

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

## ***Meeting Agenda***

June 7, 2021

5:30pm

Members present: Abbie Dillard, Tom Alonzo, Christina Van Cleave, James Echols, Julie Xiong, Karen Greenwood, Marge Gasnick

Members Absent:

Others present: Barbara Williams, James Bain, Maritza Fernandez

**I.** Call to order

**II.** Roll call

**III.** Old business

A. Revision on meeting minutes from April 2021 – put on hold

**IV. New Business**

- V.** Conversion Therapy Proposal Vote - Tom Alonzo said he sent a powerpoint explaining the proposed ban on conversion therapy. He asked if the ACHRDI could vote on it as a team and send it to the standing committee on Administration and Human Services. James Bain explained this was a committee of the Unified Government of Commissioners. Any new resolution or budget issues go through a standing committee before it goes to the UG. Tom Alonzo explained this was the process used with the non-discrimination ordinance. The committee and the mayor can choose to advance it or hold it back. Public is also able to comment. Tom moved that ACHRDI forward a proposal to ban conversion therapy in WyCo/KCK Unified Government. This exempts faith communities. Seconded by Karen Greenwood.

Abbie stated she has instructions that we are to work on things for the greater good of Wyandotte County, and we can't address every issue. She said when she is weighing in on things, it may not be her own opinion, but rather based on guidance she has received. Christina Van Cleave said young people who are not supported in their sexuality have high suicide rates. Karen Greenwood stated that all the issues are connected.

Motion passed unanimously. Tom Alonzo said he would work with James Bain on the proposed ordinance.

- VI.** Safe and Welcoming Ordinance- Marge Gasnick gave a rundown of the recent meeting about Safe and Welcoming. Karen Greenwood said the ACHRDI had voted to send a letter of support to our commissioners encouraging them to support Safe and Welcoming in April 2020. However, there is no process on what happens when we send the letter. Legal counsel said we should go and testify. Karen said we don't have any verification if a letter was sent. Abbie Dillard said she would check with Phyllis to see if the letter was sent. Tom Alonzo said he attended the live meeting. He said there are other populations that struggle with getting an ID beyond undocumented people. Abbie repeated she would get clarification on the letter.
- VII.** Neighborhood Association Group meetings update – Tom Alonzo said he contacted president of Strawberry Hill neighborhood association and asked for a meeting. He also contacted Livable Neighborhoods to get a list of neighborhood associations. He also offered to help anyone who attends a meeting in their district. Christina Van Cleave said the Neighborhood Resource Center meets monthly and they can help distribute information. Abbie said it might be a good place to send our meeting announcements. Christina said she would find out information about the NRC and forward it to members. Julie Xiong asked a neighbor if she was aware of the commission and she said she wasn't. This neighbor is involved with Neighborhood Watch. They have an email newsletter and she offered to put ACHRDI information in it. Karen said she is in Turner Community Connections and she is not sure about neighborhood meetings. James Echols said his neighborhood group has not met in over a year but he will contact the president. Marge said the Leavenworth Road Association has not been meeting but is about to start up again.
- VIII.** Schools offering lunch – Abbie said there are schools where they are feeding children this summer. KCKPS.org has the list of schools. They also continue to do covid testing. Christina Van Cleave said the Best Buy location is closed. Tuesday and Wed. Kmart is open and Monday and Friday the Armory is open. Pfizer is now available to anyone 12 and older. There is also a survey for people who are reluctant to get vaccinated. She outlined reasons people in the community are reluctant and said anyone who has been vaccinated can be an ambassador.
- IX.** Source of income discrimination update – Tom Alonzo said ACHRDI should look into source of income discrimination with regard to housing. He said he asked Dustin Hare about this, and it means discrimination against people who have housing vouchers. It's a way for some landlords to discriminate against people who receive housing assistance and is a way to segregate our city. Tom said there is no law that makes it illegal to

discriminate on this basis. Karen added that there are faith communities that want to help people get housing, and that kind of assistance can be a source of discrimination, too, because it's not an ongoing source of income. Tom said any income source that is not employment or retirement can be prone to discrimination for people who have been displaced. Abbie agreed there is a lot of discrimination that goes on in housing. She said she was looking at the Missouri ordinance with Phyllis and James. She also would like to connect with the Housing Authority and asked for help. Tom said there are only 22 or so jurisdictions that have a source of income law and a small number of cities. He encourages us to look into it. He would like to work with Karen and Dustin Hare and invite him to present on this issue. Abbie said she will talk to Phyllis about connecting with the Housing Authority.

**X.** Wyandotte County swimming pool and spray centers – Tom Alonzo brought this up because he heard there were no places to swim. Parkwood is closed this year due to covid. He reached out to the person who runs the aquatic center in Bonner Springs. He said he is doing this on the side because there are no pools in KCK. He doesn't expect the ACHRDI to take action but it might be of interest. Karen said there is an aquatic center in Turner and it is equipped for all physical abilities. She also said there is a shortage of staff/lifeguards.

**XI.** Additional updates needed for MEI-Metropolitan Equality Index Score – Tom Alonzo reminded everyone that ACHRDI has worked on this and would like to get back to work on coordinating this.

**XII.** KCKPD Liaison

- a. Keeping track of Hate Crimes – This would be an additional request of the KCKPD liaison. Tom said it would be easy to track, just an additional checkmark. Chief Ziegler came to an ACHRDI meeting a couple of years ago. KCKPD doesn't track hate crimes but some of our neighboring cities do. We never pursued it because we had the interim police chief, but now there is a new police chief. We also do not have a liaison. James Echols said he could reach out to the new chief and invite him to a meeting in July or August.

**XIII.** Invitation to Emerick Cross – UG LGBTQ Liaison to ACHRDI meeting. Tom will reach out to him and ask him to come to a meeting in July or August.

**XIV.** Healthcare for Trans Employees – Tom Alonzo said he would be looking into this issue as well. He wants to look into what the UG provides. James Bain said the MEI looks at what is covered under the free healthcare plan employees are provided, and whether trans medical issues are covered.

- XV.** Discussion – Is it possible to have in-person meetings? Abbie said we have to wait for the city buildings to open back up. James Bain said the city buildings have been open to the public for months. Abbie will clear it with Phyllis.

Motion to adjourn by Tom Alonzo, seconded by Karen Greenwood. Motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2021**