

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

**401 Hungerford Drive, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 25, 2010**

**7:08 p.m.**

**ATTENDING**

Leila Aridi Afas  
Noha A. Bakr  
Miriam J. Carter  
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin  
Chandra Walker Holloway  
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent  
Nick Martinez  
Leticia Mederos  
Larniece McKoy Moore  
Manar S. Morales  
Jocelyn Samuels  
Jane C. Smith

**STAFF**

Ruby V. Marcelo  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

**ABSENT**

Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Ivonne C. Lindley  
Wilma Holmes

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**I. CALL TO ORDER .....President Lichter Vincent**

President Lichter Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She noted that August 26, 2010 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution granting women’s right to vote. This 90th Anniversary offers a special opportunity to pay tribute to their courage, determination, and tenacity and to the lasting achievement of those who fought so hard to win this most basic right.

Appreciation was expressed to Commissioner McKoy Moore who arranged the commissioners’ dinner for the meeting.

## **II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

President Lichter welcomed new Commissioners Noha Bakr, Miriam Carter, and Nick Martinez. The three were appointed by the County Executive on June 23 and confirmed by the County Council on July 13. In addition, Commissioners Lindley and McKoy Moore were each reappointed by the County Executive to serve a second three-year term on MCCFW. Those commissioners in attendance introduced themselves to the new commissioners.

## **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Morales, the Agenda was approved as presented.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McKoy Moore and seconded by Commissioner Samuels, the Minutes of the June 30, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Sexualization of Girls**

Background of Issue - In 2008, at the request of the Montgomery County National Organization of Women, the MCCFW reviewed a report issued by the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. The Task Force was formed to examine the prevalence of sexualization in our culture and the negative consequences it has on girls and society as a whole. MCCFW commended APA on its report and recommended that it consider developing two tool kits—one for parents and another for elementary school faculty. MCCFW recommended that the tool kits be designed for elementary schools since the APA report indicated that girls as young as five are subject to the societal forces that contribute to sexualization.

Recently, the MCPS Board gave its approval for the school system to enter into a contract with Pearson, an education publisher, to develop an elementary school curriculum that will be sold around the world. MC NOW representatives want to make certain that Pearson includes the three educational recommendations suggested in the APA Sexualization of Girls report.

MCCFW was asked to meet with MC NOW to discuss this issue. For MCCFW, the meeting will be an opportunity to hear MC NOW's concerns and to gather some insight and information from those involved in the development of the new curriculum. This meeting has been scheduled to take place on September 22, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the CFW offices. President Lichter, Commissioner Holmes, and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather are planning to attend. Commissioner Holmes has also invited representatives of the MCPS staff who specialize in curriculum development, and a representative from Pearson. If there are other commissioners interested in attending the meeting, please let Ms. Vaughan-Prather know.

B. 2011 Women’s Legislative Briefing Leadership

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that Commissioner Atterbeary is willing to continue to serve as Chair of the Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB). The WLB takes place on January 30, 2011 which will be the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the event. Commissioners expressed appreciation for Ms. Atterbeary’s continued leadership.

C. Planning Meeting Schedule

The MCCFW will hold its annual planning meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2010. The CFW Executive Committee will meet on September 15th to plan the agenda for the meeting.

D. CFW Vice Presidential Elections

Intent to Run forms for the Office of First and Second Vice Presidents were distributed with the meeting agenda packet. The forms were due by August 25. Intent forms were received nominating Commissioner Holmes and Commissioner Aridi Afas to the office of First Vice President. The election will be held during the September 29, 2010 meeting.

E. Women’s Law Center Award Delegate Dumais

The Women’s Law Center of Maryland has selected Delegate Kathleen Dumais to receive its Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award. The Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of women’s rights. The award was named in memory of Dorothy Beatty in 1986, one of the first members of the Women’s Law Center and a Board member for many years. MCCFW recipients of this prestigious award include former Commissioners Wendy Kahn in 2006, Sharon Grosfeld in 1997, and Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather in 2005.

The Awards Ceremony takes place on October 27, 2010, which is the same evening as the MCCFW meeting. Commissioner Cryor Baldwin moved that a letter of congratulations be sent to Delegate Dumais; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Morales and unanimously passed.

**V. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather**

A. New Offices / Counseling Center

The Commission for Women has settled into its new office space. Staff has reported problems with insect infestations, and on rainy days, water leakages come to the first floor surfaces in certain areas of the office and in the building. The County has followed up on these concerns and has been responsive in addressing the problems.

The number of clients seen by the CFW Counseling Center has decreased, but with the loss of three full-time staff members, this drop is not surprising. Beginning early September, the employee parking garage will be out of service for a year so that necessary structural repairs can take place.

B. Summer Computer Camps.....Rodgers

The MCCFW awarded scholarships for fifteen girls to attend the 2010 summer computer camps on Montgomery College’s campuses. Only 10 girls actually attended the camps. Some girls were unable to attend an alternate date camp when the July 19th Computer Programming for Middle School Girls camp was cancelled due to low enrollment. Some girls typically are “no shows” for camps which they were awarded scholarships to attend. Staff and the commissioners might want to consider other ideas for using the donated funds to help women/girls excel in the field of information technology at the post-secondary level.

C. Montgomery College “Inspiring Women” Program

Montgomery College’s Office of Equity and Diversity, in collaboration with the Women Studies Program, invited Executive Director Vaughan-Prather to participate in a panel discussion on “Inspiring Women, Telling our Stories.” The second panel in the series will focus on “Single Parenting — The Balancing Act: Home, Work and School” and takes place November 3, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. at the Rockville Campus Theatre Arts Arena. Commissioner Morales offered to serve on the panel, as well.

**VI. CONFERENCE WRAP-UP. ....Aridi Afas**

Conference Chair Aridi Afas reported on the 2010 National Association of Commission for Women conference hosted by the MCCFW July 22-25, 2010. A draft detailed report with conference highlights, outcomes, challenges and finances was shared with commissioners.

At least 170 people participated, representing 40 Commissions for Women from 29 different states. Twenty-five persons attended the July 24, 2010 Leadership Conference. There were four plenary sessions with keynote speakers and nine seminars featured 24 panelists representing some of the nation’s most prominent women’s and human rights organizations.

The July 23rd briefing held at the Old Executive Office Building on the White House Council on Women and Girls and the briefing at the Capitol on Women’s Issues in Congress were both outstanding and attendees were very impressed and appreciative of the opportunities to hear from federal officials.

The overall evaluation of the conference by attendees was that it was excellent. Many said that as a result of attending the conference, they were more likely to contact officials to voice concerns and that the sessions provided information enabling them to advocate on legislative issues affecting women.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather expressed her appreciation to her staff, Legislative and Budget Specialist Ruby Marcelo and Administrative Specialist Paula Rodgers for the hard work, attention to details, and the many extra hours they put in to making the Conference a success; especially in light of the department's having to move only one month prior to the conference.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather also commended Ms. Marcelo on her excellent handling of the conference budget; her expert oversight and diligence resulted in significant cost savings for NACW. NACW Office Services Coordinator Gersenda Varisco was also commended for her graphic arts work, very hard work, and overall assistance planning for and during the conference.

Some of the Commissioners provided feedback on the conference:

Commissioner Samuels said that she thought that the conference was terrific and that there was a lot of energy and a "ripple" effect throughout the women in attendance who recommitted to NACW's policy agenda. Commissioner Samuels also said that Commissioner Aridi Afas did an extraordinary job as chairwoman of the planning committee.

Commissioner Martinez said that he was very impressed by the briefings on Capitol Hill; that the information presented was incredibly informative and the attendees really seemed to be receptive of the information

President Lichter Vincent commented how all the workshops focused on issues or working effectively as commissions; she said that the conference was a great model of how effective commissions for women can work together.

President Lichter Vincent also expressed her appreciation to the commissioners who donated money to help sponsor the July 22 Welcome Reception for conference attendees.

Commissioner Mederos, moderator of the "Effective Advocacy Skills & Strategies" workshop, and the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, said that she noted to Congresswoman DeLauro that the commissioners in attendance felt that learning how to effectively advocate issues before their federal legislatures was important.

Commissioner Carter said that she was very impressed by the conference and that because of the energy and excitement of the group, she was even more excited about her appointment to the MCCFW.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was appointed to the Board of Directors as the NACW Policy Chair, and she will be sending out NACW's Policy Alerts. Staff will make sure that the new commissioners are on the distribution list.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Hospital Issues

Last spring, CFW was informed that Holy Cross Hospital entered into a cooperative agreement with Montgomery College to build a hospital facility on the Germantown Campus. However, concern had been expressed by some in the community that Holy Cross, as a Catholic hospital, could not provide the full range of reproductive healthcare services for women who need them, nor the relevant education and training to the nursing students.

The Washington Adventist Hospital also applied for a Certificate of Need to build in Clarksburg and the Maryland Health Care Commission agreed to review its application at the same time it considered the Holy Cross application. Given the demographics of the Upcounty region, it is likely that only one hospital would be built in that area.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was contacted about the issue just prior to the NACW Conference by a former MCCFW President; however, the timing and MCCFW’s workload precluded any action on this issue.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. 2011 Choose Respect Teen Conference Co-Sponsorship.....Marcelo

Following a very successful and well-attended conference in October 2009, Judge Marielsa Bernard is planning the second annual “Choose Respect” conference to take place in April or May of 2011. The event focuses on healthy teen dating relationships. Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo has been involved in the planning meetings for the conference and Commissioners Atterbeary and Walker Holloway serve on the Teen Dating and Violence Prevention Taskforce. The first planning meeting for next year’s event is on September 23, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Walker Holloway said that she will coordinate with Ms. Marcelo, CFW’s representation at the meetings.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Ain’t I A Woman Event

The National Archives Experience is presenting a panel discussion on the women’s suffrage movement and its lasting impact on race and gender in the United States. The event will be on August 26, 2010 at the William G. McGowan Theater in Washington, D.C.

B. County Attendance Policy for Boards/Commissions/Committees

County law specifies that any commissioner who is absent for more than three meetings in a twelve-month period has resigned. There are some commissioners who are close to this limit. Staff will email those commissioners an attendance record.

C. Commissioner Cryor Baldwin informed commissioners that, sadly, Bernadette Loftus' husband recently passed away unexpectedly. Dr. Loftus, Associate Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic States for Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, served as a Keynote Speaker at the July NACW Conference. Kaiser Permanente was the Lead Sponsor of the Conference. CFW will send a letter of condolence to Dr. Loftus.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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