

CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

January 2012 Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday the 18th @ 8 AM

Lower Level of the Kensington Building

1. *Human Rights Expansion:* Chuck Ripley
2. *Bullying Initiative*
 - a. Introduce guests
 - a. Jean Stockwell
 - b. Kelly Draysahl
 - b. Ashley Zenke's report
 - c. Rachael's Challenge Jan 31
 - d. United Way's help
 - e. How should we proceed?
3. *Scam brochure*
4. *Reminder:* Goals and Objectives for 2012

Continue community outreach events such as Law Day, National Night Out, County Fair, and Synthetic Drug Presentations. Continue legislative outreach. Expand Human Rights Commission to Winona County

5. *Other items:* open mic

Next COD meeting: February 15, 2012 8AM @ Kensington

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
January 18, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Ashley Zenke (Public Defender Intern); Kalene Engel, Carmaine Sturino, Tami Mueller, Fatima Said, Karin Sonneman, Justin Wesley, Bronson Mengedoht (DOC intern), Julie Thompson

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Scams: Kevin distributed a scam brochure from the Department of Public Safety as well as a brochure on scams that he created a few years ago. He also distributed a "Popular Winona Scams" handout. Ashley will verify and update the phone numbers on the brochure that Kevin created and provide that information to Kalene. Kalene or her paralegal, Anne, will create an insert for the DPS brochure for distribution. Anne will also check with HBC to see if they would be willing to post a link to the DPS brochure on the HBC website.

Human Rights Expansion: Karin distributed an article from the Star Tribune about the loss of power and influence of some of the HRCs in the Cities. While this may not reflect the local sentiment, it is something to keep in mind. Karin stated that the workgroup consisting of her, Kevin K, Sally and Maureen Holte last met in October. At that time, Karin was going to put together a draft agreement and then re-convene the group. She is still working on the agreement, which she hopes to have done within the week. She will then call a workgroup meeting and possibly involve the City of Winona through Mike Flaherty (City Attorney) and Judy Bodway (acting City Manager). She would like to have this done by the time of the March 24, 2012 statewide HRC conference in Winona.

Bullying: Kevin and Julie provided background information on our invited guests, who were not present. Jean Stockwell is retired, having formerly worked for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. She is interested in volunteering with a bullying initiative. Kelly Draysahl is one of Julie's students at Winona State and is interested in doing a service project involving bullying. Karin distributed information on Incommons (www.incommons.org), which is an organization in Minnesota that helps build community support. Depending on what happens with the bullying initiative, Incommons may be able to help. Ashley Zenke gave a terrific presentation on bullying, using national and local resources and numerous links to those resources. The Powerpoint is posted on the CJCC website. Kevin K. noted that, per Justin Green, the United Way may be interested in supporting a bullying program as one of its youth programs. For now, the committee will plan on sending members to the upcoming Rachel's Challenge presentation at the Winona High School on January 31s at 7:00 p.m., which will likely generate further discussion on future activities.

2012 Goals/Objectives: Kevin reviewed the goals and objectives that the CJCC has endorsed for the COD Committee for 2012.

Adjourned 8:55 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room



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*Old problems give way to new solutions.
The quality of life improves statewide.*

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The goal of InCommons is to help you improve the quality of life in your community and make sure you never have to tackle important issues alone. You contribute your ideas, experiences and knowledge. Other Minnesotans do the same. The InCommons network grows, and so does your circle of peers and contacts, offering new opportunities for ongoing collaboration. InCommons itself is a collaborative work-in-progress, built from the direct input of community members throughout Minnesota and supported by many different organizations.

Founding and supporting organizations include:

Ashoka, Bush Foundation, Minnesota Community Foundation and The Saint Paul Foundation, Minnesota Council of Churches, Minnesota Public Radio, Twin Cities Public Television, University of Minnesota Center for Integrative Leadership, Walker Arts Center, Wilder Foundation

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StarTribune

Human rights commissions are losing power, influence

Article by: MARY JANE SMETANKA

Star Tribune

January 17, 2012 - 4:02 PM

Changing times are prompting some Minnesota cities to clamp down on their human rights commissions, pushing the groups into less controversial duties, giving them less power and sometimes eliminating them altogether.

Divisive politics, lack of communication between commissions and city councils and a feeling among some that discrimination is not the problem it once was all play a role. In some Twin Cities suburbs, commissions have limped along without enough people to fill vacancies.

"The issues are difficult. And [political positions] are getting more intransigent," said Minnesota Commissioner of Human Rights Kevin Lindsey. "I'm not all that surprised that there are not a lot of people rushing to the front of the line to serve these groups."

Last month, city officials fired the Golden Valley commission, the oldest of the nearly 50 such groups scattered across the state. Crow Wing County dumped its commission last fall. In 2009, dysfunction prompted Hopkins' commission to be replaced with a multicultural committee. After a controversy over rising rents for elderly immigrants at a city-owned housing project in Plymouth last year converted its all-citizen commission to a committee with a membership that includes city officials.

While it's been a difficult year for commissions, said Cameron Cegelske, president of the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions, disputes tend to be driven by local politics. He sees new interest among some suburbs about setting up commissions.

"The role of these groups has always in the end been advisory," he said. "It's a fine line that we walk. ... There is always a requirement to tiptoe and be diplomatic."

A clash of views

Local human rights commissions were born during the civil rights ferment of the 1960s. State law requires that a commission, if established, be "for the purpose of dealing with discrimination." Although the law allows local commissions to mediate discrimination claims, only bigger groups such as those in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington do so.

Commission members are chosen by city or county officials, and the groups operate at the pleasure of their host government. The conflicts have come when commissions take on issues more sensitive than annual essay contests about diversity fairs or diversity and cultural celebrations.

Golden Valley's commission, founded in 1965, last fall asked the City Council to set up a task force to look at ways to help prevent use of unnecessary force by police. Angry council members thought the commission had put the city at legal risk in a discussion about police conduct, and they removed commissioners last month with a 4-1 vote.

Although the Golden Valley group can have as many as nine members, there were only four when they were dismissed. Longtime member Marion Helland, 84, said that the commission once had 16 members. "Tension and apathy and discouragement" had shrunk membership, she said. "People had other things to do with their time. The people who have passion to join the commission are activists at heart."

Helland, who in 1965 taught in black schools in the South, says she thinks "the passion for human rights is not as wide as it was then" and that some city officials believe human rights is "a nuisance and a bother."

In Plymouth, the committee that replaced the city's commission has four citizen members and three from city government including the mayor and police chief. Mayor Kelli Slavik said the change was made to "redirect the work" done by the group which she said was pressing to mediate disputes. That authority exists at the state level, Slavik said, and there was no need to duplicate it at the city level.

"I've been with the city for 14 years and we never had a complaint linked to a human rights issue," she said. "I felt they were trying to create an issue where there wasn't one."

Virginia Klevorn, who chaired the commission, said the change came after she spoke at a city meeting on behalf of a group of elderly Russian immigrants, many with limited incomes and poor English skills, who objected to a rent increase in a city-owned apartment building.

"The city loved us until this issue came up," she said. "I think they believed we were sticking our nose where it didn't belong."

Slavik said she didn't consider the rent increase to be a human rights issue. Klevorn applied for appointment to the new committee. She was not chosen.

Watchdogs and educators

While commissions have sometimes guided controversial changes through city halls, the 17 cities that have passed domestic partner registrations haven't all had commissions, said OutFront Minnesota's Phil Duran.

Duran, a former member of the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, said he believes that it might be time for commissions to shift from the 1960s mode of telling people what they can't do to working on "how to make their city the community they want."

"There certainly can be a role to examine issues that are challenging," he said. On the other hand, "these commissions serve a tremendous value in terms of building connections" between diverse groups.

In New Hope, where 65 languages are spoken, commission Chairwoman Peg Flaherty said her group has not dealt with discrimination complaints. The commission recently held popular "Know Your Neighbor" sessions with the city's Liberian, Hmong and Latino residents. A program on bullying is being planned.

Board membership had flagged until four new members boosted the count to seven members of a possible 10.

"We did have difficulty getting them on, but I am so energized and excited now," Flaherty said.

Lindsey said that although commissions are advisory, they can steer community conversation, and they still act as watchdogs, he said.

He said he thinks that role will grow more important in an increasingly diverse state. Helland agreed, pointing to challenges associated with the state's growing senior population and some not-so-new issues, too.

"There's always something creeping in that needs somebody's attention," she said. "It seems to me that that's what human rights commissions should be about."

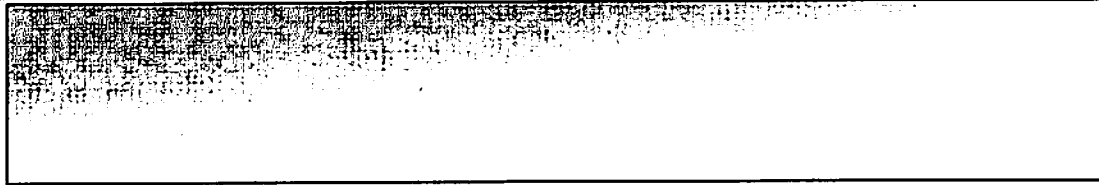
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Human rights commissions are losing power, influence

Article by: MARY JANE SMETANKA , Star Tribune Updated: January 17, 2012 - 4:02 PM

Cities disagree on their role in the 21st century.

7 Comments

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1 - 7 of 7

drfrankt
Jan. 16, 12
11:28 PM

"Human rights commissions are losing power, influence"...GOOD! It's about time!

Report as inappropriate

10 6

owatonnabill
Jan. 17, 12
6:12 AM

Government, on all levels, is expensive and bloated far beyond what it needs to be. As long as citizens know their rights and what recourse is available if those rights are violated, then any (paid) government entity that redundantly deals with the issue is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer dollars. Human rights commission(s) may have had a valid function in 1965. In 2012 they are merely reminders of the past.

Report as inappropriate

12 0

Willy53

Jan. 17, 12
6:35 AM

Where are the human rights commissions when you need them. Does Anoka have one? A commission should be present to beat back groups that promote misinformation and lies about certain minorities or groups of people, information that gives strength to harrasement and intolerance through ignorance. The parents action group that came forward to enshrine bigotry and prejudice in school district policy should be rejected and criticized immediately by city human rights commissions in existance within the school district area. If they don't, why in the world do they exist? To make us feel good?

Report as inappropriate

1 6

elind56
Jan. 17, 12
7:33 AM

Relics of the past. If the goal is to root out every last ignorant racist and bigot and "educate" them in the ways of tolerance, regardless of cost, then the goal is unachievable. I don't even think these commissions ever really accomplished anything aside from making some white people feel better.

Report as inappropriate

5 0

frankjack
Jan. 17, 12
7:34 AM

owatonnabill--You do know that commissioners are are unpaid volunteers, right?

Report as inappropriate

0 2

billmajors21
Jan. 17, 12
8:16 AM

There should be no money spent on these things. If someone's human rights, which include everything from free health care to free cable TV according to the left, are violated they can sue. And trust me there are attorneys out there to take the cases. Just lift up a rock a few attorney will be there.

Report as inappropriate

2 0

evilgrimace
Jan. 17, 12
10:42 AM

Human rights commissions are nothing more than government-sanctioned anti-Conservative, anti-Christian hate groups! Disband them all!

Report as inappropriate

2 1

[Login/register to comment](#)

1 - 7 of 7

Comment on this story | [Register or log in to comment](#)

Kalene Engel

From: Karin Sonneman [KSonneman@Co.Winona.MN.US]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Kevin Kearney; Sally Cumiskey; Dave Theurer; Fatima Said; Kalene Engel; Justin Wesley; Mueller, Tami (DOC); Rusty.Cunningham@lacrossetribune.com; Carmaine Sturino; Hines, Alexander; Mena Kaehler
Cc: Mary C. Leahy
Subject: RE:

Dear CJCC Community Outreach and Diversity Committee- As I indicated to Kevin previously, I have to be in Lewiston at 9AM for a Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting, but I will attend the COD meeting tomorrow morning (but have to leave early to get to Lewiston). I am very interested in the anti-bullying initiative work so if you establish a work group for that, please include me.

In case I have to leave the meeting tomorrow and we haven't discussed the anti-bullying initiative, I wanted to let you know some updates on the Rachel's Challenge and some follow-up of my own to aid in our effort- First, as to who from COD can attend the January 31st event at the Winona Senior High School, I have only received replies from Kevin (that he can attend, but might be a bit late due to another event), and from Kalene (that she can't attend because she is involved in another youth event for her kids-that's good to do-more parents should be involved and we could reduce bullying). I haven't heard from anyone else. I will be attending and I also talked with Judge Leahy-she is interested in attending the Jan. 31st event and working on an anti-bullying initiative (this can be a joint effort between the Juvenile Justice committee and COD).

...so wanted to clarify that the January 31st Rachel's Challenge event is strictly a presentation – there is no immediately after-the-presentation event planned. I talked to Lori Ortega and got that clarification. She, is, however, very interested, in getting our help to get a post-presentation anti-bullying initiative going. To that end, I visited last week with Molly Gruen, an "InCommons" Engagement Specialist at the Bush Foundation in St. Paul (my twin sister, Jane, works there and introduced me to Molly). The Bush Foundation's "In Commons" program helps people who want to address an issue pro-actively with community engagement. Molly would be willing to help us. Talk to you tomorrow.

Karin

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(507) 454-9375 (fax)

From: Kevin Kearney
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:41 AM
To: Sally Cumiskey; 'Dave Theurer'; Fatima Said; Kalene Engel; Karin Sonneman; Justin Wesley; 'Mueller, Tami (DOC)';



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

AGENDA

Wednesday, February 15th 2012 @ 8 AM

Lower Level of the Kensington Building

1. *Law Day 2012*
Date
Identify contacts
2. *Bullying Initiative*
Rachael's Challenge follow-up
3. *Scam brochure*
4. *Open items*

Next COD meeting date???

8AM @ Kensington

March 14

March 21 (members gone to Drug Court training on 21st)

March 28

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
February 15, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Ashley Zenke (public defender intern); Carmaine Sturino, Tami Mueller, Fatima Said, Karin Sonneman, Lynn Theurer

Minutes by: Ashley Zenke

1. Law Day

Pick the date. The group discussed possible dates to hold Law Day. Last year it was held on May 2nd, a Monday, and that needs to change due to traffic Court.

The group discussed May 3, May 10, or May 11. Kevin will talk to Sally and pick a date. Carmaine won't be available to help at this year's event. She will try to find a replacement to run the public defender's station.

Lynn will contact the League of Women Voters for volunteers.

2. Bullying Initiative

Rachel's Challenge took place at WSHS, well attended, including members of CJCC COD. Many groups have been identified as wanting to band together to take a stand against bullying.

A discussion was held about what steps to take.

It was decided that we'd take the lead on gathering all interested 'partners' and hold a planning event.

Partners may/will include: Winona Schools, PTA, CJCC, WSU, Religious organizations, sporting organizations, and local workplaces. Karin agreed to reach out to try to find a facilitator through the Bush foundation. The 'Open Space Technology' idea was brought up as a possible facilitating plan to allow all 'partners' and all 'participants' a voice.

The group identified the next steps: naming the event, and setting a date. However, emphasis is being put on finding an experienced facilitator first.

Kevin will request the CJCC Board's support for this plan of action.

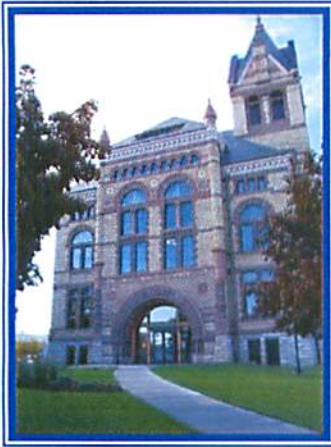
3. Scam Brochure

A completed Scam brochure is available for any entity/organization that may want it.

Lynn had information of a local 'scam' where an incoming phone call read "Phone Scam" on the caller ID. Kevin agreed to look into it.

Adjourned

Next Meeting Date: March 28 (NOT the 21st) 8:00 a.m. @ Kensington



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Law Day May 18th, 2012

Drug Court

Human Rights Expansion

Human Rights Conference (March 24, 2012)

Bullying Initiative

Open items

Next COD meeting date: APRIL 18th 8AM @ Kensington

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting

March 28, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Sally Cumiskey, Karin Sonneman, Chong Vang, Mena Kaehler, Kalene Engel, Justin Wesley

Minutes by: Kevin Kearney

1. Law Day

Planning meeting set for April 6, 2012 at 8AM in Karin Sonneman's office.

2. Drug Court

Last week the drug court team attended training in Minneapolis. The training was good. Tentative plans will be for a start date around October of 2012 for our drug court to begin.

3. Human Rights Expansion

CJCC COD initiated Human Rights expansion many months (years) ago. On March 6, 2012 Kevin and Fatima addressed the County Board, and the expansion was supported by all County Board Members. Behind the scenes, County Attorney Karin Sonneman has been working diligently to make this expansion happen. The agreement between the City of Winona and Winona County is in the process of being written, with hopes that it will be brought to the County Board in late April for approval.

4. Human Rights Conference

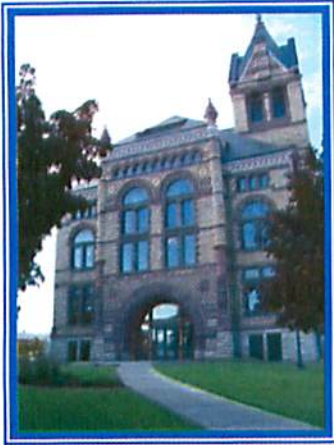
Saturday, March 24, Karin Sonneman and Kevin Kearney presented at the Minnesota Human Rights Conference held at WSU. The topic was CJCC, History of the COD, and the expansion of Human Rights commission from city to county.

Outreach Idea>>> Several people who attended our presentation were from local businesses' human resources departments. Businesses HR is a good opportunity for outreach on the CJCC.

5. Bullying

Discussion was had on the current status of the bullying initiative brought on by Rachelle's Challenge. Members haven't seen any local interest rise on this subject. Karin Sonneman discussed the idea of a public forum, and also the possibility of recruiting a couple who will soon be moving to the Winona area who may have some expertise to share on this subject. The bullying topic will continue to be addressed at future COD meetings.

The next COD meeting will be: **April 18 8AM Kensington**



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8AM

Law Day May 18th, 2012

Human Rights Expansion update

Bullying Initiative

Open items

Next COD meeting date: May 16th 8AM @ Kensington

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting

April 18, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Sally Cumiskey, Karin Sonneman, Justin Wesley, Lynn Theruer, Fatima Said, Tami Mueller, Justin Green

Minutes by: Kevin Kearney

1. Bullying Initiative

Karin informed the group of a discussion she had with Justin Green at the last CJCC board meeting about how our local United Way is working a new initiative which focuses on children, and how 'that' may fit with the bullying initiative the CJCC COD has been working on. Justin G. reviewed the recent MN Student Survey, highlighting the high numbers of self-reported bullying incidents in our schools.

Lynn informed the group that the MN student survey is conducted every 3 years.

Justin G. shared the idea of our group getting an intern to assist in gathering more concrete information on this topic.

The idea of "SAVE ENVIRONMENT" in our schools came up:

1. Bullying
2. Drugs
3. Relationships within that environment (student/student, student/adult)

Justin G. highly suggested that our group comes up with a plan, and that the research begins soon. Fatima will reach out to Superintendent Hannon, and Karin will reach out to School Board member Schild. The idea is to get the key players around the same table to plan this initiative. Justin G. discussed COD using 'leverage' if we run into problems of our Winona schools not jumping on board with this initiative, that we may look at another nearby school to operate with. We identified Jennifer Bushman as the curriculum director, and will want to contact her in the near future. Another group we may want to look at is the teachers union, as this initiative would need support from everyone involved.

2. Law Day

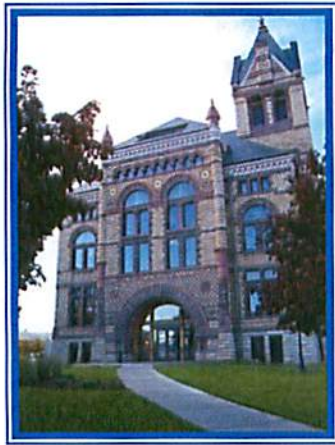
Lynn informed us she has another person from the League of Women Voters to help guide the students on this day. Our group decided to have an in-depth meeting at our next CJCC COD meeting on May 16.

3. Human Rights Expansion

Karin said she has received a draft agreement from the City of Winona and is almost done reviewing and making changes to it. She will forward her version soon to the Human Rights Expansion Committee for their input before sending it back to the City.

The next COD meeting will be: **May 16 8AM Kensington**

*****Important Meeting >>>>> Final Meeting before Law Day*****



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, May 16, 2012 8AM

Law Day May 18th, 2012

Update on Bullying Initiative

Update on Human Rights Expansion

Other items

Next COD meeting date: June 20th 8AM @ Kensington

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting

May 16, 2012

Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Kalene Engel, Fatima Said, Karin Sonneman, Justin Wesley, Sally Cumiskey, Christine Ledebuhr, Lynn Theurer

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Law Day: Final preparations for Law Day were discussed. Kevin Kearney is going to be doing the pre-Law Day presentations tomorrow at the Middle School where he'll be speaking to five different groups. Kalene sent out an e-mail specifying the tour guides, stations and times. The 6th graders will also be attending a tour at the Historical Society that day.

Anti-Bullying Initiative: Talks with the Winona Public Schools regarding an anti-bullying initiative are underway. Karin will follow-up with Scott Hannon to schedule a meeting with the principals and assistant principals. Karin also noted that the Attorney General's Office has started a task force on bullying. October is National Bullying Awareness Week and October 21st-27th is Safe Schools Week. Dave Dicke of HBC would like to do a segment on bullying; Fran Edstrom might want to do an article as well. Lynn Theurer stated that the League of Women Voters would probably participate in a project. The goal of any project would be to create community awareness. Kalene suggested incorporating bullying into the fall Law Day, holding the event in October and using a bullying case for the trial. Committee members felt that this was a good idea. Justin will begin working on a script.

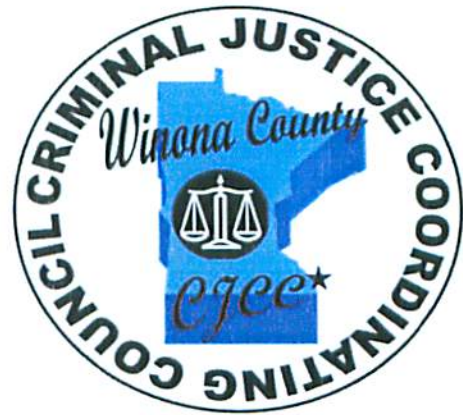
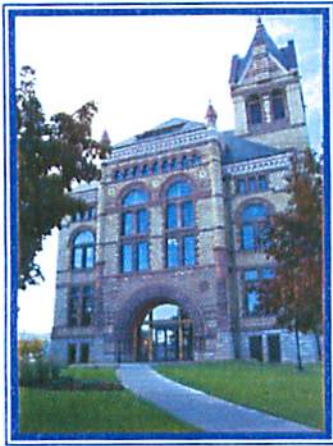
Human Rights Expansion: Karin is waiting to hear back from the City of Winona with respect to her draft. There may be some hold-up due to a power struggle with the Human Rights Committee Selection.

Other:

- County Fair: Kalene confirmed that committee members want to be involved in the County Fair Booth again this year. She will let Dave Brand know.
- Dakota Gathering: The Gathering has been moved to September this year in order to incorporate area schools.
- Taste of International Cuisine: Reminder of the Project FINE Dinner on June 10, 2012. CJCC already has one table reserved.

Adjourned 8:47 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 20, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 8AM

Law Day De-Briefing

Bullying Initiative

Human Rights Expansion

County Fair **154th Annual** July 11 to 15, 2012

Other items

Next COD meeting date: July 18th 8AM @ Kensington

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
June 20, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kevin Kearney, Kalene Engel, Fatima Said, Karin Sonneman, Sally Cumiskey, Lynn Theurer, Tami Mueller

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Law Day: Law Day went great! It worked out very well to combine Law Day with the History Center Tour because it helped keep things on schedule since the afternoon session students were already downtown. It was also nice to have meals for the volunteers since there was not much time to eat between sessions. We received some very nice thank you cards from the kids, including one HUGE card. The verdicts rendered were very close to 50/50, with a few more guilty than not. Next year there will be a different contact person for the Winona Middle School. Sally will check into the court calendar for the best time to hold the October Law Day. Kalene will send letters to the same schools that were invited to the fall Law Day last year. Justin is already working on a bullying script for the mock trial.

Anti-Bullying Initiative: One of the three interns at the County Attorney's Office is reviewing Karin's large stack of paperwork on possible antibullying initiatives. Karin needs to follow up with Dr. Hannon and would like to get some kind of program put together for October. Lynn reported that Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center wrote a grant to Fastenal for anti-bullying curriculum for local schools.

Human Rights Expansion: Karin just received a response from Judy Bodway for the City of Winona. It doesn't appear as though the agreement addresses the issue of appointments to the Commission. Karin suggested a meeting with Judy Bodway and Kevin, Sally and Fatima offered to attend that meeting with her.

County Fair: CJCC will again be helping the Sheriff's Office staff the County Fair booth. Kalene will circulate a sign-up sheet. Karin will also have one of her interns develop some additional questions for the CJCC sucker pull, some of which will incorporate the bullying theme.

Other:

- July CJCC Meeting: COD endorsed the idea of using CJCC-designated funds (from donations) to provide a summer barbeque-type meal to CJCC members for the July meeting as a good way to ensure full attendance and rejuvenate members.
- Karin attended a CLE recently on vehicular homicides and became aware of interesting curriculum for high schools regarding "The Science of Collisions." Use of the curriculum resulted in a significant reduction of vehicular homicides in Massachusetts. She will do further research on this and report back to the committee.

Adjourned 8:50 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: July 18, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting

July 18, 2012

Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman, Sally Cumiskey, Lynn Theurer, Ari Williams (intern-Co. Attorney's Office)

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

County Fair: Those who worked at the County Fair reported that it went well, with a steady stream of visitors. The water and boating safety brochures were popular, as were the sheriff stickers and stuffed animals and bags. Thanks to Ari for adding some additional quiz questions. The kids did a great job answering the questions. Kalene will talk to Dave Brand about other distribution opportunities for the numerous safety brochures that are currently being distributed at the fair.

Law Day: The next Law Day is set for October 12, 2012. Letters have been sent to all other schools (besides Winona Middle School) informing them of the opportunity. The new bullying scenario will be used at the October Law Day—which is being held during Bullying Awareness Month.

Anti-Bullying Initiative: Ari has been reviewing Karin's large stack of paperwork on possible antibullying initiatives. Karin will arrange a follow-up meeting with Fatima said and Dr. Hannon. Sally will talk to Sarah Squires about possibly doing a series of anti-bullying articles in the Winona Post to coincide with the Law Day in October. Several other ideas were discussed for possible anti-bullying events in the schools, but all agreed it was necessary to get the schools on board first.

Turned 8:55 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
August 15, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman, Lynn Theurer, Fatima Said, Justin Wesley


Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Great Dakota Gathering and Homecoming (Sept 14-16 at Unity Park): The CJCC will again be participating in this event, which received a significant grant and has expanded to a three day event this year. Committee members provided their volunteer request times and locations to Kalene, who will forward them to Debbie White. Anyone else interested in volunteering should contact Ms. White directly at dwhite2us@yahoo.com.

Bullying: Following our last meeting, Sally Cumiskey contacted Sarah Squires of the Winona Post to see whether she would be interested in writing some pieces on bullying to coincide with our Law Day event (which is taking place during National Anti-Bullying Awareness Month). Kalene will follow-up with Sally to see if Sarah is willing to do so. Karin Sonneman attended a meeting of Independent School District 861 administrators yesterday and was allowed to present, not only on bullying issues, but also on the activities of her office and the CJCC in general. It was a terrific meeting with much interest expressed by the administrators in the activities of the CJCC and County Attorney's Office and in collaboration on some of those activities, including bullying. Lynn Theurer provided a copy of the Findings and Recommendations of the "Prevention of School Bullying Task Force Report" for the State of Minnesota (attached). The committee expressed an interest in joining forces with others and developing a coordinated plan regarding bullying.

Law Day: Thus far, only one school (St. Matthew's) has responded affirmatively to the invitation for the October 12th Law Day. St. Charles will not be attended and the others have not yet responded. At the recent District 861 meeting of administrators, the middle school administrators noted that Law Day was a valuable learning experience for their youth. They also indicated a preference for holding a Law Day event closer to the start of the school year—at the end of the "honeymoon" period of the school year. If numbers for the October 12th Law Day are low, we could possibly accommodate this request this year. Karin will contact the middle school administrators to find out whether the History Center could host the students on October 12th also, since having the two events on the same day resolved some of the transportation/lateness issues. Karin will also provide a list of District 861 administrator e-mails to Kalene so that she can follow-up with the remaining schools as to whether they plan to send students to upcoming Law Day. Justin will have the new script—the one on bullying--ready to be reviewed by the next COD meeting.

Strategic Planning for 2013: Committee members reviewed the committee charge and the 2012 goals/projects. The only projects/goals from 2012 that were not accomplished were the Legislative Outreach and Human Rights Commission expansion projects/goals. The committee identified the following goals/projects for 2013:

- 
- Continue community outreach by participating in existing events in the community (i.e. Dakota Homecoming, Project FINE events, etc.)
 - Continue Law Day event(s)
 - Continue County Fair event
 - Continue elected official outreach (not just legislative, but other elected officials)
 - Promote/participate in educational events regarding crime (such as during Crime Victim's Awareness Week)
 - Coordinate with schools and other related groups to develop bullying awareness education events

Karin also identified another goal/project regarding educating the public about safety and crime prevention (such as texting while driving, distracted/obstructed view driving, etc.) which was referred to the Crime Prevention Committee for discussion.

Adjourned 8:55 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: September 19, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room





Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools

Prevention of School Bullying Task Force Report

“There needs to be more behind the posters than just tape.”

Listening Session Quote



Findings and Recommendations

August 1, 2012




Executive Summary

Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying

August 1, 2012

On February 21, 2012, Governor Mark Dayton established a Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying (Executive Order 12-01). The purpose of the order was to ensure that all students in Minnesota schools are provided with a safe and welcoming environment wherein each student is accepted and valued in order to maximize each student's learning potential. Inherent with this responsibility is the assurance that all students will be equally protected, specifically as it relates to bullying, harassment, and intimidation, while engaging in educational pursuits. Although not explicitly stated in the Executive Order, the Task Force recommendations, specifically the definitions, apply to both students and adults who should be protected from bullying and who deserve an educational environment in which to participate and thrive.

The Task Force, having considered and deliberated the written and public comments from students, parents, and citizens who have been impacted by bullying, harassment, and intimidation, as well as the testimony of professionals in relevant fields throughout the state and nation, advises the Governor of the following recommendations for *immediate* and *urgent* action:

- 
1. The repeal of existing ineffective Minnesota statutes on bullying, harassment, and intimidation and the replacement of such statutes with strong and effective law(s) incorporating the recommendations contained within the Task Force report;
 2. The adoption of the operational definitions for the concepts of bullying, harassment, and intimidation as contained within the Task Force report so as to assist students, parents, school personnel, communities, and collaborative agencies in more effectively identifying and responding to the behaviors;
 3. The creation of clear and consistent baseline policies to address bullying, harassment, and intimidation within every public and private school. Each child should be equally protected in every school environment, public and private, throughout the state;
 4. The creation of policies and practices that enhance communication among and between school personnel, students, parents, and communities related to strategies and techniques employed to reduce bullying, harassment, and intimidation, as well as the effectiveness of those efforts;
 5. The creation of a uniform, baseline, data collection system in all schools to assist in the monitoring of incidents and types of bullying, harassment, and intimidation;
 6. The creation of interagency and interdepartmental collaborations to assist schools in more effectively identifying, preventing, intervening in, and addressing the ramifications of bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

7. The creation of a School Climate Center within the Minnesota Department of Education which will provide information and technical assistance to school districts on implementing strategies, techniques, and programs that remove social-emotional impediments to learning; improve positive, safe, and supportive whole-school learning environments for students; and increase restorative practices and discipline which focuses on remediation whenever incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation occur; and,

8. Fiscal resources commensurate to fulfilling the recommendations of the Task Force be provided at the state and local levels in order to help school districts implement the bullying, harassment, and intimidation recommendations.

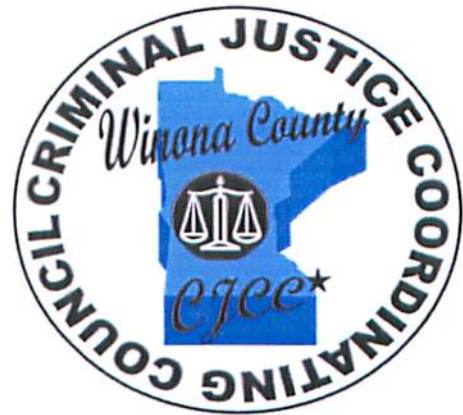
The Task Force believes it is urgent to accept and implement these recommendations at the earliest possible opportunity. Children deserve to know they can depend upon adults to care, to provide for their health and safety, to act responsibly and to provide assistance when necessary. These recommendations go far to assist in the reduction and elimination of incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation in Minnesota schools.

Walter Roberts, Jr.

Julie Hertzog

Co-chairs

Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 8AM

- 1) Follow-up on Dakota Gathering
- 2) Law Day
- 3) Bullying
- 4) Human Rights Expansion update
- 5) Policing Campus Communities (Kevin update on a training)
- 6) Other

Next COD meeting date: October 17, 2012

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
September 19, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman, Lynn Theurer, Fatima Said, Justin Wesley
Kevin Kearney, Tami Mueller

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Great Dakota Gathering and Homecoming Debrief: All who participated in the Great Dakota Gathering had a good time, but also had suggestions for improvement. Kalene will send an e-mail to the main organizer of the event, Debbie White, which includes both our positive feedback and suggestions for improvements.

Law Day: The Winona Middle School originally wanted to try to switch to the Law Day in the fall to better accommodate their curriculum. However, they already have another event scheduled for October 12th, so the switch cannot be made this year. There are 3-4 other schools with around 30 kids currently signed up to attend, so only one session (morning or afternoon) is necessary. Justin distributed a rough draft of the bullying scenario for review by the workgroup. Kalene will finalize the list of attendees later today or tomorrow. A workgroup meeting was scheduled for October 3, 2012 at 8 a.m. in the Kensington Banquet Room.

Bullying: Kevin passed out some information he received from the National Safety Council on bullying, some of which would serve as excellent handouts for Law Day. Karin reported that the Winona Public Schools have formed a committee on anti-bullying. The committee intends to develop curriculum and tentatively planned on having some speakers from the County Attorney's Office speak to students on October 1st. Karin will secure more details about the school committee and provide them to the COD committee.

Human Rights Expansion: The same issues exist with respect to the Human Rights Expansion as what Karin has previously described, namely, funding and who gets to select the council members. At this point, the matter will be tabled until after the November elections.

Policing Campus Communities: Tabled until next month due to lack of time to discuss.

Other: Chief Justice Gildea would like to come to Winona and speak to our justice community. Hosting such an event would be in line with the COD Committee's goals of increasing elected official outreach. Karin is working on coordinating a date and location.

Adjourned 9:05 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: October 17, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
October 17, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Karin Sonneman, Lynn Theurer, Fatima Said, Sally Cumiskey

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Law Day: Law Day went very well. Lynn suggested that the script be adapted for use at the 7th and 8th grade level. Karin will take the script to the next meeting of the school's anti-bullying committee. Kalene will contact the Winona Middle School representative to find out if they plan to attend the Law Day in spring and fall next year, then switch only to the fall.

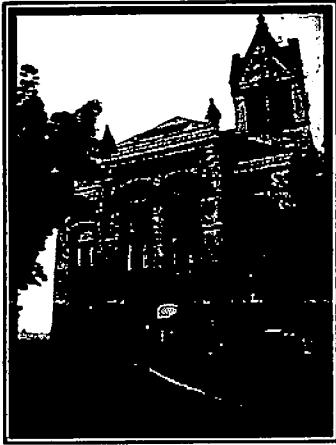
Anti-Bullying Efforts: Karin and Christina Davenport staffed the anti-bullying table at Winona Middle School for the first night of parent-teacher conferences. The location was very good but it was a fairly slow night, possible due to the fact that parents can check their children's grades on-line and do not attend conferences. There are two more nights of conferences remaining. The State Human Rights Commission has a unit on bullying that could be presented. School counselors have expressed an interest in bringing a program to Jefferson school regarding bullying. Karin wanted to make sure that bullying was an issue that was addressed throughout the year—not just in October. Kalene noted that it would be helpful for the schools to define the behavior that constituted bullying so students and parents were put on notice.

Elected Official Outreach: Chief Justice Gildea will be at the Winona History Center on Friday, October 19, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Approximately 40 people have registered for the event.

WSU Homecoming Parade: CJCC members are invited to march in the WSU Homecoming Parade this Saturday with representatives of the Winona County Attorney's Office and Matty's Place. Kalene will get candy to hand out. Sally will give Karin the remaining "Courthouse Open House" t-shirts so that they can also be handed out. The theme of our entry is "Don't Let a Blast From Your Past Affect Your Future." The idea behind the theme is to avoid bad behaviors while you are young so they don't haunt you later on. Time permitting, sayings to this effected will be printed and taped to the items distributed.

Adjourned 9:15 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: November 21, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room



CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, November 21, 2012 8AM

- 1) Anti-Bullying update (Karin)
- 2) WSU Homecoming Parade
- 3) Immigration Issues work-shop in Rochester
- 4) Upcoming Outreach opportunities
 1. Law Day
 2. Presentations (other than Bullying)
 3. Legislative Outreach
- 5) Others:

Next COD meeting date: December 19, 2012

Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
November 21, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Lynn Theurer, Chong Sher Vang, Kevin Kearney

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Anti-Bullying Update: Karin and another attorney in her office are going to meet with the 861 school district to put an anti-bullying program into the district. Chong brought up an incident of bullying that occurred four years ago where the family was not able to get any assistance from the school or housing complex and eventually had to get a restraining order. He wondered where that family should have turned to for assistance. Noting that the bullying issue had become more visible in the last few years, members of the committee suggested that if the same situation happened today, the family should have sought help from any or all of the following: the school (including the newly formed school bullying committee), housing complex, bus company, law enforcement, courts and Restorative Justice.

WSU Homecoming Parade: Several members of COD and Maddie's Place and Women's Resource Center marched in the Homecoming Parade. The parade marchers handed out cards one side of which said "Don't Let a Blast From the Past Limit Your Future." The other side warned that collateral consequences could follow them forever and gave information on the Misdemeanor Diversion and Community Responsibility Council programs.

Immigration Issues – Workshop in Rochester: There was a program at the Rochester Community & Technical College held on November 16, 2012 entitled Aliens, Immigrants and Other Evildoers. Project FINE is going to be working on programming to assist immigrants with understanding new immigration laws.

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities:

- **Law Day:** The next Law Day (for Winona Middle School) will be held on April 29, 2013. This will be for the current 6th graders. Thereafter, Law Day will be held only in the Fall.
- **Presentations (other than bullying):** We previously did outreach presentations on synthetic drugs and scans and are currently doing some presentations on bullying. Ideas were discussed for other presentations/projects such as police in the schools week, educational session regarding juvenile justice system for school staff during teacher workshops, putting on the Law Day play for the entire school.
- **Legislative Outreach:** The League of Women Voters would like to partner with the CJCC again on a legislative outreach event, much like we did a couple years ago at the History Center. It would be a meet and greet where the legislators would also be given a 5-10 minute opportunity to talk about what they hope to accomplish during their term. People invited to speak would include Gene Pelowski, Jeremy Miller, Mark Peterson, the Chairman of the County Board (TBD), Matt Schmidt and Steve Drazkowski. All County Board members and City Commissioners, CJCC members,

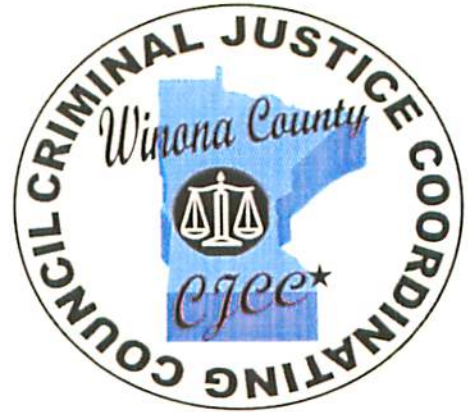
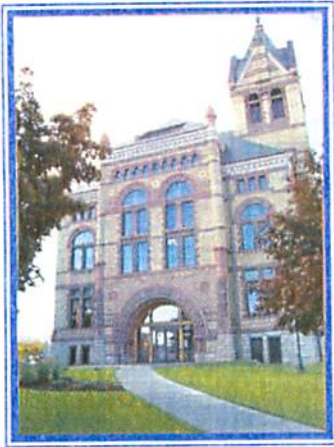
League of Women Voters members and AAUW members would also be invited. The proposed date is Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the History Center. A light breakfast would be served with a request for a \$5 donation to cover the costs. Lynn will contact the History Center regarding the date and will coordinate with Kalene.

Other Announcements:

- Championship Community Winona to Prevent Sexual Violence received a grant and will be launching a community needs survey via SurveyMonkey on November 27, 2012. Certain individuals will be targeted to forward the survey to others.
- On November 28, 2012 from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Winona Community Center (by Maplewood Townhomes) the State Department of Human Services is conducting a listening session on youth homelessness in a rural communities. A meal will be provided.

Adjourned 9:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: December 19, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Kensington Banquet Room




CJCC Community Outreach & Diversity Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 8AM

- 1) Review November minutes
- 2) Family Support Group >Tami Mueller
- 3) Legislative Outreach
- 4) COD committee size (recruit?)
- 5) Open Agenda discussion

Next COD meeting date: January 16, 2013



Community Outreach & Diversity Committee Meeting
December 19, 2012
Kensington Banquet Room

Persons Present: Kalene Engel, Lynn Theurer, Fatima Said, Karin Sonneman, Kevin Kearney, Sally Cumiskey, Justin Wesley


Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Approval of November 21, 2012 Minutes: Approved without changes.

Family Support Group: Discussion deferred until next meeting.


Legislative & Judicial Outreach Events: Two events are scheduled for early next year, as follows:

Judicial Selection Forum: A judicial selection forum will be held at the Winona City Hall on January 9, 2013 starting at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will be televised. It is co-sponsored by League of Women Voters, AAUW and CJCC. Karin Sonneman will serve as moderator for the event; Judge Jeffrey Thompson is the featured speaker.




Legislative Forum: A legislative outreach event will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at the Winona History Center from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and CJCC and will be open to members of those organizations, plus the invited guests. CJCC will provide a light, complimentary breakfast. Guests who will be invited include the state legislators, District 861 School Board, mayors of the cities in Winona County, Winona City Councilmembers and Winona County Commissioners. Each mayor, legislator and board chair will be invited to speak about what they hope to accomplish during the term of office. Time for questions will follow with Lynn Theurer moderating.

Driver's License Issue: Fatima requested that the committee look into the issues with the difficulty that foreign born individuals frequently have in obtaining valid driver's licenses. Kalene noted that this issue was previously discussed a few years ago and that it was felt that legislation would be needed to resolve this issue. Granting driver's licenses could not only alleviate the burden on the court system, but could also help with revenue (from licenses/insurance); public safety (insurance) and identification (knowing where people live). Kalene will pull the information that was generated from the previous workgroup and reach out to people who were involved to schedule a workgroup meeting. One goal would be to have some questions to ask the legislators at the February 9, 2013 Legislative Forum.



Collaboration with Livewell Winona: Kalene was recently approached by Stacie Sadowski of Livewell Winona who was seeking data and collaboration on a grant that her organization was interested in applying for. The grant is a federal agency grant administered by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Grant for "Drug Free Communities." It provides up to \$125,000 in annual funding for five years, with a possibility of



renewing the grant for an additional five year period. The grant requires a coalition of people from the community, much like the CJCC. Kalene will attend the next Livewell meeting to gather more information about the grant and has invited Ms. Sadowski to attend the next CJCC Crime Prevention meeting. Kalene also provided Ms. Sadowski with information regarding some of the programs that CJCC has implemented/discussed over the past years as being possible activities to be funded with the grant. The committee felt that expanding the DARE Program could be a good use of grant funds.

Community Resources: One of the suggestions that was made by several CJCC members during the interviews that Kalene conducted last month was to make better use of meeting time at CJCC meetings when there is a light agenda. In the past, we have invited community groups/organization to the monthly meetings to give a 10-15 minute presentation on their organization. Committee members felt that this would be a good idea to gain/share information and suggested that it be implemented. Nicole Thompson of Restorative Justice will speak at the January CJCC meeting. Other organizations mentioned for future presentations include CARE, Diversion Programs, Drug Court and Livewell Winona. Anyone who would like to suggest an organization should contact Kalene and she will extend an invitation to that organization.

Other:

- **CJCC Website:** Kalene has been updating the website. Because of increased interest by other jurisdictions who want to form their own CJCCs, she has created a separate page containing useful information for creating CJCCs.
- **Meeting time:** Because of the unpredictable winter weather, the COD meeting times for the winter months (November through March) will be changed to noon (except for the January meeting which will be at 12:30 p.m. due to a Restorative Justice Board Meeting). The meeting time for April through October will remain at 8:00 a.m.
- **Survey:** The Championship Community Winona to Prevent Sexual Violence has received over 225 responses to its survey. Lynn will bring survey results to the March 2013 COD meeting.
- **Center for Victims of Torture:** Fatima recently visited the Center for Victims of Torture in St. Paul. Sheila Kiscaden, former state legislator and current Olmsted County Commissioner, is on the Board of Directors. She and others have expressed an interest in visiting Project FINE. Fatima would like members of the COD Committee to meet with them when they come to visit and will provide further details as they become available.

Adjourned 9:12 a.m

Next Meeting Date: January 16, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at Kensington Banquet Room

