

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes /Virtual
February 13, 2025 / 7:00 – 7:53 p.m.**



“Ladies celebrating ladies.”

Leslie Knope

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair
Betty Romero, 1st Vice Chair
Sheena Foster, 2nd Vice Chair

Michelle Buteau Georgia Coffey Kathy Estrada Jodi Danis Ijeoma Enendu Mital Gajjar
Tonja Paylor Elizabeth Richards Shuaa Tajammul
Lindsey Turnbull

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director
Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager

Absent

LaDonna King
Janet LaValle

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

Welcome – Kadria Sadr (University of Maryland School of Nursing), Chinyere Akaigwe (University of Maryland School of Nursing) – Advocacy project for school

Happy Galantines Day!

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

Agenda accepted as presented
January minutes will be accepted with noted corrections (virtual, not in-person)

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CHAIR

Reviewed WLB

Finalizing annual report

Resource list for women seeking help

County resources and programs; ideally with point of contact at the organization

Email Chair Clark, Jodi, and Carmen

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

Interviewing Spring and Summer interns

Summer: Due 14 MAR

Fall: Due 30 JUN

Information available on CFW's website

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Commissioner Richards

Bills

Menopause pamphlet rolled out at WLB

Program Planning / Commissioner Enendu

Women Making History Event – scoring underway

3 APR

Virtual Career Fair for Her (high school/college)

Career series in the Spring (planning)

Budget / Chair Clark

No report

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Foster

Meet on Tuesday/11 FEB

Joining WLB Program Committee in reviewing the feedback from past WLB

Review programming surveys

Information gathering on 2018 State of Women Report

Input information on federal policies/executive orders that are impacting women in the county

Emerging Leaders / Commissioner Turnbull

Working on table for Choose RespectFest – open to ideas/comments/concerns

Public Relations / Commissioner Paylor & Commissioner Turnbull

PR meet on 6 FEB to map out social media through JUN
Collaborating with Programming on Women Making History

Women's Legislative Briefing / Commissioner Romero & Commissioner LaValle

Big thanks to the CFW staff!
Reviewing feedback for next year
Meeting on 6 MAR

SOP / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

7. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Foster

Legislative reception on 5 FEB (150 attendees)
Similar priorities as CFW Montgomery County
Hiring Director, Strategic Planning

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Commissioner Estrada

Committee looking for Chair, Vice Chair
Bill 2524 was approved on 12 FEB; also visa act approved

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner King

No Report

Maryland Commission for Women/Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

Former Commissioner Tezzia appointed to serve on State Commission for Women
Youth Acknowledgement – looking for nominations

Choose Respect / Commissioner Gajjar

Virtual events in March
In-person event on 6 APR (in Wheaton)
Sign up to volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/Jwd83UzeoymMFGef7>

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

CFW Scholarship /Commissioner Foster

Raised \$235 from the WLB

Received invitation to Montgomery College luncheon on 11 APR (2 tickets traditionally)

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

Soon time to review the by-laws

9. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing significant to report

10. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to Commission King, Commissioner Coffey, and Commissioner Foster!

Upcoming events

Separation & Divorce

Women Making History

Girl Power contest in March

Last year, honored awardees during in-person meeting in June

Montgomery County Library and Rec Department are sponsors

Federal policies and Executive Orders that impact women (e.g., eliminating telework, eliminating DEI programs)

Proposed issuing statement

Need to think out strategy/craft statement

Statements will be run by Public Information Office

Wrap in County Executive's statement

Tasked to PALs to draft and present to full commission

Must be reviewed by Chair, Staff

Where to go in the county to get assistance/resources

Senate.gov website

Resources on county's website, Maryland's website

County is working on collecting resources

SPRE and PALs to work closely together

Next meeting in-person: 13 MAR

Thai restaurant afterwards (optional)

11. Meeting Adjourned – 7:53 pm

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled: 13 MAR 25, 12 JUN 25