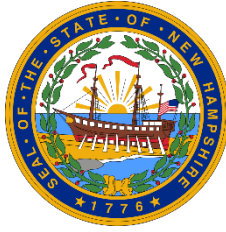


New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights

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NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 9, 2023, at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners present: Christian Kim (Chair), Nancy LeRoy (via Zoom – Laconia, NH, alone), Basra Mohamed, and Adrienne Evans, Melissa Moriarty

Commission Staff: Executive Director, Ahni Malachi
Asst. Director Sarah Burke Cohen (via Zoom)
Attorney Sean Locke (via Zoom)
Investigator Kelly Mederos

Commissioner Kim called the meeting to order at 5:21 PM.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Kim asked if anyone from the public was present and wished to make public comment. There was no one present.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Kim moved, and Commissioner Mohamed seconded a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried: Commissioner Kim - yea; Commissioner LeRoy — yea; Commissioner Mohamed - yea; Commissioner Evans – yea; Commissioner Moriarty – yea; and Commissioner Moriarty – abstains.

3. COMMISSIONER WELCOME

WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER MELISSA MORIARTY!
MELISSA WAS CONFIRMED AND SWORN IN IN FEBRUARY.

4. GACDI UPDATE

Executive Director Malachi discussed the ongoing work of the Governor's Council on Diversity and Inclusion ("GACDI").

Executive Director Malachi passed out the new toolkit and explained how to find the toolkit online.

GACDI is working on way to get this information to every type of education facilities throughout the state. The counsel is talking about furthering and quantifying the effectiveness of the toolkit. Using feedback to adjust the toolkit to be updated as needed. One subcommittee is looking into what types of trainings are available for educators regarding equity diversity and inclusion.

The Senate House Bill has passed in the Senate and is expected to pass in the House of Representatives – the council is currently looking for a portrait artist.

5. OFFICE UPDATES

Executive Director Malachi explained that she has collected the Commissioners financial information and it has been forwarded to where it needed to go.

HRC is currently involved in budget meetings to see if our proposed budget will be approved. Executive Director Malachi has asked for 4 new investigators, a full-time admin, and to convert the part-time paralegal and part-time secretary to full-time positions. The Governor has initially approved 3 new investigators and reinstated the budget for the full-time admin.

Executive Director Malachi discussed how the HRC's office lease is up in October and is in the process of requesting having the HRC move in with the DOJ in their new office space.

Members of the HRC attended the Hate Crimes forum and Execution Director Malachi did a presentation. Executive Director Malachi also was involved in the Juvenile Justice Committee Meeting last month.

State Commission on Aging has requested Executive Director Malachi attend a conference with them to discuss what the HRC does.

6. REVIEW OF INVESTIGATOR CASE LOAD

Assistant Director Burke Cohen discussed the investigators' caseload.

In January we did open more than we closed, however in February we closed more than we opened. Investigator Mederos is going through the pending file trying to resolve cases in mediation or close cases where issues have been resolved between the parties.

7. HEARING SCHEDULE UPDATE

Assistant Director Burke Cohen discussed the hearing schedule and updated it. There are two public hearings scheduled for May at this time.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Director Malachi handed out and discussed new information sheets the HRC has created to better inform pro se litigants about mediation and correspondence letters with pro se Complainants.

Commissioner LeRoy moves and Commissioner Mohamed seconds to approve the 4 new attorneys to the HRC volunteer mediator list.

Commissioner Kim - yea; Commissioner LeRoy — yea; Commissioner Mohamed - yea; Commissioner Evans – yea; Commissioner Moriarty – yea; and Commissioner Moriarty – abstained.

Commissioner LeRoy discussed Commissioner Keye's end of term – wanted to ensure HRC sent something to him thanking him for his service.

Commissioner Evans discussed the pending bills regarding the Department of Education ("DOE") being able to bring Charges of Discrimination on behalf of individuals and another bill that addresses DOE subpoena power. Executive Director Malachi spoke about the status of these bills in the legislature. Attorney Locke discussed how the legislation seems to just be looking to just iron out a way for DOE to process claims under the recent public education additions to RSA 345-A.

Investigator Mederos announced that she will be leaving in August to accept a position with the NH Public Defender's Office.

The Commission hired a new paralegal, Keith McCrea, who is slated to start at the HRC before the end of March.

9. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Commissioner Kim requested the Commissioners enter non-public session to discuss a confidential matter. Commissioner Mohamed moved that pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a),

the Commission enter non-public session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner LeRoy seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor: Commissioner Kim - yea; Commissioner Mohamed – yea; Commissioner LeRoy – yea; Evans – yea; and Commissioner Moriarty – yea. The Commission entered non-public session at 6:04 PM

At 6:09 PM, the Commissioners returned to Public Session, Commissioner LeRoy moved and Commissioner Mohamed seconded that pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,III to “withhold minutes of the non-public session until such time as the majority of the Commissioners are of the opinion that it was no longer likely that the divulgence of the information in the minutes would affect adversely the reputation of any person not a member of the agency, or render the proposed action ineffective.” Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor: Commissioner Kim - yea; Commissioner LeRoy — yea; Commissioner Mohamed - yea; Commissioner Evans – yea; Commissioner Moriarty – yea. The motion carried.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LeRoy moved for adjournment and Commissioner Mohamed seconded. The Commissioner’s meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.