

Commission for Women
Meeting Minutes/In-Person
September 11, 2025 / 7:00 p.m.



Present

Sheena Foster, Chair
Mital Gajjar, Member at Large
Shuaa Tajammul, Secretary

Michelle Buteau
Georgia Coffey
Jodi Danis
Elizabeth Richards
Lindsey Turnbull

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein

Absent

Betty Romero, 1st Vice Chair
Janet LaValle, 2nd Vice Chair

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Welcome/Introductions**
- 2. Executive Committee Report/Chair Foster and Executive Director Jodi Finkelstein**
 - a. Re-Entry Program and Visit to Correctional Facility
 - b. Donna Rojas-Thomas as guest speaker re: Program based on her availability
 - c. Site visit to facility
- 3. Motion to Approve Agenda/ Chair Foster**
 - a. Approved
- 4. Motion to Approve Minutes/ Chair Foster**
 - a. Approved
- 5. Executive Director's Report/ Executive Director Jodi Finkelstein**
 - a. Executive Committee approved MD CFW 60th Anniversary Brunch sponsorship at \$500.
 - i. VOTE:Approved

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- b. Request from PALS Committee to sponsor MLAW Conference on 11/1/25 at \$250.
 - i. VOTE: approved
 - 1. Chair Foster is on the Board for MLAW, so she recused herself from the discussion and abstained from voting
 - c. New Commissioners up for confirmation next week
 - i. Orientation for new commissioners is on 10/18/25
 - d. Interns: 2 new CFW interns have started
- 6. Event Update/Chair Foster**
- a. Montgomery County 250th Anniversary
 - i. 10/17/25 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Panel at County Office
 - 1. Chair Foster speaking on Panel about Montgomery County
- 7. Committee Reports/Votes**
- a. PALS/Commissioner Richards
 - i. Motion to endorse League of Women Voters request that Montgomery County CFW support a County Resolution supporting the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
 - 1. VOTE: Approved
 - ii. Lobby day is virtual on 12/11/25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- 8. Programming and Planning/ Executive Director Jodi Finkelstein**
- i. Vacant
 - ii. Separation/Divorce seminar is the first Wednesday of every month beginning in November 2025
 - 1. May conduct one session in Spanish
 - iii. Financial Health and Wellness seminars again this year
 - iv. Lobby Day
 - v. Self-defense classes in-person, planning for Mondays in September-December
- b. Budget/Chair Foster

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- i. County working on 2026 fiscal budget
 - 1. Public meetings being held
- ii. CFW accounts are fine
- c. SPRE/Commissioner Coffey
 - i. Strategic Plan: it is final but need to fill in action items
 - ii. Short summary to be sent out on social media/newsletter re: 2026 – 2028 Strategic Plan
 - iii. SPRE Committee to request meeting with County Executive or Councilmember Stewart re: updated Strategic Plan
- d. Emerging Leaders/Commissioner Gajjar
 - i. Committee just starting back up
- e. Public Relations/Commissioner Turnbull
 - i. Social Media spotlight on Commissioners
- f. WLB/Executive Director Finkelstein
 - i. On track for January 2026

9. Liason Reports

- a. MLAW/Chair Foster
 - i. Conference on 11/1/25 – CFW has 2 tickets
- b. HTPC/Executive Director Finkelstein
 - i. Meeting on 9/17/25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 - 1. Trafficking at spas
- c. DVCC/Executive Director Finkelstein
 - i. Educational outreach meeting on 9/11/25
 - ii. DV Awareness month: October
 - iii. Need new representative from CFW to attend
- d. MD CFW/Executive Director Finkelstein an Chair Foster
 - i. 60th Anniversary Brunch on 10/5/25
 - 1. CFW gets 4 tickets with sponsorship
- e. Community Health Needs Adv. Committee/ Executive Director Finkelstein

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- i. No report

10. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. By-Laws/ Executive Director Finkelstein
 - i. No report
- b. Choose Respect/Commissioner Gajjar
 - i. Planning meeting on 9/25/25

11. Old Business

- a. None

12. New business/Accouchements

- a. New Committee Leadership
 - i. PALS: Commissioner Richards
 - ii. Emerging Leaders: Commissioner Gajjar
 - iii. Public Relations: Commissioner Turnbull
 - iv. SPRE: vacant
 - v. Programming and Planning: vacant

13. Adjourned