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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 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

MINUTES

April 12, 1978 meeting

Absent: Brennan, Coxe, Gehris, Gittings, Hewitt, Keeney, Ogilby,
and Shore.

1. Orientation-Tony Silvestre

Tony and other Council members reviewed the history and functioning of the Council for the information of newly appointed members. Tony described the apparant future direction of the Council as focusing on specific projects which one or two Council members could work. This approach avoids the problems of large committee meetings which are difficult to coordingate and encourages members to concentrate on areas of thier interest and expertise.

The following are projects suggested for future work:

Alcoholism: identifying problems of gay alcoholics and drug users and developing policy and program recommendations for the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. (Pam Erdeley and Jim Huggins have volunteered to work in this area).

Disabled: identifying problems of disabled sexual minority members and developing policy and program recommendations.

Older People: identifying problems of older members of sexual minorities and developing policy and program recommendations for the newly-created Department of Aging.

Third World: identifying problems of third world members of sexual minorities and developing policy and program recommendations.

Labor and Industry: identifying problems of members of sexual minorities in areas under this department's jurisdiction especially vocational rehabilitation, contract compliance, and employment security and developing policies and proposals for change in the department.

Licensing: working with the Department of State to see to it that boards issuing licenses to individuals in various occupations do not discriminate on the basis of sexual or affectional orientation.

Grants: Researching foundations and agencies' allocations of funds to see where our Council can receive monies.

Liaison: taking responsibility to maintain contact and communication with groups and individuals in the state with whom the Council can work.

Police Issues: working with local police on complaints, and encouraging adequate training for police at the local and state level.

Health: working on work groups with Walter Lear on preparing training for health professionals, researching the training needs of health professionals and the health needs of sexual minority members and other health related projects. (Dr. JoAnn Hunter Farr has volunteered to be active in this area.)

?????????: There certainly are many other possible projects. Council members interested in other areas should feel free to pursue them. Check with Tony or other Council members to see what's been done.

2. Announcements

Lisa White described a case of harassment against a Black transsexual by police in Philadelphia. She also talked about problems the woman was having in receiving proper vocational rehabilitation. Lisa will keep track of the case and has asked the Community Advocate Unit to intervene.

House Bill 1487 will be voted on by the House. The bill would require the legislature to vote on the continued existence of every agency, task force, board and council established by the Governor after one year of existence.

All serious candidates for Governor, except Casey, are taking positions on gay issues. The positions range from mildly supportive to strongly supportive. The Walt Whitman Club of Philadelphia can supply additional information. (Spector & Marston no reply)

The House is considering legislation which would require the DPW to seek approval of all contracts exceeding \$10,000.00. If passed this legislation might be problematic when the Department enters into contracts on controversial issues.

As a result of an inquiry by James Huggins, the Human Relations Commission has decided to add our Council to their Directory of Human Relations Organizations and Groups in the Commonwealth.

The Council's proposal on prison rape should be completed by June and be ready for discussion at that time.

The Pittsburgh sodomy case which we expected to go to the state Supreme Court has been concluded. The defendant decided to end appeals for personal reasons.

3. Speaker's Bureau Dr. Ken George

As a result of a discussion between Homer Floyd and Luke Rentschler followed by a letter from Tony Silvestre, the Human Relations Commission has set up three training sessions for its staff in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

The Bureau of Affirmative Action is working on its training package which includes training on sexual minorities. Tony expressed the need to have information on a time table so that Council resources could be planned effectively. Some Council members expressed impatience with the delays on the training, especially with summer and elections coming up fast. Tony will write to Dan Harley asking for a time frame.

Tony represented the Council as did Alan LaPayover, at a meeting of student social workers from around the state.

Ken George spoke to primary care physicians at York Hospital.

The Council will send a representative to speak at Millersville College.

4. Annual Report: Art Duprat

"It is ready to go." (Council members who wish to have copies sent to anyone, can send the names and addresses to Alan LaPayover or to Tony.

5. Health: Dr. Walter Lear

Over the next few months, the Health Committee will work in work groups on specific projects. Work groups will deal with preparing a pamphlet on sexually transmitted diseases, evaluating state programs on such diseases, developing a training program for health personnel, planning research on health needs of sexual minorities (help needed), evaluating the research (help needed) and implementing the Council policy on transsexuality (help needed).

Secretary Bachman has written to the eight state medical schools asking about their training for students on transsexuality and on the treatment offered in hospitals associated with the schools.

6. ERA Carol Bloch representing NOW

Ms. Bloch spoke about the unlikeliness of the ERA passing before the deadline and the need to have the deadline extended. The Pride 78 Conference which our Council co-sponsored had passed resolutions supporting the ERA. Walter Lear made a motion, which was unanimously adopted, which resolved that our Council supports HJR 638, extending the deadline and that we affirm our support to state representatives in Washington, the President and local and state leaders.

Lisa White made a motion, also unanimously adopted, that our Council officially participate in the ERA Processional March in Washington D.C. on July 9, 1978.

Dr. JoAnn Farr volunteered to publicize our first resolution to the appropriate people. We need a volunteer to organize our participation in the March. If interested contact Tony.

7. Employment Tony Silvestre for Marilyn Hewitt

The Pennsylvania Nurses Association has asked the state to add the clause "sexual preference" to their contract. We expect that the language will be added.

The Retail Clerks have not yet begun negotiations. They had expressed initial support and our Council will have to review their position.

8. Education: Conrad Jones

An article appearing in a central Pennsylvania shopper's guide-newspaper criticized the Department for leaving a rather infamous "purple-covered" booklet in the closet. Carol Kline's reaction has been supportive of the booklet and it is now available to the public on request by writing to the Publications Office, 367 Education Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120, attention Ann Witmer.

Conrad is planning a workshop for division chiefs and bureau directors. He expects that the activity will be run for a half-day. The workshop will take place before June 1.

9. Pride 78 Conference :Mary Nancarrow

Council members who attended the conference agreed that it was absolutely successful. Praise for the conference was and is heard around the state. According to Tony Mary Nancarrow, Sam Deetz, Joe Burns, Bob Woods and many others deserve the greatest thanks for their work.

The Conference passed a number of resolutions including: repeating the Conference on an annual basis, setting up a meeting on May 6 at State College to discuss establishment of a state wide gay group, supporting the ERA, endorsing a state wide association of telephone counseling services, supporting full participation and encouragement to all racial and sexual minorities within the movement, supporting support groups for gay youth and emphasizing the need for state action on alcoholism among sexual minorities. The Council's work project on alcoholism will hopefully meet this last need.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00.

THE FOLLOWING ARE TENTATIVE DATES FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS. IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS PLEASE CONTACT TONY IMMEDIATELY. A FINAL CALANDAR WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR MAY MEETING WHICH IS MAY 24 in Harrisburg, Room 306, H & W Bldg.

- July 11 at State College
- September 11
- October 31
- December 14
- January 31