



DRAFT

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Post Office Box 42  
Barnstable, Massachusetts, 02630  
508-375-6912  
www.barnstablecountyhrac.org

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 10, 2020, 5:00-6:30 PM  
Remote participation**

**Advisory Commission Members Present:**

Alan Milsted (Chair), Dave Schropfer, Patricia Oshman, Katie Riconda, Wendy Bierwirth, Kate Epperly, Morgan (Mwalim) Peters, and Paul Thompson

**Also Present:**

Brian O'Malley, Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates liaison; Susan Quinones, Human Rights Coordinator

**Apologies for absence:**

Advisory Commission Member, Jeanne Morrison; Town Liaisons, Theresa Santos (Barnstable), Patricia Armstrong (Yarmouth)

**Public Members:** Stephen Buckley (Open Chatham), Mike Darring (Open Chatham), Lily Hennessey (Enterprise News), Danielle Toby and (Guest Speaker)

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Alan Milsted called the meeting to order and Susan Quinones conducted a roll call @ 5:08 pm (Advisory Commission Member Paul Thompson (???) joined the meeting after the roll had been called). With a quorum present, Alan proceeded to the first item on the agenda. Assembly Member Brian O'Malley and members of the public introduced themselves, and phone numbers associated with those participants who were not on video links.

Alan agreed to take notes and prepare draft minutes.

**2. Open meeting law requirements**

Susan reviewed the order issued by Governor Charlie Baker, allowing HRAC to post its agenda electronically, and to allow HRAC to meet remotely. Otherwise, all provisions of the OML are still operative. We had a quorum. Susan confirmed that the meeting was being recorded.

The Chair proposed to vary the agenda order, to take the Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group immediately after consideration of the Minutes of the last two meetings, as Dave Schropfer had an important personal commitment.

### **3. Public Comment**

The Chair invited Members of the Public who were listening in to the meeting to raise questions, but noted that no comment or discussion was permitted, although the Advisory Commission could decide to include items on the agenda of future meetings.

Steve Buckley asked if public participation in Remote meetings could be considered.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Susan noted that the draft minutes of the meetings held on June 15 and July 13 2020 had been posted on the BCHRAC website. The Chair invited comments; there being none, motions were invited to adopt the minutes. Motions were duly proposed and seconded for acceptance of the minutes of the meetings of June 15 (by Trish and Paul) and July 13 (by Dave and Trish), respectively, and approved unanimously.

### **5. Reports of Working Groups**

Susan noted that reports and recommendations from each of the Working Groups had been posted on the BCHRAC Website.

#### **(a) Strategic Plan**

Dave Schropfer presented the report from the Strategic Plan Working Group; he focused on the development of proposals for reviews of policing, notably training and continuing a dialogue with local police chiefs. He and Kate noted that contacts were being made with other police departments in the Commonwealth to learn about their community policing discussions. Paul reported that he had learned from Chief Frederickson that only four Towns in Barnstable County (Barnstable, Bourne, Falmouth and Sandwich) were organized in line with state-agreed Civil Service arrangements.

The Working Group, noting the change in emphasis of the Advisory Commission's Ordinance, anticipated that most activity would require developing or establishing a range of partnerships with other agencies or organizations (such as the Council of Churches' Refugee and Immigrant Working Group) and, at a County level, with the Assembly of Delegates and Board of Regional Commissioners.

A full draft of a Strategic Plan would be presented at the September meeting.

#### **(b) Human Rights Academy Working Group**

Trish and Mwalim outlined plans for remote gatherings for the Fall Human Rights Academy.

**(c) Human Rights Awards Breakfast Working Group**

In Jeanne's absence, Wendy and Susan reported on plans for a virtual award ceremony, to be held on December 10, with the aim of celebrating individuals, rather than the heads of organizations. Brian O'Malley confirmed the wish for the Tim Fund to present the second Human Rights Champion Award, as part of the event, and encouraged Members and hers to consider possible nominations, from across the County.

**(d) Intake and complaint Working Group**

Again in Jeanne's absence, Wendy, with Katie, reported on the development of a framework for considering concerns and complaints. Members were encouraged to review the drafts on the website and forward comments to the Working Group via Susan. Alan noted a need to review this documentation, particularly with "plain English" considerations in mind, and for translation/interpreting facilities to be available.

**(e) Social Media Working Group**

Susan and Wendy presented the report from the Social Media Working Group. Members were encouraged to submit items for inclusion in calendars (organized by Town/within Barnstable County; Massachusetts; USA and international).

**6. Appointment of Advisory Commission Members to vacancies for January 2021**

A timeline for identifying recommended new Members has been placed on the BCHRAC website. The process involved a Joint Panel of two representatives of BCHRAC and three representatives of the BC Health and Human Services Advisory Council (to be appointed by Director of Human Services). Agreed that BCHRAC representatives would be Susan Quinones and Theresa Santos or Alan Milsted.

**7. Consideration of request for support from Falmouth Affirmative Action/Diversity Committee**

Alan Milsted presented a proposal to send a letter of support for the newly-approved position of Affirmative Action/Diversity Outreach Coordinator in Falmouth, to the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools and Members of Select Board (copies were circulated to Members).

The proposal was supported by Trish Oshman, Member of agreed.

**8. Coordinator's Report**

- HRAC will be requesting approval from the Regional Commissioners to hire an Administrative Assistant for 5 hours per week at meeting on 8/12.
- Form for Advisory Commission Members, and others, to complete, in relation to requests for support for future events or activities was posted on the BCHRAC website.
- Other items are listed in the Coordinator's Report posted online.

**9. Information items from Advisory Commission Members**

Members agreed to send best wishes to Advisory Commission Member, Jeanne Morrison, for speedy recovery after her surgery.

**10. Adjournment**

After Susan confirmed that there was no need for an Executive Session, a motion was proposed and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:36pm: all Advisory Commission Members then present (Alan Milsted, Kate Epperly, Paul Thompson, Trish Oshman, Wendy Bierwirth, Katie Riconda) voted in favor.

**Next scheduled meeting:** Monday, September 21, 5:00-6:30pm (remote)