

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

Summary of Discussion

September 5, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Attending:

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

Absent:

Wilma Holmes
Katie Smith

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES.....President Walker Holloway

President Holloway Walker called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m., and thanked Commissioner Martinez for hosting the dinner this evening. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting, with the exception that introduction of the new commissioners would be reserved until everyone expected for tonight's meeting arrived. Commissioner Morales moved, seconded by Commissioner Baldwin, approval of the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously. President Holloway Walker called for approval of the minutes of the June 26, 2012 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as submitted, made by Commissioner Baldwin and seconded by Commissioner Bright Harris, passed unanimously.

II. BUSINESS MEETING.....President Walker Holloway

A. Update of the Divorce Handbook

Attorneys from the Montgomery County Bar Association Family Law Division and the Women's Bar Association have volunteered to review the CFW's Divorce Guidebook to make any necessary updates to the legal information. Then the CFW will update its own information (address, services available, etc.). It is hoped that this project will result in a publication that can be made available on the CFW's website. Commissioner Callihan volunteered to help with any graphic design work on the book.

B. Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame Nomination

The CFW has nominated Dr. Bernice Sandler, the woman whose own struggle eventually led to the enactment of Title IX, and whose career ever since has focused on educational equity issues, for induction into the county’s Human Rights Hall of Fame. The decision of who will be inducted has not yet been announced. The induction ceremony is scheduled for October 28.

C. The Power Conference

President Walker Holloway and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather represented the CFW at the August 30 Power Conference. This event, attended by 750 women, is targeted to women in business and women business owners, and offers a variety of seminars on starting and growing a business and advancing oneself in a business . The keynote speaker was Tammy Darvish of DARCARS, a large, multi-site dealership with several locations in Montgomery County and throughout the metropolitan area. There were many vendors and exhibitors and the attendees were clearly enthusiastic about the information they were receiving.

D. Women’s Legislative Briefing 2013.....Ilias and Bright Harris

The first meeting of the planning committee for the 2013 WLB was held on August 29 at the White Oak Library. About 20 attend to begin work on next year’s event. AARP has already committed sponsorship of \$7500, and Dr. Bernice Sandler has already been secured as the keynote speaker. The event will be held at the Universities at Shady Grove on Sunday, January 27.

The co-chairs asked that a commissioner serve on each of the several planning committee subcommittees, as the is the MC CFW’s signature event, and it should reflect the MC CFW’s vision and goals. The Commissioners selected subcommittees on which to participate as follows:

Resource Packets	Kelly
Evaluations	Baldwin
Hostess/Hospitality	Mintz
Program	Hill
Power Point	Callihan
Treasurer/Finance	Martinez
Exhibits	Forde
Outreach & Sponsor Recruitment	Morales
President’s Networking	Holloway Walker

Planning Committee meetings are at the White Oak Library at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 3
- November 7
- December 5
- January 9

Commissioners were encouraged to attend the planning committee meetings to demonstrate the MC CFW’s support and leadership.

The Prince George's County CFW is planning a Women's Legislative Conference on October 28 at the Prince George's Community College, but is still co-sponsoring the 2013 WLB and is very actively involved in the planning committee.

E. MLAW Board of Directors

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women has invited the MC CFW to designate a commissioner to serve on the MLAW Board of Directors which meets on the first Monday of each month in the Columbia area. New commissioner Katie Smith has volunteered to serve as the MC CFW's designee.

MLAW's [Fall Conference](#) where the groundwork for the legislative agenda is laid, is Saturday, October 20. Staff will send all commissioners the "save the date" flier via email.

F. Introductions of New Commissioners

At this point, President Walker Holloway asked the CFW's indulgence to veer from the agenda and invited the new commissioners in attendance – Lorna Forde, Catherine Hill, and Bobbe Mintz - to introduce themselves. The CFW welcomed the new commissioners and all in attendance introduced themselves to one another. President Walker Holloway noted the new commissioner Katie Smith could not attend this evening because she is at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC, but she read a note Commissioner Smith sent by way of introduction. President Walker Holloway welcomed everyone and encouraged all commissioners to participate actively and openly.

G. Judicial Appointment

Karla Natasha Smith has been appointed to the District Court and is the first African American woman to serve on that bench. President Holloway Walker proposed sending a letter of congratulations to Judge Smith. Commissioner Morales so moved, The motion, seconded by Commissioner Martinez passed unanimously.

H. NACW Conference

Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather attended the July 22 – 25 conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women, along with former MC CFW president, and now chair of the MD CFW Pat Cornish. Vaughan-Prather is a member of the NACW Board of Directors. Approximately 65 people attended the conference representing almost 30 CFWs from more than 20 different states. In addition to the business meeting portions of the conference, and the pre- and post-conference board meetings, she attended seminars on social media, human trafficking, and the Vision 2020 project. Pay Equity advocate and former keynote speaker at our own WLB, Lilly Ledbetter, was one of the keynote speakers. West Virginia CFW did a wonderful job as the host commission. Many attendees still refer to the 2010 NACW conference sponsored by the MC CFW in Rockville as the "best ever" and the model to be emulated by others.

I. Bylaws Review

The CFW’s bylaws provide that they may only be changed in June and November, and then only if the full CFW has been given 30 days written notice of any proposed changes. Commissioner Morales offered to review the bylaws, especially with regard to provisions for proxy voting and the timing of the CFW Vice Presidential elections. A copy of the bylaws will be sent via email to all commissioners for their review and any other recommendations should be submitted to Commissioner Morales by September 19. She will submit a recommendation to the CFW by September 27. If the CFW then wants to consider making changes, staff will seek the advice of the County Attorney before submitting a written proposal at the October meeting for a vote at the November meeting.

J. Brochure for New Women’s History Quilt

Commissioner Callihan volunteered to develop a brochure describing and portraying the new Women’s History Quilt, with a very brief statement about each of the 10 women newly included in the CFW’s Women’s History Archive.

K. Dates for CFW Meetings

It has been proposed to change the CFW meeting day. CFW has met on the fourth Wednesday of each month for many years. After much discussion, Commissioner McKoy Moore moved that the CFW try scheduling its full meetings on the fourth Monday of each month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Callihan. Commissioner Morales moved to amend the motion to delay the decision pending the consent of the two absent commissioners, as it was the consensus of those commissioners present that this must be a unanimous decision. Commissioner Bright Harris seconded the motion to amend the first motion, and the motion to amend passed unanimously. President Holloway then called for a vote on the first motion as amended, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Morales moved that the CFW not meet as scheduled for a second time in September. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Ilias, passed unanimously. Therefore, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 27 is canceled.

Pending the agreement of the absent commissioners, the dates of the next three CFW meetings will be:

Monday, October 22

Monday, November 26

(No meeting in December)

Monday, January 14 (to avoid the MLK holiday, and to meet before the WLB)

L. IWPR Webinar: Federal Supports for Parenting Student Success

Commissioners Forde, Kelly, Mintz and Smith all participated in a webinar sponsored by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research on federal grant money available for programs supporting students who are parents themselves. Commissioner Mintz noted that the funding comes with restrictions regarding what services can be provided and even what may be discussed in the course of providing services. Commissioner Forde noted that the schools are

not tracking the number of students affected. Commissioner Kelly commented on the amount of federal money available for this program.

M. CFW 40th Anniversary Wrap-Up

Almost 200 people attended the July 11 celebration of the CFW's 40th Anniversary, where ten women were added to the MC CFW's Women's History Archives, and the new Women's History Quilt, created by fiber artist Anne Sanderoff-Walker, was unveiled. Former Congresswoman and Ambassador Connie Morella delivered the keynote address. County Executive Ike Leggett presented welcoming remarks, and Council members Navarro, Berliner and Andrews presented a proclamation, later joined by Councilman Leventhal. Altogether, the event, including the materials for the quilt, gifts for the honorees, the reception and dinner, cost \$11,370. Ticket sales and donations totaled \$9771.51 after Eventbrite fees, which covers the food expenses. As anticipated, the total costs exceed revenue by \$2383.73. The difference will be charged to the funds remaining in the CFW's Restricted Donations account generated by donations for the 35th anniversary.

N. Election of CFW First and Second Vice Presidents

The CFW's bylaws provide that it elects its president in June and its Vice Presidents at the meeting two months after the new commissioners have been confirmed. The election will be at the CFW's October 22 meeting. Intent to Run for those two offices were sent to the commissioners with the packets for tonight's meeting, and were also distributed to the commissioners at tonight's meeting. As there will not be a second meeting in September, commissioners who want to run for the office of First or Second Vice President, should submit their Intent to Run form to the Executive Director before September 22. The slate of candidates will be announced to the commissioners via email, and the election will take place by secret ballot at the October 22 meeting.

III. ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

A. Orientation to Planning Process

President Walker Holloway reviewed the goals for the planning meeting and the CFW's legislative mandate, along with the criteria for selection of CFW priorities.

B. Consideration of Current Commitments

Commissioner Kelly reported on the four Divorce Legal Seminars offered by the CFW in English and Spanish in April of this year and attended by a total audience of 100. The seminars were instructed by volunteer attorneys from the MC Bar Association Family Law Division and were very successful, but also demonstrated the difficulty of offering such programming without adequate staff support. Other continuing initiatives of the CFW include the update of the Divorce Guidebook, and the 2013 Women's Legislative Briefing which also requires greater commitment on the part of the commissioners due to staff reductions.

C. CFW Capacity for Initiatives

Prior to FY 12, the CFW had a staff of three, and a staff to provide services through its Counseling Center. In the current fiscal year, all CFW staff positions except the Executive Director were eliminated. For the past year, the CFW has been fortunate to have an Americorps Intern working in the office almost full time. However, this year, the Americorps Intern will not be available due to funding cuts. The only staffing available to the CFW is the Executive Director, and some of her time is now devoted to supervising the Business Management Team of the Community Engagement Cluster where the CFW is now located. However, the County Executive and the County Council did include \$140,000 in the current year's budget for services to be provided by contractor through the CFW.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the CFW that its capacity for this year is to carryout two initiatives.

Commissioner Callihan moved that the CFW write to the County Executive and the County Council requesting additional staff support for the CFW for FY 14. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Morales, passed unanimously.

D. Determination of Priorities/Initiatives

Discussion centered on the CFW's capacity for legislative activity with its reduced staffing. Commissioner Baldwin moved that the Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee be established as one of the CFW's standing committees and that its primary responsibility will be the Women's Legislative Briefing and the CFW's participation in MLAW, but that other legislative and policy advocacy that comes before the CFW would be assigned to this committee as well. Commissioner Mintz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the possibility of an advocacy platform laying out the CFW's priority areas of concern for the year, which might include:

- Economic Empowerment for Women
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education and Careers for Women and Girls
- Senior Women
- Single Mothers and Poverty
- Women's Health Disparities
- Work and Family
- Fairness in Family Law

Discussion then turned to the design of services to be funded by the CFW's budget appropriation of \$140,000, focusing on the potential demographics of the target population and the needs that might be most effectively and appropriately addressed. After much discussion, a second committee was formed to work with the Executive Director to develop the plan for the services to be provided through the CFW.

The commissioners identified the committees on which they are committed to serve:

Policy and Legislation	Program Plan and Design
<p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debra Bright Harris • Maliha Ilias 	<p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manar Morales • Bobbe Mintz
<p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleen Kelly • Jennifer Baldwin • Bobbe Mintz • Catherine Hill • Liz Callihan • Nick Martinez • Lorna Forde • Chandra Walker Holloway 	<p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montse Alvarado • Larniece McKoy Moore • Debra Bright Harris • Chandra Walker Holloway • Colleen Kelly • Liz Callihan

After much discussion regarding whether the platform above is needed and if so, whether it applies only to the advocacy work of the CFW or also to the program/services design, it was decided to send the second part of that discussion to the new Program Plan and Design (name to be determined) Committee.

E. Liaisons

Each year, CFW members represent the CFW on a number of other organizations with related concerns. The Commission decided that its liaisons for this year will be:

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| • Domestic Violence Coordinating Council | Montse Alvarado |
| • BPW Women of Achievement | Manar Morales |
| • Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women | Katie Smith |
| • Family Justice Center | Montse Alvarado |
| • Subcabinet on Senior Issues | Judith Vaughan-Prather |
| • Teen Dating Violence Preventions Taskforce | Montse Alvarado |

IV. 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 9:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Judith Vaughan-Prather
Executive Director

APPROVED 10/22/2012