

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: Community [Affairs] Committee General Goals

Date: June 2, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities: Community Committee

General Goals

To establish links with groups: gay groups throughout the state and those state and national groups with whom we should be in touch, i.e. NCW ACLU, etc.

To establish links with individuals in or through those groups who can participate in various aspects of the Council's work.

To serve as a resource for the establishment of sexual minority groups in unorganized parts of the state.

To set up meetings for the Council outside Harrisburg.

To fulfill the governor's directive to receive and refer complaints of discrimination or inadequate service.

(Note: these general goals have been articulated by various people at various times. We the committee have the option to modify them within reason.)

Immediate Goals

- 1) Decide official name of this committee- "on Community Affairs", "for Community Relations", etc. Date 'due': by first report to Council.
- 2) Define our method of operation: select a chair (since I'm on steering committee also, I would prefer not to fill this role; however if no-one else volunteers, as convenor I'll co-ordinate our activities as long as necessary); decide on frequency & location of meetings (my feeling is that considering everyone's time & money demands, we should have as few formal meetings as possible- say 3-4 per year maximum. We can communicate with each other often by mail and phone reserving most of our time to meet with individuals and groups in the community); formalize these lists of goals and priorities with an estimated timetable; etc. Date 'due': same as 1.
- 3) The Council is committed to holding its September meeting in Philadelphia. This is to be an evening meeting so housing may be needed as well as a place for the session itself. I will try to obtain from the steering committee and Council a better sense of what is actually going to be needed, and then from say July 15-Aug 15 we should try to get as much as possible arranged.
- 4) Develop an initial outreach effort. This would require two separate projects: a) prepare as extensive a list as feasible in a short time of gay groups, other sexual minority groups, civil rights groups of all sorts, with names of individuals to contact in those groups. b) prepare a small profile of general Council goals and a

list of all working Council committees with their projects, goals and priorities. Send the latter to the former with a letter from us encouraging all types of feedback and participation. "Due"- fall, 76.

5) Establish specific complaint procedures so that if & when we are contacted about various kinds of discrimination, a standard mechanism of advice and referral is available. 'Due': fall, 1976.

Long Range Goals

1) Each committee member should try to expand her/his own network of contacts to find out what is going on in their area and to draw productive individuals into relevant areas of Council work. The focus can be periodically modified- for example, Council has noted (in May) that union members are now needed to help prod the unions into a position of positive support and that ways of reaching young people, both school age and from 17-21, are needed.

2) Refine and repeat short term projects 3 & 4. The former will need to be handled again in Pittsburgh and a central city such as Sunbury or Williamsport. The latter should be continuously updated in our files and formally sent out at least annually. This project can also form a basis for referring people in unorganized parts of the state to nearby people & groups for help.

3) Each member of this committee will be functioning as an informal representative of the Council talking with individuals and groups about what is going on. At some point, it may seem desirable to establish a 'speakers bureau' kind of clearinghouse to arrange formal presentations to groups who request it or with whom we wish to establish dialogue.

4) Finances will be quite minimal in the beginning, each of us doing what we can and hopefully getting some help with mailings, etc from persons in the State. In the event that funding, perhaps from a grant, is made available, we should prepare a detailed budget of how and how much money could be spent.

5) All of our activities will parallel those of the Public Information Officer of the Council. We should have a close working relationship from the beginning and gradually clarify our particular roles.

draft/ fh/ 6-2-76