

Empower Missouri Human Rights Task Force
Agenda/Report for 1:30, Thursday, February 23, 2017
712-432-1500
Passcode: 167856#

Please enter agenda items or activity reports.

Participants: Jeanette Mott Oxford, Rachel Girdler, Phillip Weeks, Don Love, Pam Rich, Elizabeth Fuchs (Promo), Ashley Quinn

1. **Bias-free Policing**

- a. HRTF supports St Louis policy on surveillance.
- b. Community Policing discussion in Columbia: City Council voted unanimously for an engagement process aimed at defining and building support for community policing. Race Matters, Friends is keeping the pressure on.
- c. Fourth Amendment Affirmation Act. Senator Bob Dixon wants to have a hearing in his committee within a couple weeks. He suggests we contact the more conservative church groups. Assembly of God is interested in racial justice, he says. Rep. Dogan asked for the bill to be split in a data section and a policy section; he thinks it might move faster that way, with one section or the other gaining momentum.
- d. Officers sometimes say they target African Americans because the group has a high crime rate: go after people you know commit crime. This approach is fallacious for multiple reasons. Read this draft:
[High Group Crime Rates and Bias-free Policing](#)
- e. We testified on a bill from Brandon Ellington to require a special prosecutor for officer-involved deaths and a bill from Shamed Dogan to require agencies to have policies requiring investigations of officer-involved deaths to be made by another agency.
- F. ACLU has a lobby day Tuesday, 2/28. This will be a good time to promote FAAA.
- G. Rachel has a senior project to do qualitative interviews with police officers. Questions follow their stories. They are asked about training on biased policing, what they would like to see in the VSR, and so on. Phillip suggested she also talk with John Chasnoff.
- H. Sara's presentation on FAAA in Jeff City. Pam: one of best forums. 30 attendees. Other Central Chapter forums? Know Your Rights with ACLU?
- I. ACLU will have a KNY facilitator training 3/15 in St Louis.
- J. Jeanette and Don are to meet with Sen. Rob Schaaf Tuesday. St. Joseph is in his district; we will encourage a conversation with Chief Connally.
- K. Phillip will encourage YWCA support of FAAA.

2. **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:**

Jeanette: we might consider making a plan to draft statements addressed to the Trump administration – on safety for transgender youth, for compassionate immigration policies, etc. AIDs United has issued a statement. [AIDs United](#)

Elizabeth: senate will hold hearings on bathroom bill. Ashely submitted testimony. We need to prepare for the house education committee hearing.

Response to removal of Obama guidelines? Title Nine still in place. Suits still possible.
Ashley: -Good FAQ from National Center for Transgender Equality:

<http://www.transequality.org/issues/resources/faq-on-the-withdrawal-of-federal-guidance-on-transgender-students>

Medical variations makes it difficult to issue workable definitions.

Elisabeth: people are tied to binary conceptions.

Bill would do nothing to add to protections from abusers.

Jeanette: EM statement? Use AIDs United as model. Phillip will work on it, with Ashley.

Jeanette: Tell Education Committee not to move forward. Romine has a special needs grandchild.

Letters to editors

School districts formulate and follow policies to support all people regardless of differences.

Ashley:GLSEN has good model policies regarding anti-bullying and things like bathrooms/name changes etc for cis, trans, intersex, and gender expansive students.

<http://www.glsen.org/article/model-laws-policies>

Ashley: I was asked to do an interview on the anti-trans actions in my capacity as a volunteer facilitator with our local GLO center youth group, Here's one on the rather conservative, biggest local station, NBC affiliate that is not great:

<http://www.ky3.com/content/news/Transgender-restroom-rights-reversed-President-Trump-repeals-Obama-directive-MO-lawmakers-debate-next-step-414569043.html>

And this smaller station that apparently doesn't do videos of all of their news stories:

<http://www.fox5krbk.com/trump-administration-revokes-transgender-protections/>

3. **Gun Violence:** a couple Empower Missouri board members suggested working up a position on controlling gun violence. It probably wouldn't be a main issue for us, but it would be good for us to have valid points to make on sensible policies.

4. **Voter suppression:**

5. **HIV Decriminalization:**

contact Ashley: Ashley@empowermissouri.org or 417.425.6251 @MOHIVJustice on FB & Twitter

Fund raising for Michael Johnson, prosecuted under Hiv laws. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way towards goal. AQ- MO HIV Justice Coalition: fundraising for Michael Johnson's legal defense fund: <https://www.fundedjustice.com/freemichaeljohnson>

6. **Universal Design.** UD has been the vehicle through which we have addressed rights of those with disabilities.

7. **Legalization of Marijuana:**

We submitted testimony on a bill to legalize hemp oil.

8. **Women's Health Issues:**

9. **Separation of Church and State:**

- a. Under this category, we put a broad range of concerns involving the balance between individual rights (for instance, the freedom to practice religion) and a social context in which we live with mutual respect and trust.

10. **Legislation:**

Jeanette: There are several bills, especially Senate Bill #43 related to civil rights enforcement that may take Missouri out of substantial equivalency. This may also mean any city that has a civil or human rights department or agency based on previous law may also be out of compliance as well.
MU's response supporting HRA restrictions.

11. Human Rights Roundtable: Work continues. The date has been moved back. Too many other things are happening right now, when groups are focused on immediate issues.
Federal issues vs state; both need attention.
The rise of Indivisible Groups seems to be a good development.

Organizations with long term commitments need to support new groups.
Do we have a flyer/brochure which would help the new groups understand how we can help them? AJ will address this.

Ashley: At a Springfield rally, independent activists were working with established groups. They need to learn to leverage each other's strengths.

Planning for continuity would help, e.g., having a flyer saying where to show up for next event.

Phillip: people need input on legislation.

Share events on Empower Missouri's facebook? Not if too partisan, too negative. Check with Jeanette.

12. Communications: Share things on the HRTF facebook page:
[HRTF Facebook](#)

We will try to be better with meeting reminders—a week and a day: reminder of meeting coming up. Ashley sends out reminder day before. Don sends out agenda day of.

13. Next meeting: 1:30 pm, Thursday, **March 23**. If you can't make it send a briefing on what you are doing and what you have been up to.

14. What are you working on?