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

Date: October 31, 1978

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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

October 31, 1978

AGENDA

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS
2. REVISED EXECUTIVE ORDER
3. ALCOHOLISM
4. TRAINING PROGRAM
5. BREAK
6. MEETING WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MID-ATLANTIC AND NATIONAL
7. PRISON RAPE
8. COUNCIL BROCHURE
9. COMPLAINT DESK
10. NEW BUSINESS

Council Meetings

December 15- Philadelphia
January 31- Harrisburg
March 8-Harrisburg

April 27 Pittsburgh
June 7- Harrisburg
July State College



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MINUTES

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE IN PHILADELPHIA ON DECEMBER 15 AT THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING ON BROAD AND SPRING GARDEN STS. IN THE PENTHOUSE.

IN ATTENDANCE: Marilyn Hewitt, Jay Snyder, Pat Thompson, David M. Donaldson, John D. Case, Mary Ellen Dowdrick, Joseph W. Burns, Rose Weber, Louise G. Oncley, Tony Henry, Pam Erdely, John Zinsmeister, Art Duprat, Arthur Warner, and Tony Silvestre.

1. John Zinsmeister was introduced. John who is from Pittsburgh was appointed by the Governor and was attending his first Council meeting.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Candidate Thornburgh at a meeting of the ADA promised to continue the Council if elected.

New Council members should obtain travel voucher forms and booklets by writing to Financial Officer, 425 Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Penn., 17120.

John Z. suggested that Council members work to have the new national switchboard number circulated. The hot line number will be included in a resource list prepared for state workers by our council. The number is 800 227 0888.

3. REVISED EXECUTIVE ORDER

On September 19, 1978, Governor Shapp revised the executive order creating our council and describing its functions. It is clear that the changes in functions is significant and that new opportunities present themselves. A discussion of the order and its implications is necessary and will continue at council meetings over the next few months. Some issues raised at this meeting include:

The need to review regulations from agencies as they are prepared or promulgated in order to assure compliance with the order. (Marilyn Hewitt will review the Pa. Bulletin and other council members are urged to notify her of regulations. David Donaldson will see where in the Attorney General's office regulations are reviewed so that that office can work towards implementation

The need for reformation of the legislation committee. Volunteers for the committee include Arthur Warner, John Zinsmeister, Joe Burns. In addition Jeff Britton, Spencer Coxe and Barry Kohn will be invited to join. Councilliaison with the legislature will also be discussed.

The need for contact with the State Contract Compliance people to add sexual orientation as a standard for contract compliance. Tony will contact Carol Nelson.

The need for review of union contract procedures as well as housing contracts.

The need for discussion on discrimination in the provision of services and a clarification of the differences between discrimination in intent and effect.

4. ALCOHOLISM Pam Erdely

The Alcoholism committee has met and clarified their goals. These include research, training and education, and publication of information. A meeting will be held with the chair of the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Pam is gathering data on academic programs on alcoholism within the state.

Articles on alcoholism are being prepared for the gay press.

5. TRAINING Tony Silvestre for Ken George

The session with Affirmative Action Bureau staff was well received. Another session with all AA staff in Harrisburg will be held on November 15. The Department of Personnel will be invited to send a representative.

The training of Human Relations staff in Philadelphia will also be held in November.

David Donaldson will explore the possibility of a session with staff of the Attorney General's office.

Marilyn Hewitt will prepare a list of resources in Pennsylvania from which lists will be worked up for various agencies.

6. MEETING WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Grace Alpern, in response to a phone call from Tony, suggested that we send an agenda for meeting between their staff and members and our members. The Agenda will deal with discrimination against sexual minority members in the administration of justice. Some of the issues will be legislation, courts, lack of uniform enforcement, lack of training of police and correction guards, abusive treatment and other issues. Tony will arrange for a meeting with the Council members interested. Anyone interested should contact Tony.

7. COUNCIL BROCHURE

Marilyn and Art will prepare a brochure for use by our Council.

8. COMPLAINT DESK

Since Tom Wiestling's resignation the desk has been without a director. Joe Burns has agreed to take responsibility for the desk until January 1. Persons who hear of complaints by sexual minority persons should forward those complaints to Joe.

9. PRISON RAPE

The Committee including Arthur Warner, David Donaldson, Tony Henry, Tony Silvestre, Jack Case and Ken George will meet in Philadelphia to begin planning for the conference.

THE NEXT MEETING IS IN PHILADLEPHIA. IT WILL BE PLANNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. ONE MAJOR ITEM OF BUSINESS WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE REVISED EXECUTIVE ORDER.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

SUBJECT Commitment Toward Equal Rights		NUMBER 1975-5
DATE As Amended September 19, 1978	DISTRIBUTION B	BY DIRECTOR <i>Milton J. Shapp</i> Milton J. Shapp, Governor

In continuing the Commonwealth's commitment to provide leadership in the effort to obtain equal rights for all persons in Pennsylvania, this Administration is committed to working towards ending discrimination against persons because of their sexual or affectional orientation. There shall be no discrimination by any Commonwealth department, board, commission or other official entity under the Governor's jurisdiction, or any representative thereof, because of sexual or affectional orientation in any matter of hiring or employment, housing, credit, contracting, provisions of services, or any other matter whatsoever. Nothing, however, in this Order shall be construed to require any review or statistical analyses of the composition of the work force or other class of persons affected hereby.

To further this commitment there is hereby established the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities (Council).

1. Composition of Council.

a. The Council shall be composed of not more than thirty-seven members. The Attorney General, the Secretaries of the Departments of Health, Labor and Industry, Public Welfare, and Education, the State Police Commissioner, the Secretary of Administration, the Commissioner of Corrections, the Executive Directors of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Governor's Council for Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and the Director of the Commission for Women, or a representative designated by them, shall serve as ex officio members. The remaining members shall be appointed by the Governor from the general public.

b. The Governor shall designate one member as Chairperson of the Council

c. Members of the Council shall serve for terms of one or two years as the Governor shall designate. The Governor shall fill any vacancies which may occur.

d. Members of the Council from the general public will serve without salary but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred while attending official Council meetings and performing other official functions as the Chairperson, with the approval of the Governor's Office, shall prescribe.

2. Functions.

a. The Council shall study problems of sexual minorities and make recommendations to the Governor as to policy, program, and legislative changes needed to further the goal of obtaining equal rights for all persons.

b. The Council shall work with state agencies to end discrimination against state employes, clients, the general public, and employes of firms which contract with the Commonwealth solely on the basis of their sexual or affectional orientation.

c. The Council shall work to educate state personnel and the public in general concerning problems and issues affecting sexual minorities. The Council shall outline plans for educating state employes concerning the problems of sexual minorities, review these plans with appropriate agency officials, develop timetables for their

implementation, provide qualified speakers for any educational seminars it shall organize, and evaluate the results of its programs.

d. The Council is authorized to receive complaints from persons claiming that they have been the victims of discrimination for their sexual or affectional orientation. Where feasible, such complaints shall be referred to the appropriate agency for resolution. The Council shall compile a record of complaints received and their disposition. Agencies receiving such complaints directly will inform the Council of their nature and disposition.

e. The Council shall adopt rules of procedures consistent with the provisions of this Order. Such rules shall, where appropriate, provide safeguards for the confidentiality of complainants.

f. The Council shall convene for meetings or hearings at the call of its Chairperson. A majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Council. A vote of the majority of members present shall be sufficient for all actions of the Council.

g. The Council shall issue an annual report to the Governor and general public.

3. Duties of Agencies Under the Governor's jurisdiction.

Before to cooperate to Council + supply info.

Agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction are hereby directed to cooperate with the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, to supply the Council with direct assistance and information requested in order that the goals of this Order may be realized, and to work with the Council to educate agency employes on the problems of sexual minorities. In addition, those agencies and departments not otherwise represented on the Council shall send a representative to Council meetings when so requested by the Chairperson.



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GARY JENSEN.

ALCOHOLISM

TRAINING:

Summer School - 2 DAYS DEVOTED TO SCHOOL
Annual Conference - GAY PRESENCE.
RTC- Courses can be expanded after the first year
D & A Speakers to gay groups (Train present speakers to deal with sexual minority issues and/or hire gays with expertise in alcoholism.)

RESEARCH:

Analyse already collected data from the state's five switchboards and two mental health centers.
Identify needs for future research.
Plan research project based on the need's identification

PUBLICATION:

Brochures for alcoholism and drug counselors on sexual minority issues.
Brochure for gay men.
Brochure for Lesbians
Revisions of existing to see that sexual minority issues not ignored when these brochures are being reprinted
A list of resources and readings for D & A facilities and counselors.

AUDIO-VISUAL

Produce Tape cassettes on the issue for training (Perhaps from the summer school presentations).
Produce video tapes for training (I spoke to Sid Schnoll of Eagleville about a joint project of Eromin and Eagleville. He is interested but planning will await Council input.)
Produce films.

PUBLICITY:

Publicize training activities and meetings related to the issues.