

**Montgomery County Commission for Women
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850**

Summary of Discussion

January 14, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Chandra Walker Holloway, President
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Elizabeth Callihan
Debra Bright Harris
Catherine Hill
Maliha Ilias
Nick Martinez
Larniece McKoy Moore
Barbara Mintz
Manar Morales
Katie Smith

Absent:

Wilma Holmes
Lorna Forde
Colleen Kelly

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

Guest:

Patricia Orellana-Wedding

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTESVice President Morales

President Walker Holloway was representing the CFW at an important meeting in Annapolis this afternoon and was still in transit at the start of tonight's meeting. Vice President Morales called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m., and called for approval of the agenda and minutes. Commissioner Ilias moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mintz and was unanimously approved. Vice President Morales called for approval of the minutes of the November 26th, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Bright-Harris moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Callihan seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Hill for hosting the dinner this evening. The host sign-up sheet was circulated and Commissioners indicated their choice of dates to host. Vice President Morales invited the guest to introduce herself. Patricia Orellana-Wedding is a lawyer and new to the area. Given her interested in women's issues and her background in law, she visited the CFW office earlier this month and was invited to observe a CFW meeting.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....President Walker Holloway

A. CFW Meeting Dates Reminder

President Walker Holloway opened the discussion regarding future meeting dates. The Commission decided to return to meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month until July 2013. The only exception will be in March when the CFW will meet on the 20th in order to avoid the

MCPS Spring Break. Beginning July 2013, the Commission will hold its regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm ET. Commissioner Ilias moved to approve the dates as decided by the Commission and Commissioner Mintz seconded. The future meeting dates were approved unanimously. The full CFW meeting dates for the remainder of calendar year 2013 are:

Wednesday February 27
Wednesday, March 20
Wednesday, April 24
Wednesday, May 22
Wednesday, June 26
Thursday, July 11
Thursday, August 8
Thursday September 12
Thursday, October 10
Thursday November 14
Thursday, December 12

B. Paid Sick Leave Campaign

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) invited the CFW, on very short notice, to attend a meeting this afternoon in Annapolis with Delegate Olszewski, Jr. (Baltimore County), who is sponsoring legislation to require employers in Maryland to provide earned paid sick leave to all employees. President Walker Holloway attended the meeting, coordinated by Melissa Broom from JOTF. A draft of the Bill has not yet been circulated but will be considered in this session of the Maryland General Assembly. Many organizations such as the Retailers Association and the Restaurants Association of Maryland represented the business interest in the matter. The legislation provides that workers will accrue 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. If enacted, workers will be able to earn up to seven days of paid sick days per year, and to use up to 10 days per year. The Bill will also allow workers to use this leave for appointments necessitated by domestic violence. This Bill will cover all workers, including part-time employees.

A number of important, complicated issues were discussed, such as how to pay sick leave for employees who are paid largely in tips and whose actual wages are less than the minimum wage.

The JOTF will also present this matter to attendees at the upcoming Women's Legislative briefing during the closing reception.

C. Congressional Gold Medal for Malala Yousafzai

Commissioners Ilias briefed the CFW on a recent international initiative. Malala Yousufzai is a 15 year-old Pakistani girl who was targeted by the Taliban in Pakistan for her advocacy efforts for girls' education. UNICEF's ZERO campaign (campaign for zero girls denied education) is nominating her for a Congressional Gold Medal and is requesting that individuals, human and women's rights advocates and organizations sign a petition to stand with Malala and urge their members of Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 6558 to award her this honor. Commissioner Bright-Harris proposed a motion stating that the MC CFW supports the initiative to award Malala

Yousafzai a Congressional Gold Medal. Katie Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioner Ilias was asked to lead the Commission's efforts to support this award. All Commissioners were urged to [sign the petition](#) online as soon as possible.

III. STAFF REPORT.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. Annual Report

President Walker Holloway has completed and submitted a president's report for the CFW Annual report for 2011-2012. The new section will be inserted into the document and will be posted on the CFW website and distributed to the County Executive and County Council as soon as possible.

B. Staffing Updates for Counseling Services

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather has been working with the Jewish Council for the Aging to find stipended interns to staff the front desk. Two candidates have been interviewed and one is to start work at the CFW tomorrow. *(Editor's note: that candidate did not report to work and due to a family emergency, had to move out of state.)*

The process of creating three positions to provide counseling services has begun. Two of the positions will be counselors (Social Worker IIs) and one will be a coordinator of the service (Social Worker IV). These positions will be temporary half-time positions contingent on funding availability, with no benefits. Fourteen candidates have applied for the counselor positions and five have applied for the coordinator's position. The interviews and hiring process will begin in earnest after the WLB.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Mintz/Morales

The Committee met by conference call to finalize plans for the divorce law seminars to be offered in the Spring of this year. The dates for the next seminars have been set:

- March 7th, 7 pm
- April 11th, 10 am
- May 9th, 7 pm

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will contact the CFW liaison with the Montgomery County Bar Association Family Law Division to arrange for the speakers.

B. Policy and Legislation Committee.....Bright Harris/Ilias

The final meeting of the Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB) planning committee was held last week. There are now 86 community co-sponsors – the most ever in the history of this event! The Briefing has been marketed using the county government's social media including the website, Facebook and Twitter. Commissioners Bright-Harris and Ilias requested that individual Commissioners take charge of coordinating each session by confirming attendance of panelists, greeting them at the WLB and helping with arrangement and preparation. It was also decided that rather than asking committee members or commissioners to assemble more than 600 packets of information for the attendees, the staff should explore the possibility and price of having the printing company perform that task.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Women’s History Quilt Brochure..... Callihan**
The brochure is complete but needs to be proofed.

- B. Bylaws ReviewMorales**
Commissioner Morales has reviewed the CFW Bylaws and proposed a few changes that would bring the bylaws up to date and in line with current county policy and law. She suggested that the County Attorney be asked to review the proposed revisions before they are presented formally to the CFW. CFW bylaws may only be revised in November and June, so there is some time. Commissioner Mintz moved to tentatively approve the proposed changes to the by-laws and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Callihan. The revised by-laws will be sent to the County Executive for review and approval before the CFW takes formal action on them.

- C. Publications on the WebsiteAlvarado**
Work on the project will resume after the WLB when commissioners will have fewer demands on their time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.....President Walker Holloway

The **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)** annual Legislative Reception is scheduled for January 22nd in Annapolis. Commissioner Smith moved that the MCCFW co-sponsor the MLAW legislative reception and also adopt the agenda. Commissioner Bright-Harris seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Smith and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

President Walker Holloway thanked all the commissioners for their enthusiastic participation, their openness to new ideas, and their willingness to work so hard. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Maliha Ilias
Commissioner

APPROVED: February 27, 2013