stand Against Racism: *Friday April 26, 2013*
5. Old Business:
 - a) Sexual exploitation educational materials
 - b) April Fair Housing Month
 - c) International Women's Day
6. Commissioners' Report
7. Office of Human Rights Director's Report
8. Location of Next Meeting (March 4th, 2013): MCPHS
9. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
10. Adjournment

The Human Rights Commission is dedicated to its service of safeguarding the civil liberties of all persons who live or work in Worcester. May the public kindly take notice to respect the order and decorum of the meeting. Please silence all cell phones and similar electronic devices. Refrain from speaking on cell phones or to others until recognized by the Chair that you have the floor.