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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Date: May 27, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

AGENDA

Council Meeting
Human Relations Building
1:00 - 4:00 pm
May 27, 1976

1. Program: Transsexuality
Speaker: Roberta Lisa White

Short Break

2. Committee Reports:

Steering Committee
Community Affairs
Corrections
Employment
Finance
Legislation

State Police
Youth
Departmental Committees:
Education
Welfare

3. Discussion of Reports
4. Consideration of applicants for Committee seats
5. Report on Meeting of Representatives of sexual minorities
6. New Business

Public representation of Council procedures
Discussion of participation of third world persons in Council

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Steering Committee

Sam Deetz
Francis Hanckle
Walter Lear
Elisabeth Shuster
Anthony Silvestre (Chair)

Community Affairs

Francis Hanckle (Convener)
Marilyn Hewitt

Corrections

Debbie Boyle (Convener)
Francis Felippi
Henry Smith (Convener)
Walter Strawbridge

Employment

Jerry Brennan
Janet Cooper
Art Duprat (Convener)
Marilyn Hewitt
Marie Keeney
Tom Wiestling

Finance

Helmuth Baerwald

Health

Walter Lear
Lisa White
John Whyte

Human Relations

Marie Hegarity

Legislation

Ken Burke
Sam Deetz
Diane Gigler
Richard Marguart
Mark Segal (Convener)

Liquor Control Board

Earl Greenburg (Convener)

Justice

Rosalie Davis

State Police

Jerry Brennan (Convener)
Sam Deetz
Salvatore Rodriguez
Tom Wilson

Youth

Janet Cooper (Convener)
Carol Eisenberg (Convener)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

Education

Janet Cooper
Barbara Gittings
Anthony Silvestre

Welfare

Randy Forrester
Janice Irvine

OFFICERS

Public Information and
Education

Randy Forrester

COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

Minutes for meeting May 27, 1976

Absent: Mark Segal, Daniel Sawyer, Dr. Barbara K. Shore, Frederick Douglas Morris, Bishop Lyman Ogibly, Marie Keeney

Speaker - Lisa White on Transsexuality

Program speaker, Lisa White, addressed the Council on transsexuality. Lisa discussed the social, psychological, and physical steps one must follow to become a transsexual. She stressed that too much emphasis is place on re-constructive surgery as opposed to cross gender identification. Lisa stated that there is general agreement by specialists of gender identity problems that the condition is irrevocably established very early in life, during the child's first two years or fetal period which is contrary to popular belief that transsexuals decide to change their sex. She suggested that all specialists agree that there is no chance of effectively modifying the condition unless the problem is brought to medical attention before the child's fifth year.

Present day Health Centers and Gender Identity Clinics programs were further discussed. Lisa stated that there is a need for female therapists to be involved in the male to female transsexuals transition, using therapeutic and supportive therapy with the emerging young woman and her new peer group. She suggested the need for these transsexuals to address themselves to women's issues because most would be faced with such pertinent problems. The program was concluded by questions and answers.

Committee Reports and Discussion

A. Steering Committee

Report was given by Frances Hanckel. The newly elected Steering Committee met for the first time at 9:30 a.m., May 27, 1976. The functions of the members of the committee were outlined. The various members of the committee are to act as coordinators to the other various committees of the Council. Walter Lear will coordinate the Health, Education, and Welfare Committees. Dolly Shuster will coordinate the law enforcement related committees (Corrections, Liquor Control, State Police, and State Employment). Frances Hanckel is to work with the Youth and Community Affairs Committees and the Task Force for Special Minority Concerns. Sam Deetz will coordinate the Legislation and Finance Committees. Other duties of members of the Steering Committee will include speaking, correspondence, and miscellaneous tasks that the Council Chairperson may delegate from time to time. They

will also review applications and resumes for Council positions.

At their meeting, the Committee had discussed the manner in which public matters concerning the Council are to be handled. Sensitive or questionable matters are to be cleared through the Steering Committee or directly with the Chairperson.

Attention was called to the need for a Council Archivist. Two obvious reasons for this need were reviewed. (1) An annual Council report to the Governor will be required. (2) Records need to be maintained for historical value.

It was felt there is also a need to produce a complete informational packet for resources to be used as a means for informing interested parties what the Council is all about. To avoid duplication of efforts, it was decided to rely on the packet which the Education In-House Committee is now planning to produce soon. (See H - Education Report.)

Another project discussed by the Committee for consideration was a complete list of Sexual Minorities Resources.

It was announced that Daniel Sawyer is replacing Terry Spaar as Council Representative from the Office of Administration. Mr. Spaar has resigned his position in the state government.

Council members should contact Sam Deetz for information on how to receive advance reimbursement for travel expenses.

Special educational topics for future meetings of the Council were considered. These special topics are included on Council agendas to provide enlightenment for Council members and other persons attending the meetings. The topic for the next meeting (July 13, 1976) is to be "Council Meets State Government". "The Church and Sexual Minorities" is to be the topic of the September 17, 1976 meeting. The September meeting will be held in Philadelphia.

Frances also reported that all applications for Council Committee seats were approved by the Committee. (List included)

The Council unanimously elected Randy Forrester Public Information and Education Officer.

B. Community Affairs Committee

Frances Hanckel reported that this committee had met for the first time that day (May 27, 1976). It is a new committee and needs more members.

They discussed establishing a Sexual Minorities Speakers Bureau.

C. State Employment Committee

Dolly Shuster reported that the Committee had discussed the feasibility of becoming an In-House Committee of the Office of Administration. After reviewing some advantages and disadvantages of such a move, the matter was tabled for further study. The Committee is preparing a revision of the O. A. "Impact Manual" to include "sexual or affectional preference or orientation" as a protected class, citing the Governor's Executive Order.

Walter Lear suggested that the O. A. representative on the Council should sit on the State Employment Committee.

A written report was also submitted by the Committee.

D. Financial Committee

Tom Wilson reported that so far there have been only two volunteers for this committee. Council members were reminded to consider Committee budgets and send proposals to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

E. Legislation Committee

The activities of the Legislation Committee were reported by Harry Langhorne. The status of various pieces of Legislation was discussed, including the disappointing outcome of the Hill-sponsored Senate bill to repeal the Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse statute. The Committee is presently reassessing strategies and making plans for another attempt to get the bill introduced.

Each Council member was given a complimentary copy of a newly published booklet entitled "Gay Legislation, '76". It was privately published by a group of persons who call themselves "Gay Legislation, 76". Plans are to present each member of the State Legislature with a copy of the booklet.

A short discussion ensued concerning the present status of the Berson-sponsored House bill, revising the state Human Relations Codes (HR 2220). It is expected to be moved from the State Government Committee to the Judiciary Committee.

A document dealing with political stands of the National Council

of Churches was presented to the Council.

Also submitted by the Committee was a written report.

F. State Police Committee

Jerry Brennan said the Committee has not met as such since November, 1975. However, a selected group has been meeting in sensitizing sessions with members of the State Police. He expressed encouragement concerning results of these meetings.

G. Youth Committee

Janet Cooper said some of the most active members of the Committee have graduated from High School or will be graduating very soon. Some Council members suggested that persons be considered eligible for the Youth Committee until they reach the age of 21. Janet asked that other high school age persons be encouraged to participate. As an example of how sexual minority persons in High School are effected, Janet reported a case of discrimination against lesbians in a Philadelphia High School.

H. Education In-House Committee

Jeanne Boydston reported that the Committee recommendations have been approved by the Secretary of Education and the department Commissioners. They are now being presented to other bureaus of the department for review. The Committee's next project is publication of the Informational Packet. The projected date for completion is September, 1976.

I. Welfare In-House Committee

Jay Snyder reported that the Committee is presently working on a set of recommendations for the Department.

J. Corrections Committee

Debbie Boyle reported that the Committee has been discussing the problems of prison literature. An effort is under way to permit more gay periodicals in prisons for sexual minority prisoners. Goals for the coming year were discussed by the Committee. A written report was also submitted.

K. Health Committee

Walter Lear said the Committee is in the process of establishing themselves as an In-House Committee.

Structure of Committees

Committee seats were approved by the Council as advised by the Steering Committee. Following is the status of membership on each committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE (5)

Sam Deetz
Frances Hanckel
Walter Lear
Elizabeth (Dolly) Shuster
Anthony Silvestre (Chair)

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (4)

Dianne Gigler
Frances Hanckel (Convener)
Marilyn Hewitt
Alyce Morgan

CORRECTIONS (7)

Debbie Boyle
Francis Felippi
Dianne Gigler
Stanley Goehring
Richard Hill
Henry Smith (Convener)
Walter Strawbridge

EMPLOYMENT (8)

Jean Becker
Jerry Brennan
Janet Cooper
Art Duprat (Convener)
Marilyn Hewitt
Marie Keeney
Dolly Shuster
Tom Wiestling

FINANCE (2)

Helmuth Baerwald
Tom Wilson

LEGISLATION (9)

Lou Augustine
Ken Burke
Dianne Gigler
Harry Langhorne
David March
Richard Marquart
Bob Rains
Mark Segal (Convener)
Jonathon C. Smith-Cousins

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD (1)

Earl Greenberg (Convener)

STATE POLICE (6)

Debbie Boyle
Jerry Brennan (Convener)
Sam Deetz
Joan DeForrest
Salvadore Rodriguez
Tom Wilson

COMMITTEES IN FORMATION

HEALTH

Walter Lear
Louis Railer
Lisa White
John Whyte

HUMAN RELATIONS (2)

Marie Hegarity
Dolly Shuster (Convener)

JUSTICE (2)

Rosalie Davis
Bob Rains

WELFARE (4) (Not Open)

Jerry Brennan
Randy Forrester
Janice Irvine
Jay Snyder

OFFICER

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Randy Forrester

Task Force For Special Minority Concerns

Representatives of sexual minorities other than gay presented a number of recommendations to the Council. The Council, with the advice of the Steering Committee voted unaminously to approve the recommendations with one exception, i.e., that each committee designate a member to attend the Task Force meetings. It was believed that such a requirement is unrealistic since many committees are presently under staffed. The recommendations as approved follow:

That the Council establish a Task Force for Special Minority Concerns.

YOUTH (5)

Janet Cooper (Convener)
Karin Martin
Chris Poorman
Jonathon C. Smith-Cousins

DEPARTMENTAL

EDUCATION (4) (Not Open)

Jeanne Boydston
Janet Cooper
Barbara Gittings
Anthony Silvestre

That this Task Force be an integral part of the Council.

That this Task Force have the same responsibilities and authority as Council committees. In addition, this Task Force will directly communicate with each committee. Every committee will reserve one seat, at least, for a member of a sexual minority other than gay.

That the Task Force will report regularly to Council.

New Business

It was agreed by the Council to encourage Third World participation in the Council work by advertising in Third World publications. Meetings of the Third World participants were sanctioned by the Council. It was suggested that three meetings should be held in various parts of the state to be convened by Karin Martin.

The Council decided that the first meeting of the Council outside of Harrisburg be in Philadelphia in September.