

Michigan House of Representatives
Family and Sexuality Task Force
Sexual Orientation Interest Area

Meeting of the Executive Committee
Lansing, Michigan
August 3, 1980

The meeting was called to order by Daniel R. Sivil, Executive Director, at 11:00 a.m., at the home of Robert W. Lundy.

Mr. Sivil began the meeting by repeating his statement made in Ann Arbor on July 20 that all meetings of the Executive Committee would be open to all members of the Pro-Gay Rights Caucus of the task force; he then welcomed the two caucus members in attendance. Mr. Sivil announced the Executive Committee's intention for each member of the committee to act as a liaison with the work group which elected the member to the committee by reporting the important work of the Executive Committee to the members of the work group.

Mr. Sivil reported that he has been unable to contact Gina Torielli, Chair of the Housing, Labor/Business Relations and Public Accommodations Work Group, by telephone to receive her recommendation for a representative to the Executive Committee. He said that he would write to her this coming week, but that, to expedite the work of the committee, he had appointed, pro tempore, David Piontkowsky, Esq., President of Wayne State University's Coalition of Law Students for Gay and Lesbian Rights.

Mr. Sivil asked Mr. Piontkowsky to update the Executive Committee on the status of his work group. Mr. Piontkowsky reported that he was not certain of the exact status of the work group. He did report that the work group has prepared a survey to be mailed to several hundred major businesses in the State of Michigan, but the survey has not been mailed. The problem is money. Dr. Schornstein offered printing services, and Mr. Sivil suggested sources of stationery and postage.

Dr. Messer proffered that even if funds were obtained that lead time had vanished. He used this argument to suggest discussion of our time constraints. He pointed out that the task force expires at the end of the current legislative session; if political upsets occur in the November elections, it is possible that the task force would not

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be reinstated. He stated his belief, shared by all present, that if the task force is reinstated it should be "born again", and not be just a continuation of the current task force.

Dr. Messer then reviewed the general outline for completion of our work: Each of the five work groups submits their reports to the Sexual Orientation Interest Area, chaired by Eleanor S. Morrison. (Dr. Schornstein felt that his work group would submit only a majority report, Dr. Messer believes that his work group will submit both a majority and a minority report, and other members of the Executive Committee were unsure of what their work groups would do.) The reports then go to the full Family and Sexuality Task Force, then to the Civil Rights Committee. None of those present knew if voting would occur outside the work groups. For example, Rep. David Evans has said only that each interest area reports back to the full task force -- it is not clear to us if voting will occur.

To clarify the time constraints under which we are operating, we devised a "worst case" scenario.

We know:

- September 4 - Legislative session resumes
- October - Legislature not in session
- November/December - Legislature resumes as lame duck

We guessed:

- December 15 - Earliest adjournment of the full Legislature
- November 25 - Full committee work done
- November 11 - Final task force report to Civil Rights Committee
- November 4 - Final task force report to printer
- October 21 - Final task force report to Representative Evans
- October 7 - Full task force OK's reports
- September 23 - Sexual Orientation Interest Area report due

Mr. Sivil then stressed that September 23 is only seven weeks away. He then asked each work group representative to review the status of the work group in terms of getting a draft report to the Executive Director, who will then circulate copies to all members of the Executive Committee before our next meeting, which he suggested we tentatively target for September 10.

1. Dr. Messer said that The Family Work Group meets Sunday, August 10, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Daniel Sivil, and that he anticipates no serious difficulty in having a draft ready by August 14. He listed the four areas covered by this work group:
 - a. Child Molesting - essentially complete
 - b. Child Custody - in limbo, may delete
 - c. Threat to Marriage and the Family? - Nancy Black, Gene Martin and Sue Wagner are working on
 - d. Families and Children -
2. Dr. Schornstein said that the Ethics and Morality Work Group meets at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in East Lansing on Friday, August 22 at 9:30 a.m. He anticipates that he can furnish a rough draft of their final report the week of August 24.
3. Mr. Lundy said that no date has been set for the next meeting of the Criminal Law and Constitutional Rights Work Group, but that they would meet about September 1. He said he would furnish a rough draft by August 28.
4. Mr. Piontkowsky was not certain of the next meeting date of the Housing, Labor/Business Relations and Public Accommodations Work Group, but thought it might be August 29. He will check and report back. He felt he could furnish the Executive Committee a rough draft by August 25. Mr. Lundy said that he wrote a rough draft for a portion of the report for this work group, and gave five copies to its chair, Gina Torielli; he will mail a copy to the Executive Director this coming week.
5. Mr. Fraleigh said that no date has been set for the next meeting of the Health and Education Work Group. Mr. Fraleigh said that he would give a handwritten draft to Mr. Sivil by Thursday, August 28. Mr. Sivil agreed to edit it and have it typed; he also said that he would immediately send a handwritten copy to Dr. Schornstein because of certain overlaps in the reports of their two work groups. Dr. Messer stressed that the report of this work group must also include higher education; it currently deals only with secondary education.

Mr. Lundy than suggested that the Executive Committee should write the introduction to the full report of the Sexual Orientation Interest Area. All present agreed.

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Dr. Messer read a letter he received from Holly Hart, of Portland, Oregon, granting us her generosity in our use of the Oregon Report. A copy of the letter is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Sivil asked assistance of the members of the Executive Committee in determining the work group assignments of the following members of our interest area:

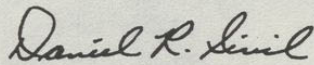
1. Mr. John Roy Castillo
2. Ms. Sal Connor
3. Mr. Joseph Ellin
4. Ms. Susan Erickson
5. Mr. Glenn Higley

Mr. Sivil, at the request of the members of the Executive Committee, said that as soon as he could determine the work group assignments of the above five individuals, he would furnish a list of the caucus and the work group assignments to each member of the Executive Committee.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Sunday, September 7, 1980, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Dr. Henry Messer, 23248 Bonair, Dearborn Heights.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel R. Sivil,
Executive Director

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ADDENDA

Following adjournment of the formal meeting, Dr. Messer took the occasion of the informal meeting environment to introduce discussion of the proposal advanced by Dr. Arthur Warner at the July 20 meeting in Ann Arbor. Namely, that the Executive Committee should take a leadership role in seeking a "watchdog" for our legislative concerns; one who is a professional lawyer, politically savvy, has a sense of urgency about our concerns and has the time.

Members of the Executive Committee felt that we were a logical place to begin, and that, because this is not part of our work on the task force, we would discuss it immediately after adjournment on September 7. In preparation for that discussion, Mr. Lundy agreed to define our options as well as discuss prospects with three Lansing-area people he has in mind.

This informal session adjourned at 3:10 p.m.