

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes /In-Person
March 13, 2025 / 7:00 – 8:26 p.m.**



“I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it.”

Maya Angelou

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Betty Romero, 1st Vice Chair

Sheena Foster, 2nd Vice Chair

Michelle Buteau Georgia Coffey Jodi Danis Ijeoma Enendu Mital Gajjar

Elizabeth Richards Shuaa Tajammul Lindsey Turnbull

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Absent

Kathy Estrada

Janet LaValle

LaDonna King

Tonja Paylor

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

Agenda accepted as presented

March's minutes corrected

Guest name corrected Adaolisa Okwu

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR

Thank you for Women Making History Event and RespectFest

Will need 4 commissioners for Selection Committee

Commission on Aging, 21 MAY event

Any other commissioners that would like to speak on behalf of the commission?

Commissioner Foster volunteered

Addressing caregiving

Women's Law Center's Night of the Advocate, 5 MAY

Requesting \$500 sponsorship

Other options for sponsorship available

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

Invitation sent for County Executive State of the County, 24 APR, 6pm

In-person or available to stream

Interviewing interns for summer (close to 20 applied)

At least 3 paid, summer interns

Donna Rojas contracted to run re-entry program at the end of this month

5-6 women will be part of the group

March was Women's History Month

Thank you to Commissioners Romero and Foster for attending events!

County Council had budget hearings this week

Can still submit written testimony

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

2025 General Assembly Wrap Up

3/6 bills the commission championed passed

Passed: Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visits, Prescription Drug Affordability Board Act, and Maryland Abortion Care Access Fund

Did Not Pass this Time: Stop Silencing Survivors, Family & Law Enforcement Protection Act, and Correctional Services, Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services

Program Planning / Commissioner Enendu

Women Making History Event last week

Thanks to Carmen and Jodi for organizing!

Virtual Career Fair will be in May

Please let Commissioner Enendu know if you know any potential sponsors

Interested in non-traditional careers

Budget / Chair Clark

\$22,000 in budget

Re-aligning from WLB

County Funding: Funds available for sponsorship

Question on Women's Law Center's Night of the Advocate sponsorship package
No additional perks

Commission Foster moved that we Motion for \$500 ad; Commissioner Romero seconded
Floor open for discussion – discussed size of book/ad
Motion passed

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Foster

Will start planning for Strategic Planning retreat soon

Emerging Leaders / Commissioner Turnbull

Several events this past weekend
Girl Power contest deadline is tomorrow, 11 APR
30 entries

Public Relations / Commissioner Paylor & Commissioner Turnbull

No report

Women's Legislative Briefing / Chair Clark

Started planning for 2026
Will select theme, 21 APR

Nominations Committee/Commissioner Buteau

Need 2 volunteers
Commissioners Coffey and Turnbull volunteered

SOP / Chair Clark

No report

7. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

5 bills passed
Legislative wrap up expected in early May

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No report

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner King

No report

Maryland Commission for Women/Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No report

Choose Respect / Commissioner Gajjar

30 mar – 4 APR: virtual events

5 APR: In-person

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

No report

CFW Scholarship /Commissioner Foster

Luncheon tomorrow

Commissioners Foster and Tajammul, along with Executive Director will attend

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

Will be sent for review tonight

Need feedback by 30 APR

9. OLD BUSINESS

Statements Regarding Recent Events & Executive Orders

Commissioner Danis excused herself and stepped out of the meeting

Drafts 1 and 4 to be vetted

Potentially partner with Office of Human Rights on statements

Question: Are we partnering with Maryland's Commission for Women?

Deferring to Governor at the time they were asked

Ready to be sent for review

10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Separation & Divorce series, first Wednesday of the month

Girl Power contest deadline tomorrow

Happy birthday Commissioners Gajjar and Romero
Girl Power Contest Winner Reception, 12 JUN at 6pm
Ahead of June's meeting

11. **Meeting Adjourned – 7:54 pm**
CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled: 12 JUN 25