

WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**COMMISSION MEETING
September 27, 2012 AT 9:30AM
711 S. CAPITOL WAY, SUITE 402
OLYMPIA, WA 98504**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Stephen Hunt, Chair; Shawn Murinko, Commissioner; Clarence Henderson, Commissioner; Charlene Strong, Commissioner. A quorum was present.

Absent: Deborah Lee, Commissioner.

Staff: Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Laura Skinner, Executive Assistant; AAG, Stacia Hollar.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Hunt called the meeting to order at 9:31AM.

MINUTES

Commissioner Strong made motion to approve August 23, 2012 meeting minutes; Commissioner Henderson seconded; motion carried.

CASE CLOSURES

Chair Hunt stated two cases were pulled from the agenda; Teague v. Unknown Inc. and Gilles v. Northshore Christian Academy and Church.

Commissioner Strong made motion to approve case closures; Commissioner Henderson seconded; motion carried.

ED REPORT

Director Ortiz reported October is the end of the EEOC contract year, made contract and will have a celebratory lunch with staff in October; HUD audit completed in August, working on legislation to change the fair housing section of 49.60 to remove the definition of service animal; both housing testing contracts in place, rental testing to take place on both sides of states this fall.

Director Ortiz informed Commissioners we had a lot of personnel activity, we hired a bilingual CSS2, Ludmila Barbacar; we hired a CRI2, Artemio Gutierrez, who will start

October 1, 2012; we hired an MA5, Dianna Wilks, who will start October 8, 2012; our ITS3, Teddy Levenson, had a desk audit and was moved to an ITS4; Kevin Graman, temporary CRI1, turned down a CRI2 position and is no longer with our agency; Ramon Alvarez, CRI, left our agency and is now working for Spokane Public Schools.

Teddy Levenson, ITS4, provided update on IT issues.

Director Ortiz and Asst. Director Cheryl Strobert attended the International Association of Official Human Rights Agency Conference in New Orleans last month; monthly meetings with Kendee Yamaguchi, Director of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islanders Affairs; Investigator, Mai Ly, will host a table at the Unite Summit at Highline Community College in October in Seattle.

Director Ortiz commented this is the year of transition, new Governor; spoke about transition paperwork; since appointed by Commissioner's, do not have to complete paperwork.

Director Ortiz noted Janice Whitman, Specialist, compiled outreach statistics totaling quantifiable trained 1, 989, which include lectures, panel discussions, Q&A sessions; Heidi O'Day and Wilma Cartagena are taking the lead with the Spanish Radio with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs on the programming that is broadcast all over the state, doubling our time.

Director Ortiz went over various meetings attended in August and September.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Commissioner Murinko: October 17, 2012 will speak at Central Washington University regarding National Disabled Employee's month; will work on understanding regarding Dreyfus appeal.

Commissioner Strong: Met with Chai Feldblum, Commissioner with the EEOC, and Michael Baldanado, EEOC spoke about sexual orientation work and the National Federal memorandum regarding hospital access with legal documentation present; speaking at Winston Salem University of North Carolina next week and will speak at Gonzaga University at the end of October.

Commissioner Strong provided overview of gay marriage v. heterosexual marriage; spoke about domestic registry cards which same sex couples have to carry, discriminatory practice because heterosexual couples do not; commented violation of 49.60; discussed the Secretary of State's office and process of registry, access to domestic partners; discussed possible complaint.

AAG Hollar stated potential conflict, could get senior AG opinion and provide update at the October Commission meeting regarding legalities and options.

Commissioner Henderson: Attended Tacoma Human Rights meeting, observation; spoke about outreach/ conference Governing for Racial Justice being held on December 13th and 14th.

Chair Hunt: Presented in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 24 different tribes, workshops; went to Spokane with Director Ortiz and met with several business leaders over 3 days; had a workshop with Spokane staff.

BREAK 10:40AM
RESUMED MEETING 10:52AM

ACTION ITEMS:

Attendance Policy: AAG Hollar provided examples of other Commissions policies on attendance; Commissioners discussed proposed changes and agreed notification of absence report to Chair, if Chair not available report to senior Commissioner.

Commissioners had discussion regarding Commissioner Lee's attendance; Chair Hunt informed Commissioner's he will be speaking with Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Murinko made motion; Commissioner Henderson seconded; motion to change Commissioner Attendance Policy carried.

Commission Meeting Schedule 2013: Commissioners and Director Ortiz discussed October, November and December meetings; October will be in person in Olympia, Chair Hunt will call in for meeting; November and December will be conference calls for case closures and meeting minutes approval.

Commissioners and Director Ortiz discussed plans for 2013 Commission meeting schedule, proposed dates, times and locations:

January 24, 2013 – In person in Snohomish County, Commissioner Strong and Director Ortiz to schedule logistics.

February 28, 2013 – In person in Seattle, Commissioner Strong to schedule logistics.

March 28, 2013 – In person in Tacoma, Commissioner Henderson to schedule logistics.

April 17th, 2013 – In person in Spokane and hold Public Forum, Chair Hunt, Commissioner Murinko and Director Ortiz to schedule logistics.

May 23, 2013 – In person at Olympia office.

June 27, 2013 – Conference call with Agenda.

July 25, 2013 – In person at Vancouver (to be determined)

August 22, 2013 – Conference call case closures and meeting minute approval.

September 26, 2013 – In person in Olympia.

October, November and December 2013 to be determined.

Outreach: Idolina Reta, Director Ortiz and Commissioner Henderson to attend Tacoma Latino Conference on October 26, 2012.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS(S) – WELP TESTING: Director Ortiz provided overview of WELP testing – Native American students ESL testing; spoke with OSPI for reasons behind testing and why they are trying to get tribes to participate, federal grants which help Native American students; students have option to opt out and not test.

NEW BUSINESS – DREYFUS APPEAL:

Commissioner Murinko provided overview of the Dreyfus appeal and the history leading up to decision; Washington State with current budget issues, Governor's office is looking at reversing due to limited resources.

Commissioner's, AAG Hollar and Director Ortiz had discussion on institutionalized v. non institutionalized; effects the reversal would have on care for individuals; Commission not in position to take a position on issue.

CASE LAW UPDATE:

AAG Hollar provided case law update on Loeffelholz v. University of WA, provided handout for Commissioner's to read summary; terms of particular case, prior comments would be allowed to bring in to show what led up to events, shows intent.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN:

Director Ortiz provided handouts to Commissioners regarding political campaigning, what is as a private citizen v. a Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skinner