**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, March 12, 2020

7:00 P.M.

**AGENDA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attending** | **Not Attending** | **Guests** |
| Nicole Drew - President  Donna Rojas - 1st Vice President  Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President  Tiffany Boiman - Recording Secretary  Tazeen Ahmad  Isabel Argoti  Mona-Lee Belizaire  Ijeoma Enendu  Patti Maclay  Giulia McPherson  Adrienne Prentice  Angela Whitehead Quigley  Tricia Swanson  Meredith Weisel  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein  Lucy Font | Tonia Bui  Diana Rubin | Arlee Wallace from AAHP  Arlinda Clark, Phi Beta Phi  Karen Hines  Tawanna Hines |

**I.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

* Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm, using a phone and web-based format as a safety measure due to increasing infection rates in Maryland from the coronavirus pandemic.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER**

* Ms. Arlee Wallace, Program Manager, African American Health Program, Department of Health and Human Services addressed the Commission
* The goal of the program is to serve individuals of African descent in Montgomery County through a combination of awareness raising and integration of concerns into existing programs
* Ms. Wallace delivered a Powerpoint presentation providing an overview of the program’s priorities and strategies, Attachment 1.
* Commissioner Maclay asked how they interface with the Infant Mortality Review Board.
* Commissioner Drew asked about whether there are bills the Commission should be aware of and potentially support or policy needs that could be codified in law.
* Ms. Wallace noted that they host a Community Day the Commission might want to join.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA Commissioner Drew**

* Commissioners offered edits to the February minutes: Commissioner Mcpherson noted that under program planning, Executive Director Finkelstein was mistakenly identified as a Commissioner; under the PR committee report, in the second to last bullet, Ms. Stiles’ name is missing.
* Commissioner McPherson moved to approve minutes; Commissioner Swanson seconded; Commissioner Drew also moved a general consent motion to adopt the agenda.
* CommissionerDrew discussed the Women’s History Month Proclamation, which included recognition for Ruby Rubens and proclamation presentations to the Commission and the League of Women Voters, as well as two members of the community.

b. *Commissioners in the Community*

* Commissioners Drew and Rojas participated in a CROWN Act discussion to raise awareness about the issue of discrimination for wearing one’s natural hair at work. The event was entitled “Let’s talk about hair.” trying to build momentum at the state level.
* Per Commissioner Weisel, the CROWN Act has been signed into law in 5 different states now.
* Commissioner Rubin asked what education on the issue looks like, and Commissioner Rojas explained that it’s about understanding the ways people may wear their hair, increase sensitivity about changes to hair and decisions in favor of natural hair.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT Executive Director Finkelstein**

a. Re-entry program: no report

b. Montgomery County COVID-19 Update:

* Key points from Governor Hogan’s press conference included:
  + That the state will deploy the National Guard;
  + That convenings of more than 200 are prohibited;
  + Mandated social distancing,
  + Announced closure of the Baltimore Port;
  + Announced that licenses will be extended;
  + Suspended prison visits; and
  + Announced that all Maryland schools will be closed for cleaning.
* On the County level:
  + All public employees who can will telework, including Executive Director Finkelstein.
  + Libraries and rec centers will close.
  + The Health Officer said all documented Montgomery County cases are improving.
  + The County has recommended residents obtain extra provisions
  + Montgomery County schools are in the process of figuring out the spring break schedule for schools.
  + There was also discussion of assistance for paid medical leave and that the area health care system is more over-utilized than is typical.

**VI.        COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a.   Policy and Legislation: no report **Commissioners** **Rubin/Boiman**

b. Program Planning: no report **Commissioner Enendu**

c. Budget **Commissioner McPherson**

* Commissioner McPherson has updated budget documents and can share next month. Commissioner Drew recommended the budget documents be shared with the Budget Committee, so that the WLB reports can be closed out.

      d.  Research and Evaluation **Commissioner** **Prentice**

* Commissioner Drew reminded committee members to be timely with committee reports to aid the Executive Committee in planning. She also asked Commissioner Prentice if she could report out on committee developments.
* Per Commissioner Prentice, the committee meeting is next week and she would be able to provide a full report out after that.

e.   Emerging Leaders **Commissioners** **Belizaire/Weisel**

* Commissioner Belizaire stated that they have no report this time and that Respect Fest has been canceled.
* Per Commissioner Drew, there have been four Girl Power submissions so far.
* Commissioner Weisel will keep Commissioners posted about next steps on the Girl Power contest

f. Public Relations **Commissioner Argoti**

* Commissioner Argoti met with Judy Stiles, CFW liaison to the Public Information Office, about how to work together and brainstormed some videos about how to raise CFW’s profile. They also talked about the website and ways she can assist with content and are thinking about developing a visual brand logo.
* Commissioner Drew reminded commissioners to submit statements about what Women’s History Month means to them.

g. WLB **Commissioners** **Rojas/Ahmad**

* No report

**VII.       LIAISON REPORTS**

1. MLAW                                                                                      **Commissioner McPherson**

* Commissioner McPherson said MLAW is tracking the bills on their agenda and scheduled their fall conference for Saturday, November 14th at Silver Spring Civic Center

1. HTPC/DV:                                                                                **Commissioner Rojas/Drew**

* The meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 18th. Commissioners discussed a recent work session on the Bodyworks bill, to include discussion about how those who have been convicted of a felony are not able to apply for a license and whether this can be amended. Penalties related to practicing massage without a license were asked about and investigation time and how trafficking victims are being assisted.
* Commissioner Drew will report out on DV at the next meeting.

1. Maryland Commission for Women                                           **Executive Director Finkelstein**

* The Maryland Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow event has been cancelled.

1. Choose Respect (Respectfest): See Emerging Leaders report above **Commissioner** **Whitehead-Quigley**

**VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. CFW Scholarship                                                                      **Commissioners** **Maclay/Argoti**

* The luncheon was scheduled to take place on April 3rd for awardees, but may be cancelled. Scholars plan to join for one of the Commission’s meetings.

1. Social Committee:                                                                     **Commissioner** **Rojas**
   * The goal is to arrange a Top Golf outing when the coronavirus risk has diminished.
2. S2020  **Commissioners Bui/Maclay**

* Per Commissioner Maclay, the Committee held its first in-person meeting on Tuesday, including discussion about joint parallel sessions for adults and children.
* The Committee is almost finished with sponsorship packets which will roll out at the end of the month and are getting the budget together.
* There will be a public service announcement preceding the event.
* Commissioner Belizaire asked about roles for other commissioners, and Commissioner Maclay responded that Commission volunteers will definitely be needed.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND/OR NEW BUSINESS**

a. April Meeting (Spring Break/Attendance) **Commissioner** **Drew**

* The next meeting conflicts with Passover, so there may be a need to change that meeting and may need to continue with online format. It was agreed that a Doodle poll would be distributed to see if there’s a preference for changing the date or keeping it.
* Commissioner Weisel explained that absence from that meeting can receive a religious exemption.

b. Strategic Planning: Timing and Process **Commissioner** **Drew**

* Commissioner Drew wants to do strategic planning earlier than fall; wants to start before the start of the fiscal year.
* There was discussion of doing a dedicated 4-hour Saturday planning meeting. Commissioner Maclay supported; Commissioner Rojas says families might be tough for people with families and standing weekend commitments.

c. CJCC **Commissioner** **Ahmad**

* No report.

**X. ADJOURN**

* Commissioner Belizaire celebrated a birthday this week.
* Commissioner Maclay commended the county’s key public health official
* Commissioner Drew thanked Tawanna and Linda Hines for joining
* Commissioner Weisel made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Maclay seconded.
* The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm

Upcoming Events:

* Girl Power Contest Month of March (extended to June)
* MD Women’s Hall of Fame: March 19, 2020, Annapolis/CANCELLED
* RespectFest: March 29, 2020, Wheaton Community Recreation

Center/CANCELLED