

EL DORADO COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PURPOSE

To promote tolerance and mutual respect among all persons, and to foster peaceful relations in the interest of preserving the public peace among residents of different races, religions, national origins, and the other characteristics listed in Government Code section 11135.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote human rights for all people in El Dorado County and appreciate our community's diversity by means of education, advocacy and action.

SUSAN SIMPKIN - District 4 (2018)

- Board member El Dorado County Round Table on Human Rights;
- Cadre Trainer – Breaking the Silence (advocating for LGBT students), California Teachers Association;
- Teacher and school counselor at Mother Lode School District from 1987 to 2014 where she implemented original anti-bullying curriculum and was the district-wide Safe Schools Coordinator;
- Psychotherapist in private practice specializing in youth, bullying, school challenges and LGBTQ issues;
- Supervises graduate students receiving clinical hours at the Gender Health Center in Sacramento;
- Committee member of the team that produces the yearly Placerville MLK event.

LARA GULARTE - District 3 (2018)

- Believes that Human Rights means advocating for everyone's rights and freedoms;
- Agrees with Eleanor Roosevelt's statement, "Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.";
- Worked as a Deputy Public Guardian, a Probate Court Investigator, and as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Mental Health Criminal Justice Unit in Santa Clara County;
- Works as a poetry and creative writing instructor for Arts in Corrections at Mule Creek Prison;
- Current Poet Laureate of El Dorado County 2021 through 2023.

ALLEN STANSBURY- District 1 (2018)

- Senior Associate at the Center for Community Futures in Berkeley, California, providing training and technical assistance in management and organizational development;
- Has coordinated a team of social welfare and training professionals in the development and implementation of case management. Topics of presentation included Human Rights and Human Resources;
- Has served as the Director of Government Relations for a major professional trade association;
- Was general Manager of an international company in San Francisco;
- Department head for the City of Berkeley, California;
- Served as a member of the city council in Sonoma County for 12 years;
- Former chair of our Human Rights Commission.

CARLA CARR - District 2 (2021)

- Woman entrepreneur for over 30 years;
- Member of non-profit organizations engaged in homelessness, domestic abuse and human trafficking;
- Community leader in anti-graffiti efforts, art teacher to troubled kids, beautification of the community, work with women and children in prisons and shelters;
- Member of Human Rights Commission for the San Jose.
- Current chair of our ad hoc committee developing the homeless forum for next spring.

BILL MARTINEZ- District 5 (2018)

- Executive Director of the Family Resource Center in South Lake Tahoe which advocates for individuals who need assistance on many fronts;
- Grew up in a family that came to California during the Great Depression to find a better life;
- Mother's family, for a period of time, were farm workers picking fruit and vegetables to sustain themselves;
- Interests include how humans are inter-related;
- As a part of the Human Rights Commission Bill hopes to educate and advocate for our underserved communities in El Dorado County.
- Current Commission Secretary

PUBLIC HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

Veterans Memorial Building – July 22, 2019

PURPOSE

To bring together an array of county groups to interact with each other and increase the visibility of their efforts to the Commission and the public.

NAMI –National Alliance on Mental Illness

Juline Aguilar

PURPOSE

To offer support, education, advocacy and awareness to families and individuals living with mental illness and substance abuse.

- 7,000 mentally ill individuals in EDC
- Distributes brochures in kiosks containing information about:
 - Family support groups
 - Behavioral Health Commission
 - Work in jails
 - Crisis training for police and sheriff
- Received 1,700 calls in 2018

HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Under Sheriff Randy Peshon

PURPOSE

To serve incarcerated individuals with mental illness in efforts to reduce jail population.

- Officers receive training in dealing with mental illness and addiction and operate crisis intervention teams.
- Officers develop relationships with homeless individuals, monitor them and refer individuals to county and private resources.

THE LIGHTED CANDLE

Peter Brown

PURPOSE

To provide relief to the homeless community. Work to remove the stigma of homelessness. Highlight the individual's humanity and challenges of reentering society.

OFFER:

- Portable laundry facilities
- Mobile showers
- Free garbage services
- Employment assistance

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Bill Martinez

- Operates after school and summer programs to educate youth regarding the environment, forest service and wilderness.
- Works with Mexican consulate and pro-bono lawyers to provide a pathway to citizenship for minority families.

COMMISSION ON AGING

Lisbeth Powell

PURPOSE

To assess issues and challenges of seniors in EDC, including:

- elder abuse
- lack of technology know-how
- the right to be useful
- housing needs
- fair education
- support of family
- independence
- the right to die with dignity

30% of EDC individuals are over 60 years of age: 45% of those are low income

CIVIL RIGHTS NOW

Mike Saunders

PURPOSE

Social justice actions with the purpose of diminishing
racist incidences in EDC

(Example: a 12-year-old who approached an African American man
in a local supermarket calling him the n-word)

Promote education:

- Donated African history books to the EDC Public Library

African Americans represent 1% of EDC population

TEMPLE KOL SHALOM

Dale Wallerstein

PURPOSE

A Jewish congregation which enjoys learning, holiday activities and social and worship opportunities with our diverse community.

Congregation concerns:

- Attacks on synagogues and cemetery defacements nationwide
- Fear of local violence and abuse
- Media representation (especially Mt. Democrat)

Congregation interventions for safety:

- Use of first names only on congregation roster
- Lock door before services
- Work with local law enforcement to ensure safety measures

EL DORADO COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Teri Monterosso

PURPOSE

Offers legal representation to those who cannot afford private representation.

- Provides assistance in interpreting and navigating a legal system that is not designed to accommodate special needs (mental illness 30-40% of jailed population), elderly, veterans, and physically disabled.
- Cost of jailing an individual is \$30-\$40K.
Cost of keeping an individual out of jail is \$10K.
- Job of PD could be supported with social workers.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Ed Manansala, County Superintendent of Schools

- 38,400 K-12 students in EDC
- Of 186,500 residents, 4377 live in poverty
- 13% of school aged students are non-English speaking
- 91% of seniors graduate from local HS programs
- 65% of seniors in foster care graduate from local HS programs
- 64 students were arrested
- 1147 students are homeless (“unstable living situation”)
- Services are fragmented / centralized services and communication is needed

El Dorado Community Foundation

Bill Roby

- The Community Foundation works to ensure the highest participation in the 2020 census.
- The county has a high rate of hard-to-reach communities including minorities and migrant workers.
- In 2010, EDC had an 80% reporting rate / 50% in the Tahoe area.

CURRENT GOALS OF COMMISSION

- **GOAL 1:** Make a commission report to BOS ASAP.
- **GOAL 2:** Commission members will participate in a 4-hour strategic planning meeting facilitated by a local leader.
- **GOAL 3:** Collect data on human rights violations (concerns) in EDC.
- **GOAL 4:** Develop a communication source to post community Human Rights activities, events and information and strategies to drive traffic to it.
- **GOAL 5:** Develop an active working relationship with community members/agencies/organizations to accomplish Goals 3 and 4.
- **GOAL 6** – Begin planning a second forum.