

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

## ***Meeting Agenda***

July 12, 2021

5:30pm

### **I. Call to order**

Roll call - Abbie Dillard, Tom Alonzo, Christina Van Cleave, James Echols, Julie Xiong, Karen Greenwood, Marge Gasnick, Ollie Carroll

Ollie Carroll introduced herself to the advisory commission. She works as a field rep for KNEA and has lived in KCK all her life. She was appointed by Commissioner Jane Philbrook.

### **II. Old business**

A. Revision on meeting minutes from June. Tom Alonzo stated he has not talked to James Bain yet about the conversion therapy ordinance. Motion by Tom, seconded by Ollie to approve the June minutes. Motion passed.

B. Updates on AIRR's presentation on Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte- Tom gave an overview of the recent presentation by AIRR that featured comments by people who would be affected by Safe and Welcoming. Their testimony was compelling.

Abbie asked for clarification about the letter of support for Safe and Welcoming. Karen stated she found the language that the commission approved. There was discussion about what the letter was to say and what happened to it last year. Abbie said she thought the letter had been sent, but it appears that is not the case. Phyllis said it would be good to get everyone's signatures. Karen said there should be some supplemental language from James and the motion we approved that should go in there. Phyllis said she would get the letter together and send it out for signatures.

Julie stated the letter would be helpful to have when having a conversation with her commissioner.

### **New Business**

**III.** Presentation – Dustin Hare with WyCo Mutual Aid, presenting about source of income discrimination. One aspect is there is a gap in the number of HUD vouchers and actual units available. He said landlords frequently refuse to rent to people with a Section 8 voucher. Currently this type of discrimination is legal in Wyandotte County. Abbie asked

what the scope of the problem is in Wyandotte County. Dustin replied it is not clear, but he has done some informal research on apartment complexes that do and do not accept vouchers. He showed a map indicating where these are located.

He knows from talking to people that word of mouth is the most common way people find housing with Section 8 vouchers, and many people's vouchers end up expiring before they can use them.

Twenty states have implemented anti-Source of Income Discrimination legislation. Three cities have implemented them. And there are 4 federal bills addressing this problem. But so far, nothing has passed.

Dustin will send the presentation to Tom, who will distribute it to everyone.

Karen suggested this be a regular topic on the agenda with the goal of developing an ordinance. Christina suggested someone from ACHRDI attend the Housing Authority Commission meetings. Tom said he could attend them.

Motion by Marge to include housing updates each month on the agenda. Seconded by Tom. Motion passed. Section 8 vouchers, landlord-tenant, affordable housing are the sub-topics on this issue.

**IV. Law Enforcement in the Community** – Abbie introduced the topic. She said she and Jim will start going to the Law Enforcement Advisory Board meetings, but we also need to get a speaker to come to ACHRDI.

Tom stated his ideas to get an LGBTQ liaison appointed and to add a way to record reports of hate crimes (at present they do not). Abbie said Jim is leading the effort but she would like Tom to help.

Phyllis suggested putting together a task list. She also said there will be 20-25 officers retiring by the end of the year so the new police chief is very preoccupied with this. Abbie agreed he needs time. Perhaps he could meet with us at the beginning of 2022. Ollie suggested we reach out to him sooner rather than later to get on his calendar.

Jim said he will be talking with the chief's assistant this week and will get a confirmation on when the chief can come to our meeting.

- a. Violence 17<sup>th</sup> homicide last week
- b. Who is being affected?
- c. What is Law Enforcement Doing?

- d. What can WE do in our community?

- e. Law Enforcement Advisory Board

V. Health and Equity Taskforce – Christina said she is learning about this task force and is meeting with someone tomorrow about it. Abbie said it would be good if an ACHRDI member could sit in on their meetings.

Ollie made a motion to have health and law enforcement on the agenda each month, seconded by Julie. Motion passed.

VI. Systemic Racism – Abbie stated she wants to begin a series of training for ACHRDI on systemic racism: how we got here today, how it affects us, and what we can do to help the next generations. Ollie moved that the ACHRDI incorporate training on these topics in each meeting, seconded by Tom. Motion passed.

Phyllis stated there are trainings for advisory commission members, including one on ethics. She will work on getting that scheduled.

Topics:

- a. What are We Learning about its History?

- b. Who is Disproportionally Impacted?

- c. What are its effects in our Community Today?

- i. Law Enforcement

- ii. Housing

- iii. Health Care Services

- iv. Living Services

- v. Education

- vi. Wealth

- d. What Specifically Can we do to Improve it in our communities?

- e. How Do We Communicate About it?

- i. When, Where How-Specifically

## **VII. Training Recommendations**

- a. Diversity-Implicit Bias

- b.

**VIII.** Open discussion – Tom said he met with his commissioner, Brian McKiernan, who recommended Tom attend an Affordable Housing Task Force. Abbie asked Ollie if she could work with Tom on this.

Christina reported that there are 42 confirmed cases of the delta variant in Wyandotte County. The Health Department is going to start doing contact tracing and will restart clinics. Kmart is now the only vaccine site. Childhood immunizations are available there each Wednesday, and there about 3,000 children in USD 500 who need to be vaccinated. Families need to take advantage of the expanded hours at Kmart or make an appointment at the health department.

**NEXT MEETING: August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**