

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

Summary of Discussion

April 25, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Debra Bright Harris
Chandra Walker Holloway
Maliha Ilias
Colleen Kelly
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar Morales
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent

Absent:

Vanessa Atterbeary, President
Leila Aridi Afas
Wilma Holmes
Nick Martinez
Leticia Mederos
Liz Callihan

Staff:

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

I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes and Agenda.....Morales

President Atterbeary was ill this evening and unable to attend. First Vice President Manar Morales called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda.....Morales

First Vice President Morales called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Walker Holloway moved, seconded by Commissioner Bright Harris, approval of the agenda as submitted. First Vice President Morales called for approval of the minutes of the March 28 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ilias moved, and Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Both motions passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Report.....Morales

A. Harriet Tubman Legislation

Commissioner Walker Holloway reported on the passage of the enabling legislation to create a statue honoring Harriet Tubman to be presented as a gift from the people of Maryland for display in the U.S. Capitol building. It is very likely that the Governor will sign this bill.

It was also reported that the “same-sex marriage bill” passed and the Governor has promised to sign this ground-breaking legislation, making Maryland one of only a handful of states with such a law. Opponents are working to bring the bill to a referendum vote on the November ballot.

C. Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB)

Every ten years, the County appoints a board to evaluate all the county’s officially appointed boards, committees and commissions, and a new CERB has just been appointed. This is critical as the CERB will review whether each board is working within its mandate, and whether it is achieving its goals. This time, the County Council has also asked the CERB to determine where cost savings could be achieved. The CERB has sent a letter to all the advisory boards asking for a report by May 6, to include:

- A description of the work the board does, citing the enabling legislation, the membership and make up of the board and the subcommittee structure;
- Justification why the advisory board should continue;
- A list of accomplishments from the prior two years, including any direct services to residents;
- A statistical review of the advisory board members’ workload;
- A two-year work program outlining planned activities and goals for the future;
- A description of the amount of County government resources used and a plan to reduce the use of these resources

Commissioners Atterbeary, McKoy Moore, Alvarado, Holloway, Callihan and Martinez are working on the response and will have it ready to submit prior to the due date.

IV. Staff Report.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. County Executive’s Budget Proposal for the CFW

In his FY 13 Budget Proposal, County Executive Isiah Leggett included \$70,000 for the CFW to contract for counseling services. The Community Engagement Cluster’s Budget, which includes the CFW, was considered during a work session in the County Council’s Government Operations (GO) Committee on Monday, April 23. At that time, Councilwomen Ervin and Navarro both stated that they wanted to increase support for the CFW and that they were very disappointed with both the cuts to the CFW’s programs and some of the comments made during last year’s budget deliberations regarding the people the CFW serves. The GO Committee agreed to bring the matter back for further consideration on Thursday, May 3, and asked the CFW Director to develop a proposal for services that could be provided with an additional \$70,000, and then another \$70,000.

B. NACW and Alaska Testimony

Director Vaughan-Prather is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW). She was asked by the NACW President to present testimony on behalf of the organization in support of a bill before the Alaska state legislature. The bill would re-establish the state CFW in Alaska. Since Alaska is such a huge state geographically, the legislature permits individuals to call in their testimony during public hearings. The hearing was on April 3 in the House State Affairs Committee. The bill’s sponsor read her statement to introduce the bill and then asked if NACW’s testimony could be heard first, and the Committee agreed. After the testimony was delivered, the Committee Chair asked a couple very friendly questions, thanked Judy and NACW for the testimony and then closed the hearing. The bill was scheduled for a second hearing so others would have the opportunity to testify. It did pass successfully out of that committee, but time ran out on the legislative session before a full hearing could be held. Nonetheless, advocates were pleased, and very appreciative of NACW’s support, as this was the closest this legislation has come to passing.

C. STEM Seminar at Montgomery College

Director Vaughan-Prather attended a very compelling seminar at Montgomery College’s Germantown campus on “growing” the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) labor force. Organized by former Commissioner and current Vice President and Provost of the Germantown Campus Dr. Sanjay Rai, the program was entitled: “The Gathering Storm: Rapidly Approaching Category 5.” The seminar discussed the problems caused by the shortage of Americans educated in the STEM professions, and College President Dr. Pollard noted the even greater shortage of women in these fields.

D. Requests for Service.....Americorps Intern Carrington

Ms. Carrington reported that she has responded to 65 requests for assistance in the past month. Commissioner Kelley asked her to compile all the data she has collected on the number and kinds of service requests received by the department for the entire year. She will present that information at the next CFW. Meeting.

D. Telephone Issues

The Director advised the CFW that her voice messaging service will be temporarily disabled in the hours when the office is closed. She asked the Commissioners to use email to leave messages in the evenings and weekends.

V. Committee Work

A. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Kelly/Ilias

Commissioner Kelly reported that the first two seminars for divorcing families (the overview of the legal process of separation and divorce) were held last week on April 19 – one in English with an attendance of 46 and one in Spanish with an attendance of 8. Tomorrow night, April 26, two more seminars will be held – one will be Part 2 addressing child-related issues and the other will be a repeat of Part 1, the overview. So far, everyone involved agrees that the seminars are a great success and that a strategy should be developed for offering them on a regular basis.

B. Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Bright Harris/Ilias

President Atterbeary responded to the Prince George’s County Commission for Women’s message about the WLB. No further response has been received.

Commissioners Bright Harris and Ilias will schedule a meeting with some of the key members of the 2012 WLB planning committee to discuss plans for next year.

C. 40th Anniversary Committee.....Lichter Vincent/Aridi Afas

Commissioner Lichter Vincent reported that the Committee has met several times via conference call, and recommends to the CFW for approval, the following plan for commemoration of it's 40th Anniversary:

- Hold an event (reception or dinner) on June 7 at the Rockville Hilton Hotel (*editor's note: the date has changed to July 11, because other events are planned for June 7*)
- Select a menu that will enable keeping the ticket price at \$40
- Select 10 women whose contributions are of historical significance to Montgomery County for inclusion in the Montgomery County On-Line Women's History Archives. Ten commissioners will each serve as the "liaison" for one of the honorees, making contact with her, developing her "biography" and obtaining a photograph of her for posting on the CFW's website, inviting her to the event, generally serving as her host that evening, including making her presentation to the audience.
- Former CFW President and fiber artist Anne Sanderoff Walker has offered to create another Women's History Quilt to complement the first she created 10 years ago, with a square commemorating the achievements of each of the 10 new honorees. The quilt will be unveiled at the anniversary event, and will be placed on permanent display at the CFW office.
- Anniversary Event Program:
 - 6:30 – 7:00 Networking
 - 7:00- 9:00 Program
 - President Atterbary to serve as Mistress of Ceremonies
 - County Executive to be invited for opening remarks
 - County Councilwomen to be invited to present proclamation
 - Connie Morella to be invited as keynote speaker
 - Present framed certificates to honorees
 - Newly elected CFW President to present closing remarks
- Honorees Recommended:
 1. **Tori Amos** – alternative rock artist, as of 2005, sold 12 million albums worldwide; nominated for 8 [Grammy Awards](#); named one of [People Magazine's](#) 50 Most Beautiful People in 1996; founder of the [Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#) – a national crisis hotline for victims of sexual assault.
 2. **Judge Sharon Burrell:** Served 21 years as an attorney in the County Attorney's Office. She became the first African American woman named as a Montgomery County Circuit Court judge. She was the first in her family to attend college, graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Columbia University and then went on to graduate from Harvard University law school
 3. **Pat Cornish:** Former national president of BPW, and former MC CFW president. Founder, President and CEO, PEC Financial Consulting, She represents the National Association of Commissions for Women on the board of the National Committee on Pay Equity and currently serves as a Commissioner on the Maryland Commission for Women.

4. **Jean B. Cryor**, Maryland House of Delegates, 1993 – 2007. Cryor was a former writer, editor and publisher of the Gazette Newspapers and a reporter with the Philadelphia Bulletin. In 2000, she was selected as a delegate for the Republican National Party Convention. In addition to her delegate work, she was a board member of Black Rock Center for the Arts, and the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, the Convent of the Sacred Heart and the Potomac Theater Company.
5. **Pam Foltz** – First woman in Montgomery County to successfully complete Recruit School for the MC Department of Fire Rescue Service, first woman ever hired by the MCDFRS (1980)
6. **Barbara Krumsiek**, President & CEO, The Calvert Group since 1997, manages over \$12 billion in assets and socially responsible mutual investments. In 2004, the Calvert Women’s Principles were launched marking the first global code of corporate conduct focusing exclusively on empowering, advancing and investing in women worldwide.
7. **Ingrid McKee** – the first (1971) and only (as of 1986 when she retired) woman to be named Policeman of the Year and the first woman to be promoted to Sergeant (1980) in the MCPD. She was instrumental in the first use of the “rape kit” and in the development of the county’s Crisis Center; also honored with the Columbian Medal of Merit for work as undercover officer in breakup of a prostitution ring.
8. **Terry O’Neill, National President NOW: A** feminist attorney, professor and activist for social justice, was elected president of NOW in June 2009. She is also president of the NOW Foundation and chair of the NOW Political Action Committees, and serves as the principal spokesperson for all three entities.
9. **Dr. DeRionne Pollard** – First African American woman to serve as President of Montgomery College, the second woman to serve as President.
10. **Carmen Delgado Votaw:** A prominent leader of organizations for the advancement of women during her 40-year career. She served as Co-Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Women, was a member of the Executive Committee of the U.S. International Commission on Women (IWY) and is also a former President of the Inter American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States. Her nongovernmental leadership extends from service as National President of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women to President of the Pan American Liaison Committee of Women’s Organizations (PALCO).

Commissioner Montse Alvarado moved acceptance of the committee’s proposal and the list of 10 women to be honored. Commissioner Walker Holloway seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Director Vaughan-Prather will send each commissioner who volunteered to serve as an honoree liaison, the necessary contact information, and a copy of the invitation outlining a description of the CFW, the Archive, the Event, and any other information that might be helpful.

VI. Old Business

A. Recruitment of New Commissioners

The announcement of opportunities to serve on the CFW will sent out today, with a deadline for application of May 16.

VII. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

VIII. Liaison Reports

A. MLAW

Commissioner Mederos had a last minute schedule conflict that prevented her attending tonight's meeting, but she submitted a summary of MLAW's legislative activity this year.

IX. Adjournment.....Morales

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Judith Vaughan-Prather

APPROVED 5/23/2012