

HRC 2025 Planning Meeting

January 21, 2025

In Attendance: Michele Cooper, Justin Williams, Kristin Chapin, Rosemary Jenkins, Shelley Rosenberg, Bonnie Dalzell (Community Ambassador)

Absent: Joanne Kleiner

Guest: Member of Upper Moreland HRC

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Reflection on The Human Library event

This event was so well-received and many people are already asking if we could do it again. Bonnie provided us with a lot of feedback and demographics of attendees. We brainstormed on whether we could do something post-event as a follow up perhaps with The Human Library in Denmark or have a debriefing event with the Human Books to get their feedback. We also discussed future events should include Rules of Engagement for everyone. We would love to consider another Human Library event in the future.

The Ride Ahead Screening

Michele proposed a potential public screening of *The Ride Ahead*. This is a film about a disabled boy transitioning into independence. He talks to other people with disabilities and what their transition into independence looked like and finds that his experience is very similar to non-disabled people. There are screenings of this film and we talked about partnering with a local theater to show it.

BRAINSTORM

Potential Partnerships

- PHRC – Justin is our connection on the Montgomery County advisory council
- HRC Tri States – Shelley attends the regular meetings.
- Abington Free Library – Bonnie is well-connected.
- Library – LGBTQIA+ Youth Group – How can we promote it or lend our support to programming?

- Bucks-Mont Collaborative – Kristin will meet the Executive Director
- Police Advisory Council – Rosemary has been placed on their contact list and will attend all meetings; Kristin and Joanne will also attend the meeting in March.
- Penn State Abington – Justin will establish the connection to see where we can partner. Pamela Dawn Probst is their Director of Community Outreach.
- Dr. Steven Tyson – adjunct professor at Arcadia; Kristin mentioned him as a potential partner.
- NAACP – Willow Grove – We already met the President of the chapter, Tony, who attended our last meeting.
- School District alignments – How can we partner with the DEI officer at schools; perhaps invite the chair to a meeting to discuss ways they can alert us to times when we could help. Reach out to Dr. Carmen Lesene and Dr. Alice Swift.
- Religious organizations – Salem Baptist, Old York Road - Beth Am, St. Luke's, ICC Willow Grove (Islamic Cultural Center), UCC of Glenside, Abington Presbyterian, Unity Week in Bensalem
- Follow/Like more similar organizations on social media to foster more community and good will - could be potential partnerships

Annual Timeline Brainstorm

- Black History Month – February
- AAPI Month – May
- June – Pride Month (Bucks Mont @ Abington Art Center)
- Juneteenth – Crestmont and Salem Baptist Church
- Disability month is July
- Fourth of July – Consider proposing to the parade organizers a Quiet Zone for people sensitive to sounds.
- September - Hispanic National Heritage (also goes into October)
- October - Hindu
- Looking for tabling opportunities

MISCELLANEOUS

- Bonnie mentioned the idea of on-boarding for new Commission members
- We will ask the new Township Manager to one of our upcoming meetings