

**MEETING OF THE MONROE COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Call to Order
  - a. Members present were: Byron Bangert, Doris Parlette (telephonically), Kathleen Sideli, Sharon Ackerman and Paul White. Staff present: Margie Rice, County Attorney.
2. New Business:

The Human Rights Commission members were addressed by Michael Hunt, the Chief Public Defender for Monroe County and Phyllis Emerick, the Chief Deputy Public Defender. The following issues were discussed:

  - The Public Defender's Office (PD) often hears complaints from inmates, many of which are about medical issues. The Judges typically will not intervene, but the Jail Administration is trying to work with the PD's office to address issues, including space and time for the public defenders to access their clients.
  - Confidentiality of the conversations between inmates and their attorneys was discussed, in the context of space needs in the Jail;
  - How cases are assigned in the PD's Office;
  - Recidivism and generational criminal behavior;
  - The pre-trial release program Monroe County is piloting and how that helps the PD's clients since the defendants are in better shape mentally, can be employed, help track down witnesses and assist with their case;
  - Visitation for inmates and the pros and cons of current arrangement (example: less trafficking is a pro, but not getting face-to-face contact is a con);
  - The PD's Office represents a majority of the jail inmates (Out of approximately 285 inmates, 287 were represented by the PD's Office);
  - What type of facility would better serve the community;
  - How the availability of treatment agencies and programs impact the PD's Office and their role, because inmates want services but they all are not always appropriate for certain programs or facilities;
  - The PD's Office is happy to have treatment options available for their clients and they do try to work with Probation, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Court that handles Child In Need Of Service (CHINS) cases.
3. Minutes for the November meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Discussion of developing an online intake form that could be placed on the County's website was discussed.
5. A brief conversation about the reporting of hate crimes and how hate crimes are not universally defined was held.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes for November were reviewed. Paul White moved approval and Doris Parlette moved seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. Old Business

- a. Members discussed Judge Kellams' visit and conversation regarding the jail, including that only approximately eighteen inmates were actually serving a sentence and the rest were being held for other reasons. Reformation and rehabilitation were discussed, along with resources available locally for those purposes. During that discussion the question was raised about the classroom in the jail, which was not in use at the time the Human Rights Commission members toured the jail. Members wanted to know how and when the space is used and what type of programming is available to inmates.
- b. Questions raised by former New Leaf New Life volunteer, Mary Goetze, in an email were brought up by Kathy. Margie Rice is to follow up on the questions Mary raised, by sending Mary a return email.
- c. Eric asked if the Monroe County jail houses many inmates from other counties, and it was answered that we do not. The inmate population is comprised of Monroe County inmates. A brief discussion about the Binkley House and treatment of juveniles followed.

4. New Business

- a. Sheriff Swain will attend the October meeting.
- b. Paul discussed an upcoming event sponsored by Updraft and Jerry Kemp, whom Paul knows from attending high school with Mr. Kemp. The event was going to be held in the parking lot by Campus Costumes. Paul explained that Updraft provided supplemental education for those released from jail so that they may use their talents and skills. The program was originally called "Kemp College" and was renamed "Updraft". Paul said the program reduced recidivism. Updraft has been approved to go into classrooms at MCCSC, with the goal of keeping children from committing acts that may later land them in jail. It was suggested that the HRC may wish to invite Mr. Kemp to an upcoming meeting. His contact information is [jtkemp3.ka@gmail.com](mailto:jtkemp3.ka@gmail.com); phone is 812-679-7707.
- c. Next meeting will be held on October 25, 2017.

5. With no new complaints, no Commission nor public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.