

**Human Relations Commission Meeting**  
July 28, 2021 | 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The following members of the commission were present: Kathleen Chalmers, David Devore, Donna Fann-Boyle, Bernadette Hannah-Barone, Kate Simpson and Javon Smith. Also in attendance was Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls.

**2. Special Item:**

**Abington Township HRC, Joanne Kleiner, Chairperson and Rosemary Jenkins, Member**

Ms. Kleiner and Ms. Jenkins gave a presentation on the Abington Township HRC, highlighting that their group was established in 2012 with the initial intent to address the issue that the LBGTO community had no protection under federal or state law. The ATHRC has worked closely with Carl Summerson at PHRC. The group regularly presents to local organizations and has been trained in mediation and active listening. It was emphasized that their group plays a mediation role rather than an investigative/adjudicative role.

The ATHRC has developed a close relationship with the Abington Police Department and has successfully held numerous events, most recently a joint viewing of the film, "Walking While Black. . .Love is the Answer." Another project discussed was an inclusivity program with the local YMCA.

The presenters suggested that Middletown HRC considering joining the Tri-States HRC. Other recommendations included participating in the Department of Justice active listening program regarding conducting community dialogues.

**3. HRC Brochure**

Ms. Teoli Kuhls handed out copies of the recently-developed brochure. Members of the group acknowledged the work of intern Christina Bernhardt.

**4. Outreach Event: National Night Out – Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that a table would be prepared for the HRC to distribute brochures and materials for the National Night Out event.

**5. Other Business**

Several ideas were mentioned and discussed:

- Developing a stakeholder list
- Writing an open letter to the community

- Tri-States Membership
- DOJ Training
- Development of a PowerPoint presentation
- Outreach efforts focused by demographics
- Connection with the police department
- Development of implicit bias programming

Ms. Hannah-Barone noted that the next meeting should be a working meeting where the group curated a list of stakeholders.

**6. Next Meeting**

The group agreed that the next meeting would be Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.