

**Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2011
Kneip Building Conference Room #3
Pierre, SD**

The Human Rights Commission met on Monday, August 10, 2011, at the Kneip Building Conference Room #3 in Pierre, South Dakota.

Members Present: Dave Volk, Arlene Hamm-Burr, Marilyn Grossenburg, Vivian Assmussen

Members Absent: Peggy Miller

Others Present: James Marsh, Ray Falk, Kim Paxton, Lawrence Novotny, Dawn Dovre

Vice-chairman Volk called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken by secretary Kim Paxton.

New Business

Role of the Commission was given by James Marsh, Labor and Management Division Director. The Human Rights Office is responsible to investigate potential violations of South Dakota's discrimination laws. Ray Falk, Human Rights Investigator conducts investigations as a Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) employee located at the Kneip Building, and Ann Hajek from Sioux Falls performs investigations on a contract basis.

James Marsh gave an overview of the 2011 Program Report on Human Rights. Potential discrimination claims has the most significant activity at 288 phone calls, letters or emails. Intakes 158, requests for information 182, claims opened 88, claims closed 85, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) referrals 22.

Other Business

Public Testimony:

Lawrence Novotny suggested the Commission support legislation to add sexual orientation and age to the basis for discrimination claims.

Arlene Ham-Burr MOVED to adjourn. Marilyn Grossenburg SECONDED. Motion carried.