

From: SimsburyCT Postings May 4, 2010 9:32:32 AM
Subject: Human Relations Commission Minutes 04/26/2010
To: SimsburyCT_HumanRels
Cc:

Human Relations Commission
April 26th, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 5:09

Present were board members Eva Hausman and Susan Ersinghaus. Also attending: Mickey Lecours-Beck, Director of Social Services for the Town of Simsbury and the liaison for the Town Board of Selectmen, Lisa Heavner.

Members approved the meetings scheduled for the remainder of the calendar year.

A discussion was held on the upcoming event scheduled for Friday April 30th at the Simsbury Public Library, called "Stand Against Racism". In conjunction with the national YMCA, the Social Services Department, the Library and the Human Relations Commission the event will feature discussions of historical and personal encounters with racism. Ms. Hausman of the Human Relations Commission and Ms. Lecours-Beck will facilitate discussion groups and provide copies of the Southern Poverty Law Center's chapbook "Speak Up" to attendees, asking them to take the tolerance pledge at the back of the book. Ms. Heavner agrees to update the Board of Selectmen.

As new business Ms. Hausman expressed concern about the recent events in South Hadley MA, where bullying of an Irish immigrant seems to have led to suicide and expressed the Commission's commitment to assist in providing educational programs in the junior and high schools and inquired of both Ms. Lecours-Beck and Ms. Heavner to explore with their contacts how the Commission can be of further service in this regard. Ms. Lecours-Beck informed the group about the recent bullying awareness program held at the junior high but all attending expressed concern that the high school will no longer be offering the "Names" program. Ms. Heavner offered to broach the subject of our concern and offer to facilitate a replacement in her next meeting with Diane Ullman, Superintendent of Schools.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:47.

