

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

The Human Rights Commission met on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Members present were: Kristal Dahlager, Richard Engan, Barbara Little, Shelly Huseby, Shawn Mueske, Denis Anderson, Lynn Travaglio, Bashir Abdi and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary. Jill Benson was excused from the meeting. Also present were Ann Stein, Kandiyohi Health and Human Services Director and Deb Grunwald, Family Services Supervisor.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kristal Dahlager at 5:00 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item No. 3 Approve Minutes of September Meeting

Commission Member Anderson moved to approve the Human Rights Commission minutes of September 20, 2016. Commission Member Engan seconded the motion, which carried..

Item No 4 Kandiyohi County Interpreter Discussions

Ann Stein, Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Director and Deb Grunwald, Family Services Supervisor were present for the meeting to address questions of the members relating to interpretive services at Kandiyohi County Family Services subsequent to correspondence sent to the County regarding Somali interpreters. Ms. Stein stated they were very interested in hearing about the issues as they were unaware of any complaints. They are willing to listen and provide any information they can about what they are doing to accommodate the public.

the test. They were unaware of the communication issues and felt they had a good working relationship with the Somali community.

Commission Member Mueske questioned if there are any options of picture signs that can be placed in the reception area for those that cannot read Somali to show the time slots available and how to direct individuals to use the interpreting phone service. He expressed his concern for people not being able to navigate through the system.

Ms. Stein presented the application form that is required to request assistance from the County to the Commission Members. She touched on how complicated the form can be and from an integrity standpoint the applicant cannot be assisted with the entire application process as there are certain things that are confidential, although they are able to designate an authorized representative to assist.

Chair Dahlager brought forth the question of some type of technology-based program that would have prerecorded links connected to the application spoken to them in Somali. Ms. Stein agreed this would be a good option and will bring it to the attention of the Department of Human Services as they develop the application process on the State level. Another suggestion was an oral announcement in Somali in the reception area when there are say 20 people waiting.

Health and Human Services Director Ann Stein appreciated having the concerns of the Somali community expressed to them and the opportunity to come to the Commission meeting to discuss the situation.

Item No. 5 Miscellaneous

The Commission set the next meeting date for November 15, 2016.

A motion was made by Commission Member Engan and seconded by Commission Member Anderson to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Recording Secretary