

## COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at 1:30 at Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, 100 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

### Minutes for Council For Sexual Minorities - March 11, 1976

Absent members of Council included: Joseph Bongiovanni, Jr., Tom Wilson, Bishop Ogilby, Barbara Shore, and Frances Hanckel

The meeting was opened by Tony Silvestre, Chairperson, who welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting. He then reviewed the agenda.

#### 1. Orientation

Terry Dellmuth, representing the Governor, made a few remarks about the role of the Council. He stated that the Council would have the Governor's support and that it was his hope that recommendations would be forthcoming to the Governor for future action to take to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Terry stated that his office would be opened any time there was a problem and that people should feel free to call him.

Barry Kohn then made several remarks reviewing the history of the Commonwealth's involvement in gay rights. He stated that the ad hoc Task Force which has preceded the Council moved very quickly during its 17 month existence. Barry suggested that more education was needed to break down the myths and stereotypes about homosexuality. This education is very much needed in each department and in the legislature as is illustrated by the anti-homosexual legislation that has been introduced. Secondly, he suggested that the Council make sure that it is moving evenly. The ad hoc Task Force had moved faster in some areas while others were left behind. He also suggested that a mechanism be set up in which subcommittees could be accountable to the Council on a regular basis and that there could be a direct communication and dialogue between the policy making of the Council and the direction of the committees.

Jeanne Boydston then spoke and stated that she was speaking from her experience as being the chairperson of the in-house Task Force from the Department of Education. She stated that while her process might have been slower in getting started, she felt that they were now in a position to move ahead in a very steady way in the department. Their strategy

involved setting up a process for looking at the issue. Two people from each of the six administrative areas in the department and two gay people were meeting as a Task Force. The people from the department were chosen because they were thought to be educable and would listen. There was also a diversity on the basis of race and sex. The first few meetings were taken up with consciousness raising which was very important as many people did not see that there was any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. At the present time the secretary has been given a list of recommendations and has approved them for the first year. These recommendations clearly set a direction for the Department of Education and will be reviewed in the second year to see what further steps have to be taken.

Joseph Acanfora was then introduced by Tony. During 1970-73, Joe was the plaintiff in several law suits and administrative actions to obtain a teaching position after it was found out that he was gay. He stated that he believed the difference between the gay minority and other minorities was that generally gay people were invisible. He said that "this invisibility is our seductive prison - silence our comfortable cell". He counselled the group to work toward the education of state people about homosexuality and not wait for complaints. He hoped that individuals would not put their own egos or regional needs above the needs of the Council and gay people. He also suggested that the Council explore the needs of other sexual minorities.

After Joe's talk Mark Segal suggested that the Council include transsexuals as one of the areas that it works in. Also he suggested that the meetings be moved around the state so that more gay people could attend them.

Debbie Boyle stated that we should use the term "sexual minorities" rather than "gay" in addressing problems.

## 2. Council Operation and Structure

### a) Expenses

Terry Spaar from the Office of Administration reviewed the manner in which people would be reimbursed. He stated that Council members only could be reimbursed for lodging, transportation and meals and that their forms for reimbursement should be sent to Robert Lank, Governor's Fiscal Officer. State employees would be reimbursed through their own departments. After some discussion Terry stated that he would send out the forms to all Council members with instructions as to how to fill them out and where they should be sent. Receipts will be necessary for every expense and therefore they should be obtained as you go along. He stated

that no lump sum had been set aside for the Council and that any money for the Council would be coming from the Governor's office.

Terry was asked to look into the question of whether prior expenses could be paid and whether the Council members would be able to obtain travel and hotel vouchers. Terry will also look into the question of expense money for telephone calls and mail. Terry stated that the departments can pay expenses of in-house Task Force but that depends on each agency.

b) Schedule

There was a long discussion about how often the meetings of the Council should be held and where they should be held. Also there was some discussion as to whether public hearings should be held around the state by either the whole Council or individual members of the Council. Some people felt that the Council should meet on a monthly basis while others felt that it should meet every two or three months. After some discussion it was decided that the issue would be taken up by a subcommittee and that the Council's next meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 13, 1976 at 1:30 p.m. in the Human Relations Commission, 100 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

Tony suggested that any suggestions for times of future meetings or establishment of hearings should be sent to him for the subcommittee to consider. (See Attached)

c) Committee Structure

Barbara Gittings read a letter from Frances Hanckel which raised the issue of whether there should be in-house department Task Forces or Council committees or both. There was a long discussion around this issue and it was decided that a Committee on Structure would be formed to review suggestions and come up with a proposal for the next meeting. Also all subcommittees would be requested to send Tony a list of goals, the present structure of the committee, the priorities of the committee, what budgetary needs the committee had, and suggestions on any other structural area. Tony asked that this information be in his office by April 6, 1976.

A committee on structure composed of Tony, Dolly Shuster, Janet Cooper, Debbie Boyle, Sam Deetz, Chris Poorman, Randy Forrester, Mark Segal, Dennis Rubini, Earl Greenburg, Frances Hanckel and Walter Lear was appointed. The meeting of that group will be held on March 24, 1976 at 9:30 a.m. and on April 7th at 1 p.m. in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission at 100 North Cameron Street.

The Committee was also asked to look into the questions of public relations for the Council, a committee on transsexuality, finances and an executive committee.

d) Vice Chairperson

It was decided that the issue of a Vice Chairperson would be taken up and possibly voted on at the next meeting.

3. Committee Business

Gay Lobby Day - Sam Deetz reported that Gay Lobby Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 1976 in Harrisburg. The committee had set a goal of having a 125 people from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and the rural areas lobby legislators. There will be training sessions on lobbying in Pittsburgh on March 13th, in State College and in Philadelphia on March 20th. If persons are not able to make the Gay Lobby Day they are encouraged to write letters to their representatives which will be hand delivered. The letters should be sent to Sam Deetz, Post Office Box 182, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.

Women's Caucus - Debbie Boyle suggested that a Women's Caucus of the Council be formed to address the special needs of women. After some discussion it was decided that there will be a caucus meeting and that Debbie would convene it following the meeting.

Finances - Tony Silvestre read a letter from Tom Wilson which outlined the initial exploration Tom had done in trying to get financing for the Council. Primarily this financing would be used for the expenses of non-Council members and for special projects. In the letter, Tom stated that there was a need for specific information as to what type of projects were anticipated in order to approach foundations. Tony stressed the need for the subcommittees to be specific about their needs both goal wise and budgetary wise in order to help Tom in future foundations approaches.

Legislative Committee - It was announced that the committee is scheduled to meet on March 23, 1976.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned by Tony Silvestre at approximately 4 p.m.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Council Members

FROM: Tony Silvestre

DATE: March 19, 1976

As decided at our last meeting, all Council members are being requested to answer the following questions so that a schedule for Council meetings might be planned. Please check preferred response:

1. The Council as a body should meet

- every month
- every six weeks
- other (Please Describe)

2. The Council should

- always meet on Tuesdays
- always meet on Wednesdays
- always meet on Thursdays
- rotate meeting days
- other (Please Describe)

3. The Council should meet for its regular meeting

- in Harrisburg for every meeting
- in Harrisburg for most meetings but in other locations around the state on occasion
- other (Please Describe)

4. Special hearings should be held around the state by

- the entire Council
- a regional committee of Council members (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rural)
- Council committees or in-house committees
- other (Please Describe)

5. Locations that should be included for consideration as sites for hearings or meetings:  
(Please List)

6. Committees that should be considered as sponsors for hearings:  
(Please List)

7. Comments

Please send completed form to:

Anthony Silvestre  
110 East Foster Avenue  
State College, Pa. 16801

CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 1, 1976

The last two meetings have been rather poorly attended so that discussions were rather general, related mostly to the committee organization. It was decided to have two conveners to assure coordination for mailings and calling of meetings. The next meeting was set for Thursday, June 17, 1976 at 5:30 p.m. at the Human Relations Commission at 100 North Cameron Street. The door at the South end of the building is open to the elevator. The conference room is on the second floor. Parking is permitted in the lot adjacent to the building.

Training Keys were discussed again. Stan Goehring will prepare some material in draft form for review by the committee. Hopefully these keys will be a stepping stone for the education and training of correctional personnel.

Nick Cupo reported that MCC is not currently having any difficulty with visitation at Graterford. He has the minutes of the April meeting and will provide more details of the matters discussed.

Robert Sobolovitch reported that he has had a couple of applications for Gay Foster Homes. He expressed some concern that applications have been submitted by Gay couples and suggested that the applications would be better if submitted by individuals rather than couples. We will request guidelines from him for distribution.

The structure, membership, budget, goals, and priorities of the committee were discussed. No firm conclusions were reached. All committee members are asked to think about these issues so that we can deal with them at the June meeting. The report you received last week mentioned some tentative goals. We need to decide on these matters so that detailed information can be furnished to the council.

Currently the committee's official membership includes:

Deborah E. Boyle	Pittsburgh
Robert Sobolovitch	Department of Welfare, Bureau of Youth Services
Francis Filipi	Bureau of Correction
Harry E. Smith	Bureau of Correction
Stanley S. Goehring	Tri-County Drug & Alcohol - Stroudsburg
Dianne Gigler	Pittsburgh
Richard Hill	Librarian - Camp Hill
Dr. Walter Strawbridge	Philadelphia

These persons have submitted resumes and have been approved by the council. Anyone else who wishes to be a participating member of the committee should forward their request and resume to Mr. Anthony Silvestre at 110 East Forester Avenue, State College, PA 16801

There are probably some individuals who do not wish to be committee members, but who want to remain on the mailing list. Please complete the form below and return it to the address shown indicating your desire. If the form is not returned it will be assumed that you wish to be dropped from the mailing list.

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Return to Harry E. Smith, P. O. Box 598, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Please continue me on the mailing list. My correct name and address is indicated below.

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Please remove my name from the mailing list.

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