

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Evergreen Plaza Building
711 South Capitol Way, Public Disclosure Commission Conference Room, 2nd Fl
Olympia, WA**

1. OPENING AND WELCOME
Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Commission Chair
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Regular Meetings on April 28, 2011
3. Status Report on Action Items
Tanya Calahan, Clerk of the Commission
4. AGENCY REPORT
Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director
 - Agency Budget
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - Case Closure Delegation – Status Report
 - Commissioner Roles & Priorities – Continued Discussion
 - Executive Director & Clerk Evaluation Process
 - Other

10 A.M.

6. PRESENTATION REGARDING TRANSGENDERED PERSONS IN WASHINGTON
Karen Williams

11 A.M.

7. OVERVIEW OF RULEMAKING PROCESS
Laura Lindstrand, Interim Enforcement Manager
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - Public Records & Agency Email Accounts
 - Other
9. ACTION ITEM REVIEW
Tanya Calahan
10. ADJOURN

Note: Lunch break will be incorporated into the agenda.

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

May 27, 2011
Evergreen Plaza Building
Olympia, WA

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Commission Chair; Deborah Lee; Shawn Murinko; and Charlene Strong. A quorum was present.

Absent: Vanessa Gaston

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Assistant Director; Tanya Calahan, Executive Assistant to the Commissioners; Laura Lindstrand, Interim Enforcement Manager; Nick Aaseby, Fiscal Analyst; and Heather Polz, Assistant Attorney General.

Guests: Karen Williams and fellow panelists Elisa, Susan, Shelly, and Audrey.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Commissioner Lopez-Morton called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

MINUTES

Commissioner Murinko made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 28, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Strong seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STATUS REPORT ON ACTION ITEMS

The Commissioners discussed action items from the previous Commission meeting.

Commissioners Strong and Lee will follow up on securing a free location in Seattle for the June 24, 2011 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Lee suggested that the Commission have a greater presence in Seattle at various community meetings. Commissioner Strong, who resides in Seattle, offered to attend community meetings if the other Commissioners inform her in advance of them.

AGENCY REPORT

Sharon Ortiz spoke about outreach and the opportunities to partner with other organizations to reduce costs.

Commissioner Strong suggested advertisements in the Seattle Lesbian, which has a 50,000 plus readership.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will hold meetings regarding their civil rights compliance rulemaking. Sharon Ortiz will provide information to Commissioners about those meetings.

The agency will hold an all staff meeting and training on June 28, 2011 at The Evergreen State College. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Nick Aaseby gave an agency budget report. He highlighted savings to date and the impact of ESSB 6503 regarding temporary layoffs.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES

Karen Williams attended the meeting with guests who spoke about issues facing transgendered persons. They all spoke about their backgrounds and provided insight into what it is like to live as a male to female transgendered person.

Ms. Williams led the discussion by explaining variety of ways in which transgendered persons self identify. Some cross dress and live as both male and female while some permanently transition physically by proceeding with surgery.

Each member of the panel told her personal story and spoke about home life, work life, and experiences with discrimination. Each one also spoke about the challenge of accessing restrooms at work and in places of public accommodation and incidences of discrimination and harassment while dressed as female.

Ms. Williams talked about the importance of education and offered to assist the Commission in outreach efforts by speaking about transgender issues. She also talked about the need for consistent laws and rules.

Commissioners and staff expressed appreciation to the panelists for enlightening them on transgender issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff provided information about the current month's case closures to the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Lindstrand gave a presentation on the rulemaking process.

Commissioners and staff then discussed developing a plan to tackle rulemaking for various protected classes under RCW 49.60. Commissioner Morton suggested a standing rulemaking agenda item at each Commission meeting. The Commissioners agreed to address sexual orientation rules at the next Commission meeting.

The evaluation process for the Executive Director and Clerk of the Commission and rulemaking remain on the agenda each month until completed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tanya Y. Calahan".

Tanya Y. Calahan
Executive Assistant to the Commissioners