

EDINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2004

7:00 PM – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Carol Carmichiel
Betsy Flaten
Idelle Longman
Sharon Ming
Mel Ogurak
Andy Otness
Eileen Supple

Members Absent

Jim Campbell
Janice Joshua
Wayne Prochniak

Guests

Kathy Iverson
Shannon Tassava
Amy Frankfurt

Staff

Susan Heiberg

Chemical Health Guests were welcomed and introduced: Kathy Iverson, the City of Edina's Chemical Health Coordinator; Shannon Tassava, Chemical and Mental Health Coordinator for the School District; and Amy Frankfurt, the new School District appointee to the Commission beginning in February. Kathy shared that her position was created by the City and that the committee, ECHP (Edina Chemical Health Partners), is the only one of its kind in the State of Minnesota. The position was originally funded by Rotary and has been part-time since 1994. ECHP seeks to change community norms around alcohol/drug use and prevention and has determined that there are challenges with the new generation of parents, children and technology. ECHP meets on the third Thursday of the month with the following partners: community-at-large, business, schools, City, faith community, Bloomington Public Health and Tri-City Partners. ECHP works with PCN (Parents' Communication Network) to provide educational and parenting information. National speakers are brought into the community each year. Activities of note are: "Together We Stand" campaign zeroing in on spring break, "Confidential Conversations," "Heroes" (health education reaching out) in the middle schools and elementary children in the summer, "Red Ribbon" campaign in November, "Shoulder to Shoulder" with books for middle school parents from the tobacco prevention grant money, a faith partner initiative currently underway, and a smoke-free dining guide. Shannon shared that her District-wide position is unique. She works with both staff and administration, mostly in the High School and middle schools and combines District work with community work to collaborate with Kathy. Shannon connects with Tri-City partners as well as she looks at community-wide issues. Among her various activities are: parenting education, newsletter writing, workshops, parent presentations, support group meetings, church meetings, and consulting with staff about students, policies and training. Shannon conducts in-service training for high school teachers regarding intervention strategies. She heads a task

force to review alternatives to the DARE Program. Regarding treatment coordination, Shannon helps families find therapy and counseling services. She shared information about the following two programs: Fish Bowl, an observation tool using a panel of students without parents discussing life as a teen; STAT, "students taking action together" who have a passion for chemical use prevention and are willing to be open to discuss issues with peers in home rooms. Shannon is not considered a direct-care provider or counselor. Regarding 691's (Police violations when a minor is caught drinking), she explained that Doug Eischens, a school social worker, does the assessments and the contacts with the parents. He provides recommendations at the end of the sessions. The Police Department is requested to notify the School District when there is a 691. There is no funding provided for summer 691's by a School District employee. Comments made by the Commissioners were:

- 1) Include parents of 9th graders in the "Confidential Conversations."
- 2) Invite students to the ECHP meetings.

Approval of Minutes Mel Ogurak seconded Andy Otness' motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2003; the motion carried.

Slate of Officers The Nominating Committee consisting of Carol Carmichiel, Janice Joshua and Idelle Longman presented the following slate of officers for 2004:

- Chair: Betsy Flaten
- 1st Vice Chair: Wayne Prochniak
- 2nd Vice Chair: Idelle Longman

Andy Otness seconded Eileen Supple's motion to approve the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee; the motion carried.

Commission By-Laws Idelle Longman, Jim Campbell and Mel Ogurak presented for discussion the revised By-Laws as amended by the Commission at its December meeting. An agenda item for a future City Council meeting would be a discussion about term limits. The word "quorum" needs clarification. A Commissioner on leave will be considered as a part of the quorum count. After careful consideration and some revision to the revised By-Laws, it was determined that a final draft would be sent to the Commissioner ten days before the next Commission meeting for approval. The possible name change of the Commission will be delayed until the March meeting.

CDBG Funding Betsy Flaten explained that Community Development Block Grant funding was Federal pass-through funding which returns to support municipalities. Three proposals had been received by the

Planning Department—Greater Minneapolis Daycare Association (GMDCA), H.O.M.E., and HomeLine; the proposal from CASH is forthcoming. It was noted that GMDCA is proposing a change of use of dollars in order to provide scholarships to better serve families in need. Because the total dollar amount to be allocated to the human services portion of the CDBG funding is unknown at the time, Carol Carmichiel seconded Sharon Ming’s motion to approve the following percentages for CDBG funding recommended by the Planning Department:

- Greater Minneapolis Daycare Association 57%
- Housing and Outdoor Maintenance for the Elderly 35.4%
- Community Action for Suburban Hennepin 3.78%
- HomeLine 3.78%
- 100%

The motion carried.

Commission Brochure Andy Otness reviewed the changes made to the draft brochure for the Commission. It will be prepared for final approval at the next Commission meeting. Andy and Janice Joshua will report regarding location and numbers for distribution.

February Commission Meeting At the February 24th meeting of the Human Relations Commission, the following will be agenda items:

- Bullying
- Senior Assessment Update
- School District Diversity Council
- Brochure

Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Flaten, Chair
Edina Human Relations Commission

BF/sh