

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

Summary of Discussion

November 30, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Debra Bright Harris
Chandra Walker Holloway
Maliha Ilias
Colleen Kelly
Nick Martinez
Larniece McKoy Moore
Leticia Mederos
Manar Morales
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent

Absent:

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa Atterbeary
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Wilma Holmes

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Consuwella Carrington, Americorps Intern

Guests:

Marialuz Johnson
Jeannette O'Connor

**I. CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES....First Vice President Morales**

First Vice President Manar Morales called to meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Larniece McKoy Moore moved and Commissioner Nick Martinez seconded approval of the minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. GUEST PRESENTATION...Marialuz Johnson, Interim Executive Director, and Jeannette O'Connor, Board of Directors
Community Bridges Programs for Girls**

Ms. Johnson and Ms. O'Connor reported that Community Bridges provides out of school time programming for girls in grades 4 through 12, serving a very diverse population from low income families. Many are children of immigrant parents. The focus of the program is on "living intentionally, and building decision-making skills."

The program is based in 11 schools. The High School program has a job readiness and college readiness focus, including visits to college campuses. The staff is trying to create a pipeline model of engaging girls in Elementary School so they can keep them through high school, while they can affect their lives' trajectory.

Research shows that most youth delinquency and sexual activity takes place in after school hours, so this program provides healthy alternatives, and also provides programs for the girls' parents.

Community Bridges is a private, non-profit organization that receives some funding from Montgomery County, but County budget cuts have reduced the program recently.

An annual conference is offered for the girls each March at the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Johnson and Ms. O'Connor for their compelling presentation, and commended them on the very good work of Community Bridges.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....First Vice President Morales

A. Appointment of New Commissioner

The vacancy on the CFW created by the resignation (due to a move out of state) of former Commissioner Noha Bakr will be advertised soon. The closing date for applications will be December 23. Commissioners Martinez and Bright Harris agreed to serve as the Interview and Recommendation Committee along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather.

B. National Women's Law Center Event

First Vice President Morales attended the National Women's Law Center (www.nwlc.org) annual event, where President Obama was the keynote speaker. The Women Freedom Fighters were also there. The audience was about 2000 people. The program was very, very good.

C. iRelaunch Conference

First Vice President Morales also represented the CFW today at the conference sponsored by iRelaunch. She spoke on a panel of employers for workplace flexibility. The iRelaunch company (www.irelaunch.com) was started by two women who wrote a book for women on how to re-enter the workforce.

IV. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. White House Briefing on Women and the Economy

The Executive Director represented the Commission for Women and the National Association of Commissions for Women at a November 18 White House Women and the Economy Briefing. Speakers included Tina Tchen, Chief of Staff for the First Lady and Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls; Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President; Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor; and many other extraordinary women. At least two speakers were recruited for the Women's Legislative Briefing!

B. Office Update

The phone line associated with the former Counseling Center (240-777-8300) has been reactivated in our new location, so that when people try to call that number, they can at least reach someone who can explain that the Center has been abolished and refer them to other resources. Americorps Intern Consuwella Carrington is being trained to handle those calls, and later some volunteers may be recruited to help as well.

V. COMMITTEE WORK

A. Women’s Legislative Briefing 2012..... Vaughan-Prather for Holmes

Work is well underway for the January 29 2012 Women’s Legislative Briefing. The planning committee met on November 2 and meets again on December 2. Committee Chair Wilma Holmes was unable to attend the November meeting, so Commissioner Maliha Ilias conducted the meeting very effectively. The workshops have been decided and speakers identified, however much work remains to invite and confirm all the speakers, make all the logistical arrangements, etc. The list of community organizations co-sponsoring the event is still relatively small compared to previous years, so we need to recruit more support. Commissioners were encouraged to contact their endorsing organizations and other groups with which they are affiliated and urge them to co-sponsor the program. Due to the staff reductions, we are a little late in all the planning and work, but with the support of Kaiser Permanente as our Premier Sponsor and AARP as our Major Sponsor, it does look like the program will be a success again this year.

B. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Kelly

A conference call was requested by two of the community members of this committee. Both are from the Women’s Bar Association and the Family Law Division of the Montgomery County Bar Association. They are very enthusiastic about the possibility of offering services to divorcing families. Commissioner Kelly will contact some of the former Information and Referral Specialists from the now-closed Counseling Center to ask if they are interested in handling some of the requests for service coming into the Commission’s new office.

C. 40th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.....Vincent

No report this month.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. The 16th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference

The conference, which the CFW co-sponsored by helping with publicity, was held Saturday, October 22. The conference organizers report that it was a fantastic day highlights included talks by Maxine Hong Kingston and Maureen Corrigan; music by Pamela York; a special presentation by Julie Wakeman-Linn; and the short story awards. More highlights may be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrvPZ6Sr3Oc&feature=plcp&context=C22837UDOEgsToPDskIGSyDqrg9IcR6tG1jDNN1L>

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before the CFW.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. MLAW.....Mederos

Commissioner Mederos attended the MLAW Conference on Saturday, October 29, and distributed the newly designed fliers for the Women’s Legislative Briefing. More than 50 people braved a rare October snow storm that day to attend the conference.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Commissioner Morales was interviewed on the Metro Connection show on NPR discussing workplace challenges for women attorneys.

B. Commissioner Lichter Vincent is now the Senior Policy Advisor for the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

C. Commissioner Mederos announced an event at former CFW President Oldak’s home with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Judith Vaughan-Prather
Executive Director

APPROVED 1/25/2012