

Present: Commissioner Dunbar
Commissioner Crawford
Commissioner Lawson
Commissioner Margensey
Commissioner Margosis
Commissioner Salinas
Commissioner Selim
Commissioner Solon
Executive Director Saunders
Division Director Carroll

Absent: Commissioner Khairallah
Commissioner Simon

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dunbar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Commissioner Margosis and seconded by Commissioner Margensey to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Commissioner Margosis and seconded by Commissioner Selim to approve the minutes as amended from the March 18, 2009, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcement - There were no announcements.

Staff Issues – Executive Director Saunders presented the Monthly Case Report to the Commission. The staff is exceeding goals in all areas except intake. The reason for the intake shortfall was due to the upgrading the IQ database technology and the adjustment needed to work out the “kinks” in the system. Staff focus was on active cases. The intake shortfall will be corrected by next month.

The Commission requested more detailed information be included in the monthly report. The Commission would like to see a breakdown of national origin, sex, race, color, etc. Executive Director Saunders stated that there are restrictions as to how much information can be publicized and that the report complies with EEOC standards. Compliance Supervisor Santiago stated that he would design a report specific to the Commission’s need, however, the Commission needs to be aware that each adjustment requires a large block of time to change the parameters of the report. It would help if the Commission would submit its requests for adjustments at the start of the federal fiscal year in October.

Executive Director Saunders stated that he met with the County Executive. The meeting went very well and the County Executive expressed that he was very pleased with the work of the Human Rights Commission. The County Executive would like to see more activity in the areas of education and outreach in the 2010 fiscal year. Ms. Nicole Rawlings, HRS II, was commended for the exceptional work she has done thus far in the areas of education and outreach, in addition to maintaining her caseload.

NEW BUSINESS

PENDING BUSINESS

Executive Director Saunders met with the Deputy County Executive regarding the use of County funds to sponsor the Awards Ceremony. The Deputy County Executive recommended that all public information about the ceremony; i.e. press release, awardee notification letters, etc., not be published. Director Saunders was informed that due to the current economic downturn, having the ceremony at a private facility is not advisable with hundreds of County employees losing employment. Having the ceremony at an off site facility sends the wrong message to the public. The County Executive supports this decision. They agree that the ceremony is an excellent program and want it to continue. They will support the event if held at a County facility.

The Commission agreed that Human Rights Awards Ceremony is to be held at a County facility. The event will be held at no cost to attendees. It was suggested that the "Welcome Reception" be held in the Government Center Forum, then move into the auditorium for the presentation of awards. Available dates for these facilities will be determined. Executive Director Saunders, with County Executive's approval, has agreed contribute financially to the event as needed.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

HRC #2005316E – It was moved by Commissioner Margosis and seconded by Commissioner Margensey that this appeal be denied and the staff decision of a no cause finding be upheld. The motion passed with unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.