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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES WILL BE HELD
TUESDAY, JULY 11 IN ROOM 812 OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BUILDING.



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

May 24, 1978

MINUTES

In Attendance: Art Duprat, David M. Donaldson, Tony Henry, Marilyn Hewitt, Luke Rentschler, Rachel MacLachlan, Gerald Brennan, Ed Brown, Jim Newton, Jim Huggins, Pam Erdeley, Kenneth George, Tom Wiestling, Spencer Coxe, Louise Oncley, Jay Snyder, Salvador Rodriquez, Tony Silvestre.

1. The meeting opened with Tony Silvestre introducing and welcoming David Donaldson Esq., appointed By the Attorney General to replace Bob Rains. David is with the Community Advocate Unit in Philadelphia. Bob Rains will continue to work with Council as David's liason with the Human Services Division of the Justice Department. Spencer Coxe, Director of the Philadelphia ACLU, and appointed by Governor Shapp as a member of the council was also welcomed.

2. Reminders: Council members who are to be reimbursed for travel to council meetings should submit their travel vouchers to Tony by June 25 so that they can be processed before the new fiscal year on July 1.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 11 AND NOT JULY 7 AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

3. Complaint Desk: Tom Wiestling

A letter has been sent to all Secretaries and agency heads asking them to submit forms to our council describing complaints of discrimination vs members of sexual minorities.

A San Francisco University research team has asked the council to send information on discrimination and our procedures to deal with it. Tom and Marilyn will gather the necessary information.

4. Union Update: Marilyn Hewitt

The Pennsylvania Nurses Association and the Liquor Retail Clerks have added sexual orientation to their contracts, although the contracts have not been signed yet. AFSCME has not yet added the language. Two locals in State College (bus drivers and taxi drivers) are petitioning the union to add the language.

Tony Henry raised the issue of other sexual minority issues which we might explore in union contracts such as bereave-ment leave, and sick benefits. Now that the language is in contracts perhaps it is the time to seek further union support. This issue will be on the July agenda.

Tony Silvestre suggested that the council consider

beginning to approach unions not contracting with the state. There was a general feeling that contact be made with NOW members in teachers' union to explore working with that union. Tony Silvestre will contact NOW members to begin discussing the issue.

5. Prison Rape Project: Tony Silvestre for Ed Brown and Julia Rux

Tony presented some findings of the literature review conducted by Ed Brown. It was clear that rape in prison is a serious problem that has not been successfully addressed. The problem includes not only instances of forcible rape but buying and selling of inmates, threats and all manner of coercion used to obtain sexual access. Homosexual as well as heterosexual prisoners are victimized.

The review should be ready for distribution in the next few weeks. Copies will be available to Council members and will be used to get support from other organizations for a national or state-wide conference on the problem. Ken George has offered to assist in obtaining grant money for the conference.

Tony Henry pointed out that prison rape seems to be virtually non-existent in Holland's prisons perhaps because of their short periods of confinement. Tony also made the point that extensive change might be necessary in prisons if violence and rape are to be curtailed.

6. Speaker's Bureau: Kenneth George

There is still some uncertainty about the exact dates and time allocated for some of the sessions with the Human Relations Commission. They will be worked out with Luke's help.

The Affirmative Action Bureau is moving ahead with their comprehensive training program according to Louise Oncley. Their goal is to fold in all aspects of training into one consistent program. We will have a time frame for the sessions on sexual minorities most likely by the end of June.

7. Young Democrats: Jim Newton, invited guest

In the last few years, the Young Democrats have been organized around party functioning. According to Mr. Newton, the group is moving into dealing with issues, one of which is sexual minorities. Jim Newton, a leader of the group, who is running for President expressed his strong support for the goals and objectives of the council.

8. New Projects

ALCOHOISM: Jim Huggins and Pam Erdeley

Jim and Pam have met with Ken Williams to discuss the problems of gay alcoholics. Williams is with Persad Center's Board of Directors and a consultant with the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Among the suggestions for council action on the problem are: support of a needs assessment by CODA through NIMH

funding, training on sexual minorities for the CODA staff, and counsellors and education of the gay and sexual minority communities. Ken Williams will be meeting with CODA for further discussion of the problem. At the same time, Jim, Pam and Tony will meet along with other interested council members to explore possible council involvement.

Spencer Coxe volunteered to contact the National Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse to get information on their stands, policies, and research in the area.

Marilyn suggested that a meeting between members of our Council and the CODA be held. Tony will make the necessary arrangements. Louise reminded us to consider preventive steps when we work on council objectives.

GRANTS: Ken George

Ken who has considerable experience in grantmanship has volunteered to help the council find funds. He will be working on getting money for our prison rape project along with Ed Brown.

LICENSING: Jeff Brittan and Spencer Coxe

About fifteen professions and occupations in the state can only be practised if the workers have a state license. Bureaus for each job fall under the Department of State under Barton Fields. These bureaus directed by state law review each applicant and either grant, revoke or refuse licenses. One clause of state law which is sometimes used to discriminate against gays is the phrase "of good moral character". Jeff and Spencer shall meet with Tony to decide how best to work to see that discrimination against members of sexual minorities does not occur in the future.

Tony noted that a number of other possible projects are waiting for volunteers. Council members with time and interest are urged to contact Tony to discuss older gays, third world gays, the Department of Labor and Industry, the disabled, and liaison with other groups. If interested in health, contact Walter Lear.

9. Announcements

Council members were reminded that a delegation will attend the march for the ERA on July 9 in Washington D.C. Please contact Tony Silvestre if you expect to attend.

Representatives of the Council spoke at Susquhanna University, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, the Altoona campus of Penn State and WPSX-TV. Members are urged to work for speaking engagements for our council to the various organization with whom we have contact.

On June 17, a picnic will be held in Philadelphia in lieu of a gay rights march. Are any council members planning to go and willing to set up and people a table for the council? Contact Tony Silvestre if you can.

The Second Annual Report will be ready for distribution by the end of May. Council members who wish copies sent to persons or organizations should submit names and addresses to council member Alan LaPayover.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS JULY 11, 1978 in HARRISBURG.
ALL TRAVEL VOUCHERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 25, 1978

10. Executive Order: Tony Silvestre

Because of technical problems with the Governor's second executive order, the steering committee has approved a draft for a new order to resolve difficulties. The new order would remove reference to preference and substitute "orientation", make it clear that the council is not seeking quotas in hiring for sexual minorities, needs the participation of representatives of additional state agencies such as Labor and Industry (Louise suggests that a clause be added giving the council authority to invite certain departmental representatives to particular meetings or for a specific discussion), that the council's role in educating state employes be more clearly defined and that more definitive wording be added on payment for travel expenses for official meetings of committees of the council.

Tony will meet with Milt to discuss the order and input from Council members sought.

11. Committee Reports

Because of time limitations and the absence of representatives from some of the departments, no formal committee reports were made.

State Police: Jerry Brennan

Jerry, however, did bring up the matter of meetings with the State Police. At the direction of former Commissioner Barger, meetings between the council and the state police were limited to officers in the various barracks. Jerry suggested that members of the council meet with the new commissioner to explore the scheduling of meetings with field officers around the state and other issues of mutual concern. Captain Rodriguez will try to arrange such a meeting. Jerry, Tony Silvestre, Spencer Coxe and David Donaldson will attend such a meeting along with Captain Rodriguez. Other interested council members should contact Jerry.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 PM.