

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

Summary of Discussion

January 25, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Vanessa Atterbeary, President
Leila Aridi Afas
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Debra Bright Harris
Chandra Walker Holloway
Maliha Ilias
Colleen Kelly
Leticia Mederos
Manar Morales

Absent:

Jaclyn Lichter Vincent
Nick Martinez
Larniece McKoy Moore
Wilma Holmes

Staff:

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

Guests:

**I. CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....President Atterbeary**

President Atterbeary called to meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Commissioner Morales moved and Commissioner Bright Harris seconded approval of the minutes of the November 30, 2011 meeting as submitted, and the agenda for tonight’s meeting as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Atterbeary

A. Sister City Program:

Commissioners Atterbeary and Afas both received email messages from Susan Kerin, with Pax Christi asking the Commission to join in its protest of the County’s selection of Beit Shemesh, Israel as one of its Sister Cities, because of growing human rights and women’s rights concerns in that region of the country. Ms. Karin has been invited to speak to the CFW at its February meeting.

B. Recruitment of New Commissioner

The CFW has one mid-term vacancy due to the resignation and out-of-state relocation of Noha Bakr. The closing date for applications was just before the holidays. Commissioners Bright Harris and Martinez agreed to serve on the interview committee. Interviews will be scheduled in February, after the Women’s Legislative Briefing.

C. 2012 Power Conference Planning

The CFW has been invited to an initial planning session for the Power Conference. This event, focused on women in business, drew over 700 attendees last year. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend the first meeting and report back to the CFW at the February meeting on ways the CFW may be able to support this conference.

D. Discovery Prom Project

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather received a request for assistance from staff at Discovery Communications. In April, Discovery Communications, Inc. and TLC will host “Say Yes to the Prom,” designed to benefit disadvantaged high school girls by providing them with prom dresses and accessories, but also with life skills training. Discovery has asked for help in recruiting girls to participate in the program. Commissioners Morales will talk with her contacts at Community Bridges and Commissioner Bright Harris will contact the National Council for Negro Women. Both organizations have programs for disadvantaged girls who might be eligible for Discovery’s program.

III. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month. The CFW will write to the County Council and the County Executive requesting a joint proclamation. President Atterbeary will draft the memo.

Commissioner Walker Holloway discussed the possibility writing an article or editorial regarding the efforts to install a statue of Harriet Tubman in the Capitol Rotunda. She will check with the group leading this initiative and make a recommendation in this regard at the February CFW meeting..

A. Office Update

The office continues to receive calls daily from individuals seeking the kind of assistance that the Counseling Center used to provide. Americorps member Carrington is now stationed at the reception desk to handle calls and walk-ins. Whenever possible, people are referred to other services in the community, but many protest that the services are too expensive and they cannot afford them. Callers – both those in need of service, and service providers looking for assistance for their clients continue to express their dismay at the closing of the counseling center.

Most of the staff time at present, however, is consumed with preparations for this weekend’s Women’s Legislative Briefing.

IV. COMMITTEE WORK

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

The Briefing is this coming Sunday. Pre-registration on the Eventbrite site is approaching 400, and mail-in registrations are received daily in the office. All the speakers and moderators have been confirmed. The arrangements with the USG conference center are in place. The planning committee has been working hard and most of the arrangements are well situated. Only the packet printing and preparation remains incomplete, but the packet committee is committed to having the ready in time. This has been a huge undertaking for an office that lost almost all its staff in the past six months, but it appears that the event will be a success, despite the challenges.

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

Commissioner Kelly has been collecting information on the evaluation process used in the former counseling center, and she has been in discussion with former counseling center volunteer information and referral specialists. Commissioner Alvarado attended a seminar on program evaluation and asked the instructor, who agreed, to help develop the evaluation process for the programs this committee plans to conduct. Most of the work of this committee has, of necessity, been put “on hold” until after Sunday’s Briefing, but it is hoped that work will begin in earnest in February, and that the proposed family law seminars may be held in March or April.

C. 40th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.....Afas

No report this month.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought before the CFW.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before the CFW.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. MLAW.....Mederos

The MLAW agenda has been established and printed . It will be distributed in the packets for the Women’s Legislative Briefing.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Commissioner Kelly has a new job as the Federal Compliance Counsel at the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).

B. Commissioner Mederos is leaving her staff position in Congresswoman DeLauro’s office and taking a position as Vice President for Work and Family and the National Center for Work and Family.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Judith Vaughan-Prather
Executive Director
Minutes Approved February 29, 2012