

**Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues**

**Meeting Minutes (Unofficial)**

February 4, 2019

5:30pm

Members Present: Cindy Crable, Jessie Alvarez, Karen Greenwood, Valorie Wells-Fenton, Kim Dominic, Tom Alonzo, Don Jolley.

Members absent: Kendall McReynolds, Jim Echols, Winfred Manning.

Others present: Maritza Fernandez, Phyllis Wallace

I. Call to Order – 5:34 PM

II. Approval of minutes from January meeting – No Quorum

III. Presentations

A. Guest Speaker – District Attorney Marcus DuPree, Jonathan Carter, Public Information Officer (DA's Office)

Jonathan Carter passed out information about Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU). Dupree shared his experience at KU, Washburn, Jackson County, Johnson County, Dupree & Dupree Attorneys-at-Law with his wife. CIU was not really on his agenda when he was elected. His work with high school students encouraged his development of the juvenile mental health court.

He was approached by someone about developing the CIU. Look at underlying data on wrongful convictions. Since 1989, 20,000 years have been served by innocent people. There are mistakes made in the criminal justice system.

Handout is the PowerPoint of the CIU. Mission: To insure post-conviction justice through a commitment to the search for truth. Look at credible and verifiable claims of evidence: DNA and forensic sciences, new evidence, witness misidentification/recantation, Procedural bars will not stop CIU action. Look at questions of due process which may result in a new trial. Cases come from internal audits (1500 boxes), defense attorneys, private organizations, courts, law enforcement, defendants/family. Personnel of the CIU: 1 FT attorney, PT investigator, PT admin asst., Volunteer community liaisons. Goals: Justice, Identify problems for future policy changes, protect law enforcement from baseless accusations, bolster trust in KCK justice system. 99% are probably appropriately convicted, but it makes all the difference to that 1% who was wrongly convicted.

Q&A:

Q: Did McIntyre go through another trial? A: No. Case review indicated that there was solid evidence that the person was the wrong person, based on the opinion of the judge and DA. DA had

ultimate decision. Has to look at: Is it the right person? Is there credible evidence? Would a conviction result if brought to trial? If any answer is “no”, it should never have gone to trial.

Q: Does CIU make prosecutors more accountable? A: Yes. 46% of overturned convictions are the result of prosecutorial misconduct, especially nondisclosure of exculpatory evidence.

Q: Is there accountability to those prosecutors who did not disclose such evidence? A: Depends on who their boss is.

Q: Is there liability on the part of the UG? A: Liability falls on the state of Kansas, not Wyandotte County or the City.

Q: How do people assimilate back into society? Is there a national standard? A: Working on a reintegration program. Recitivism is very high, within 9 months they will return. 90% get out at some point after their incarceration. There is no national standard.

“We have to learn from our mistakes. When we find and see the mistakes, we can say ‘How does this happen?’”

B. Event reports - none

#### IV. Old Business

A. Special Committee on Law Enforcement – Jim Echols – Absent -no report

B. Sponsor documentary – Jessie Alvarez – KCKCC has agreed to sponsor the documentary. Has been referred to the director of Student Affairs. No longer to be at the Library – Will be at the Tech Center. Date pending. Considering a panel discussion following movie. Cindy has involved UAW Veterans Committee, and they are planning to provide refreshments. Valorie will contact Wyandotte VFW and Wounded Warriors. Valorie will put together the panel once the date is set. KCKCC will handle the marketing. Tom asked that he receive promotional materials to do FB blasts. Karen suggested also Veterans for Peace.

C. Review of Ordinance and recommendations – Karen Greenwood – Do we want to craft a letter or have a face-to-face with the Mayor? Cindy will set up a face-to-face

D. Municipal ID Initiative – Karen Greenwood - This is moving forward. Appropriate for our Commission to address. Need a quorum so that we can act on it.

E. Commission vacancies - Vacancies in five areas – three commissioners and mayors of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs. We can’t accomplish our work if we don’t have enough people. Perhaps we should tie in the Municipal ID to encourage their appointments moving forward

F. Poster – Tom Alonzo - Asked Phyllis who can tidy it up. Maritza volunteered to look at it and fix it.

G. MEI & NDO update – Tom Alonzo – We’re up to 55 on our Municipal Equality Index. Mission, Merriam, and Prairies Village have passed NDOs. Governor Kelly has reinstated NDO for government employees. Work being done on statewide NDO.

H. Ethnic Enrichment Festival coming up in April.

I. Election of Officers – no quorum - Kim agreed to be here in March to take minutes, Valorie said she will take minutes in April. Perhaps it can be passed around after that.

V. New business

A. Review of Accomplishments in 2018 – Jessie Alvarez - Not discussed

B. Strategic Planning for 2019 & Goal Setting – Jessie Alvarez - Not discussed

C. Upcoming events

1. February – Black History Month – Quindaro Preservation Project – Jim Echols - No information

2. March – Women’s History Month – Journey to Normal - See above under “Sponsor Documentary”

3. April – Autism Month – Bonner Library asked about having a guest speaker on Autism in April

4. Phyllis asked when Mental health month is. Valorie looked it up.- October has mental health week

D. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stonewall Riots – Beginning of LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement

E. Diabetes Awareness Month – Tom will follow up on this event in March or April

F. Other New Business

1. Don suggested another speaker he had heard recently about opportunities for African Americans in the fire department. Tom spoke to someone who was from the Black Firefighters Association. Maybe Winifred can speak to someone from the firefighters on the phone

VI. Adjournment – 7:07 PM

**NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2018 - 5:30 PM**