

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2009

7:08 p.m.

### ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas  
Vanessa E. Atterbearly  
Jane Hobdy  
Wilma K. Holmes  
Resa Levy  
Jaclyn R. Lichter  
Ivonne C. Lindley  
Larniece McKoy Moore  
Manar S. Morales  
Tedi S. Osias  
Sanjay Rai  
Jocelyn Samuels

### STAFF

Leah Goldfine  
Ruby Marcelo  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

**GUEST:** Kinya Mururu, Constituent Services, Congresswoman Edwards' Office

### ABSENT

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin  
Chandra Walker Holloway  
Reggie L. Oldak

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### I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lichter

Vice President Lichter called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She welcomed Constituent Services Representative Kinya Mururu, from Congresswoman Donna Edward's office.

Two additions were noted to the agenda. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley, seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas and passed unanimously, the agenda, with additions was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Osias noted corrections on pages 3, 5 and 7 of the Minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Levy, seconded by Commissioner Osias and passed unanimously, the Minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

## **II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **A. Montgomery County Council of Women's Organizations Meetings**

The MCCFW was planning to convene the MC Council of Women's Organizations on March 18. However, this date is unavailable for both the proposed speaker and the proposed location. Staff and the Executive Committee will consider other options.

### **B. Violence Brochure**

Commissioner Lindley reported that the January issue of Washington Woman included an article excerpted from the *Let's Talk About Violence in Relationships* brochure. However, the article did not mention the Commission for Women, or the brochure until well into the article (on the third page of the article). The CFW expressed concern that readers would not realize that the information contained in the article came directly from a CFW publication and that the publication is available in six languages at the CFW and on its website. Staff raised these concerns with the Editor of Washington Woman and was assured that the March magazine will include details about the availability of the brochure, as well as an article about CFW's recently updated *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* brochure.

### **C. Washington Area Women's Foundation**

A meeting was scheduled today at the Washington Area Women's Foundation with other CFW's in the area; however, inclement weather forced the cancellation of the event.

### **D. Meeting with County Executive**

The Commission for Women's annual meeting with County Executive Leggett that was to take place following the CFW meeting this evening, was cancelled due to weather. The meeting was rescheduled to February 25 at 9 p.m.

## **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) Hall of Fame**

In September 2008, MCCFW resubmitted into nomination the names of the three women submitted in 2007 but not selected: Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, Margaret Chase Smith, and Barbara Fritchie. Staff received word from the MCW that the three nominations were not selected this year.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to report.

## V. STAFF REPORT

### A. Annual Report

The FY08 Annual Report is complete. Staff's goal is to have it published and in the commissioners' hands by the February 25, 2009 meeting.

### B. FY10 Budget

All County departments were instructed to submit reduced budgets for FY10. MCCFW staff met with the Office of Management and Budget staff on January 27.

### C. Women's Heart Health Fair

The Sister to Sister Foundation is sponsoring the Women's Heart Health Fair on February 6, 2009 at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. In the past, the County served as a sponsor and this year, CFW helped to publicize the event

### D. Boards/Commissions/Committees Reimbursement Forms

Forms for commissioner expense reimbursements for the period October 2008 through January 2009 were distributed in the meeting packets. Commissioners were asked to complete and return the forms to Administrative Specialist Rodgers.

### E. Montgomery County departments were invited to take part in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend of Service and Sacrifice (January 16-20, 2009). The campaign "Yes Montgomery Can!" encouraged residents to help the County's neediest families and individuals. MCCFW commissioners, staff and volunteers collected 190 pounds of food to donate to the Manna Food Center.

### F. Chinese Women's Delegation

On February 17, MCCFW will host a Chinese women's leadership delegation from Henan Province. The delegation will visit CFW from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon, and commissioners are invited to participate.

Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo discovered that the County has a publication listing all of its services, in Chinese. Staff will extend an invitation to former Commissioner Lily Qi, who is the Community Liaison with the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships.

### G. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

NACW will hold its annual Board of Directors meeting at CFW on April 23-24. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather serves as an associate board member to NACW.

NACW has cancelled the 2009 annual conference that was scheduled to take place in Arlington, Virginia.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL) .....Lichter

First Vice President Lichter reviewed the list of bills proposed by the PAL Committee as CFW’s 2009 legislative agenda. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Samuels and duly seconded by Commissioner Lindley, the CFW legislative agenda for 2009 was unanimously approved and the PAL Committee was authorized to make additions to the agenda, or changes to the ranking of its bills as necessary during the Maryland General Assembly 2009. Such changes should be brought to the next CFW meeting for ratification. The list is attached hereto and made a record to the Minutes.

Women’s Legislative Briefing .....Atterbeary

Over 700 people attended the Women’s Legislative Briefing on Sunday, January 25, 2009. All feedback to date has been excellent. Commissioner Atterbeary said that attendees seemed to love the new location at the University of Maryland’s Shady Grove Campus. All of the speakers were great and there was fantastic feedback on Congresswoman Donna Edward’s keynote address.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather congratulated Ms. Atterbeary on chairing a successful event, and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo, for organizing the Briefing. Ms. Vaughan-Prather also thanked her other staff, Administrative Specialist Rodgers and Program Specialist Goldfine, who she said, were also instrumental in carrying out the event.

B. Mothers and Poverty (MAP) .....Osias

The MAP Committee held a conference call on January 13 to discuss the policy direction resulting from the committee’s research and to take into consideration development of its policy recommendations. The Committee’s next meeting is on February 11. The goal is to have the Action Agenda ready for publication in May 2009.

C. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin).....Lindley

The IWin Committee met earlier and is still working on the Divorce Handbook. Budget cuts have eliminated the funds set aside for the planned translation of the handbook into six languages. Commissioner Lindley and her mother have volunteered to translate it into Spanish.

Program Specialist Goldfine has developed labels that will be used to update the Domestic Workers Employment Guide to reflect the new law recently passed by

the County Council. Commissioner Samuels recommended that the guide be sent to national women's organizations in the region.

**VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

- A. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC).....Levy

The DVCC's Education and Outreach Committee has brochures and posters publicizing the soon-to-open Family Justice Center. The Center is on schedule to open in April. Commissioner Levy will ensure that CFW's brochures are there.

A press conference will be held on February 5 in the County Executive's Office where Commissioner Levy, who is President of the Family Justice Center's Board of Directors, will receive a \$60,000 check from Verizon for the Center. The donation will be used to purchase video conferencing equipment for judicial proceedings.

The Family Justice Center is now considered a "best practice" and this is the first such center in the state of Maryland. The County's budget for the center is \$750,000 for the lease of the facility and the Board of Directors is determined to raise \$250,000 for its operation.

- B. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women .....Lichter

MLAW held its annual briefing last week. It was well attended by constituents and legislators, including Senate President Mike Miller. The next MLAW meeting is on February 9.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Centro Familia is holding its 2nd Annual International Women's Day celebration on March 8, 2009 at The Willow Tree Inn located in Montgomery Village. Information was distributed in the meeting packet.
- B. The Maryland Commission for Women is seeking nominations for the 2009 Women of Tomorrow Awards. Information was distributed in the meeting packet.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Montgomery County Commission for Women**