

# Montgomery County Commission for Women

Rockville Memorial Library Building  
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330

## Summary of Discussion

December 11, 2014; 6:45pm

### Attending:

**Debra Bright Harris, President**  
**Daphnee Cherubin**  
**Lorna Forde**  
**Beatrice Lauman**  
**Guilia McPherson**  
**Barbara Mintz**  
**Farah Nageer-Kanthor**  
**Sharon Morris**  
**Safia Qadri**  
**Heather Reichardt**  
**Karmen Rouland**  
**Katie Smith**  
**Angela Whitehead Quigley**

### Absent:

**Linda Amendt**  
**Natalia Farrar**  
**Karmen Rouland**

### Staff:

## **I. CALL TO ORDER..... President Bright Harris**

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. Agenda was approved with adjustments to the items to discuss. The November 13, 2014 meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved at the January 2015 meeting.
- B. Thank you to President Bright Harris for providing the evening meal for the group.

## **II. COUNTY EXECUTIVE VISIT:**

- A. Newly re-elected County Executive Ike Leggett attended the meeting and spoke to the Commissioners about his vision for the county. General summary of remarks by Isaah Leggett included:
  - a. While the county is an exception in many ways there is still discrimination and we need to be vigilant. Need to hold people accountable.
  - b. Budget is still an issue but it is improving. The deficit is around \$200m currently for the county; they are dealing with it with furloughs, removal of COLAs and overall reduced costs. The state budget deficit could be as high as \$1B.
  - c. Another budget issue would depend on the result of a lawsuit filed to limit out of state earners payment of taxes within the county. Could cost \$25m or more and impact future budgets.
  - d. Regarding the Executive Director vacancy, he can at this point go either way but thought that an appointment would benefit the commission in the long term. The bill to make the change was not out of committee as of this meeting.
  - e. There will be challenges with the new governor's administration; met with Mr. Hogan today. Hogan's focus seems to be financial sustainability, taxes, etc. Mr. Leggett will maintain a wait and see attitude regarding social issues.

- f. Mr. Leggett's priorities:
  - i. Pay Equity bill – stuck in the government operations committee
  - ii. Cultural/language issues; religious beliefs can keep citizens from taking advantage of all the services the county offers; there are 125 languages spoken in the county.
  - iii. Some groups have more issues than others
  - iv. Need to be sensitive to those who may be afraid to look for help or assistance.
- g. Focus on a few things and do them well:
  - i. Reach out broadly to women to educate them; especially minority women in the county
  - ii. Pay equity issue
  - iii. Human trafficking task force – perpetrators use technology; young women are the victims
  - iv. Immigrants/aging women – partner with groups that already provide services; people who are isolated need attention

**III. STAFF REPORT..... Morris**

- A. Update on WLB planning:
  - a. Politicians have been responding yes to invites including Senator Cardin, Representative Van Hollen, the local county executives
  - b. So far there are 44 co-sponsors-need to push for more sponsors from last year
  - c. 27 tables out of 35 have been reserved
  - d. Website has been fixed
  - e.

**Note: in the interest of time, several agenda items were tabled for future meetings.**

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Policy and Legislation – tabled
- B. CFW Scholarship..... **Lauman**
  - a. Decision needs to be made tonight for dispersing funds next fall; would need to transfer Commission funds by 12/31/14 and need executive office approval. President Bright Harris consulted with the Executive's staff and a revised memo needs to be forwarded and approved by Legal in order to move ahead.
  - b. Current scholarship options include:
    - i. Delta Sigma Theta; scholarship template; could be for any school in the US.
    - ii. Montgomery College (MC) – they reduced the minimum to \$10,000 and would do all the work to identify the Montgomery College student or students who would receive the funds.
    - iii. Universities at Shady Grove (USG) have no minimum and would also identify potential student recipients and award the funds to a USG student.
    - iv. Maryland Commission for Women have a 501c3 which we might be able to utilize as a vehicle or set up 501c3
  - c. Funds: \$4800 in immigrant women's initiative account which could be moved. Other amounts are immediately available.
  - d. Per President Bright Harris, Montgomery College Foundation approached her and were happy we are thinking about them. They understand we want to help one or more students as soon as possible. It was suggested that we could give a limited amount for spring semester and set up an endowment the following year.
  - e. Commissioner Reichardt motioned to pursue the MC option. Commissioner Mintz seconded. Discussion ensued on more detail of how to use the money currently available.

f. Motion was amended so that MC would receive \$10,000 to fund the endowment and use the money as soon as possible. Commissioner Mintz seconded. Motion carried.

C. WLB.....**Smith**

- a. USG site visit was helpful
- b. Social media – commissioners need to post the Briefing details on their sites.
- c. Anne Lewis was confirmed as a keynote speaker; will she come to Presidents Networking Session? Discussed having Brigid Schulte from the Washington Post as a speaker next year.
- d. All attendees will get a pen

D. WLB - Teen Track.....**Whitehead-Quigley/McPherson**

- a. Speakers identified – Cultivating Young Leaders?
- b. Give more time to sessions
- c. Movie – have copies; working on licensing

**V. LIAISON REPORTS**

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- A. MLAW – Tabled
- B. Human Trafficking Task Force –Tabled
- C. Teen Dating & Violence Taskforce – Tabled
- D. Domestic Violence Task Force – Tabled

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....**

- A. Commissioner Forde presented the scarves that she purchased on her recent trip for all commissioners to wear at the WLB. She asked for \$5 to cover the cost of each.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS.....**

- A. **Commisisoner Reichardt described the request by AAUW national office to sign on to the National Women’s Law Center letter supporting new regulations to require federal contractors to report summary data on employee compensation.**
- B. **Motion was made to approve the sign-on. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....**

N/A

**X. ADJOURNMENT..... **President Bright Harris****

President Bright Harris adjourned the meeting at 9:10pm?