

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2010

7:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Chandra Walker Holloway
Wilma K. Holmes
Ivonne C. Lindley
Leticia Mederos
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar S. Morales
Regina L. Oldak
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels
Jane Smith
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent

STAFF

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

ABSENT

Vanessa E. Atterbearly
Resa Levy

GUEST

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director
for Congresswoman Edwards

I. CALL TO ORDER-APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.....2nd Vice President Lindley

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by 2nd Vice President Lindley who said that President Lichter Vincent would arrive later.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather noted an additional agenda item under the Staff Report. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Walker Holloway and unanimously passed, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner McKoy Moore and seconded by Commissioner Morales, the Minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. BUSINESS MEETING2nd Vice President Lindley

A. Meeting with County Executive

The MCCFW’s annual briefing with County Executive Leggett will be February 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. This is the opportunity for CFW’s Executive Committee to describe projects being worked on during the fiscal year. The Executive Committee will first meet at the CFW offices at 5:45 p.m.

B. 2010 Women’s Legislative Briefing

On January 31, 2010, CFW hosted a very successful 30th Annual Women’s Legislative Briefing despite a serious snow storm the day before. Approximately 650 persons braved the weather and icy roads to attend the Briefing. Keynote Speaker Lilly Ledbetter as well as the other speakers and presenters were wonderful and well received. Thanks to all of the commissioners who came and worked on the Briefing. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather expressed special appreciation to her staff for all of their hard work. A February 5, 2010 Gazette article reported on Senator Barbara Mikulski’s remarks made at the WLB opening ceremony.

Commissioner Cryor Baldwin thanked the MCCFW for dedicating the Briefing to the memory of her mother, Jean Cryor, a former state delegate who was not only a champion of women’s rights and a supporter of CFW’s legislative initiatives, but also a favorite speaker at the Women’s Legislative Briefings for many years.

(President Lichter arrived, thanked Vice President Lindley and presided over the remainder of the meeting)

C. CFW 2010 Legislative Agenda

A copy of MCCFW’s 2010 Legislative Agenda was distributed to commissioners in the agenda packet. The chart delineated the proposed legislative priorities and the CFW position and the level of proposed CFW activity for each bill. Commissioners were reminded that CFW’s commitment to most of the legislation is tied to the Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action report and they were encouraged to be involved in writing and delivering testimony. President Lichter will be testifying for MCCFW on the Earned Income Tax Credit bill on February 25. Commissioner Morales said that on March 3, she will be testifying on behalf of WorkLife Law on the Family Responsibilities Discrimination Act.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Aridi Afas, seconded by Commissioner Samuels, the MCCFW 2010 Legislative Agenda was approved.

D. Letter to Commission on Judicial Disabilities

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather received a phone call from staff of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities commending the MCCFW’s well written letter to the Commission expressing concern about the presiding judge’s insensitive comments made in a rape case involving local high school students.

E. New Director of U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau

Sara Manzano Diaz was appointed as the new director of the Department of Labor Women’s Bureau. Commissioner Samuels moved that MCCFW send a letter of congratulations; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oldak and unanimously approved.

F. CFW Recruitment

Five commissioners’ terms will be expiring in June. Commissioners Levy and Oldak, having served two full terms, are not eligible for reappointment. Commissioners Lindley, McKoy Moore, and Rai are eligible for reappointment and were asked to inform Executive Director Vaughan-Prather if they are interested in continuing to serve. If so, they should submit a letter to the County Executive requesting reappointment. An Interview Committee will be appointed at the March CFW meeting.

III. STAFF REPORTVaughan-Prather

A. Budget and Staffing

Montgomery County is continuing to face serious budget challenges not only for this fiscal year, but also for Fiscal Year 2011. Due to the second round of FY10 budget cuts, MCCFW is losing two full-time positions occupied by valued, long time employees. Their last day at MCCFW is March 26, 2010. On March 15, the County Executive will release his recommended operating budget for FY11.

B. NACW Staffing

Office Coordinator, Gersenda Varisco, who was hired in January to assist with NACW’s work, will have to resign due to family issues. NACW will again be seeking someone to work 16 hours per week at \$13 per hour. Please contact Executive Director Vaughan-Prather if you know someone who might be interested in the job.

C. 2010 Summer Computer Camp Scholarships

Montgomery College will offer 2-week computer camps this summer and has again agreed to offer MCCFW scholarships for nine girls (three per camp) with MCCFW paying the \$75 fee for each girl. CFW has some Restricted Donation funds and could pay for these 9 scholarships plus an additional 4 girls and possibly purchase T-shirts for each camper. The commissioners agreed that this was a good idea.

D. Women’s History Month Speaker Request

Montgomery College is sponsoring a Women’s History Month panel discussion “*In Their Own Voices*” on March 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. The panelists will present their personal story and the Montgomery County CFW was invited to participate to describe current issues the County is addressing. Commissioner Holmes agreed to serve on the panel. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will let the College know.

IV. LIAISON REPORT

A. Montgomery County Reproductive Health, Advocacy and Education Work Group

Commissioner Oldak reported that on February 4, 2010 County Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg’s Reproductive Health, Advocacy, and Education Work Group, released a January 25, 2010 report “*Reproductive Health Services in Montgomery County.*” Commissioners Cryor Baldwin and Oldak represented the MCCFW on the Workgroup.

The Report highlights the significant racial, ethnic and income disparities with respect to need for reproductive health services in the County. The basic findings of the report showed that there are over 30,000 women in the County in need of reproductive health services, yet since 1995, there has been a steady decrease in these health clinics and only one-third of women are actually being served. Some of the recommendations in the Report were that family planning sites need to be expanded; attention needs to be refocused on teen pregnancies; outreach was needed into specific communities; and that family planning providers need to be culturally competent. A full copy of the report can be viewed at http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/mem/trachtenberg_d/PDF/mocoreprohealthreport.pdf.

V. NACW CONFERENCE AGENDA PLANNINGAridi Afas

A. Overview of Conference Plans

Now that the Women’s Legislative Briefing is over, staff and commissioners can put all of their focus on the NACW Conference; CFW’s priority project. Commissioner Leila reported on the following:

B. Fundraising

Much appreciation was expressed to Commissioners Cryor Baldwin and Levy for reaching out to representatives of Kaiser Permanente, who graciously agreed to be the Lead Conference Sponsor.

Commissioners were given copies of a conference development list with a list of sponsors that were suggested by commissioners, but where there has been no known follow-up action taken.

The second phase of the fundraiser drive will be to obtain sponsors for conference materials such as tote bags, conference notebooks, etc. Commissioners are asked to help identify sponsors for these materials.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and former CFW President Pat Cornish met with a representative of Edward Jones Investment Firm who is interested in supporting the conference.

C. Federal Issues Briefing Plans

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather has been in communication with Jenny Yaeger Kaplan at the White House Council on Women and Girls on the possibility of a briefing for the NACW conferees. Staff has also corresponded with Congresswoman Donna Edwards' staff about their help in coordinating a briefing at the Capitol.

D. Concurrent Session Planning

The CAP Committee received recommendations from NACW and developed recommendations for concurrent session (workshops). The committee decided on three tracks:

1. Women in the Economy - to focus on work/family issues, women, girls and technology, and women in poverty)
2. Challenges Women Face – to focus on immigrant women's issues; older women's issues and domestic violence
3. CFW Operations – to focus on survival strategies, effective advocacy and leadership training.

Some of the commissioners volunteered to serve as facilitators for the planned sessions. Each session will run one and a half hours. The commissioner who is responsible for a session will be asked to coordinate that workshop. The CAP Committee will identify the speakers and make the invitation and confirmation. The facilitators will contact the panelists and speakers, coordinate their presentations, get their "bios" and AV needs, greet the speakers at the conference, serve as moderator, etc.

E. Keynote Speakers

There are about seven opportunities for keynote speakers. Some potential speakers are tied to conference sponsorship. These speakers will be determined by the CAP Committee, with input from the full Commission.

F. Exhibits and Vendors

One idea considered by the CAP Committee is to have an on-site venue for exhibits and vendors. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be meeting with Kate Campbell Stevenson, Chair of the Board of Directors for Empowered Women International (EWI), to discuss the possibility of a “marketplace” at the conference for selling items made by the EWI participants.

G. SWAG

Commissioner Lindley is handling SWAG for the conference tote bags and will report at the March 24, 2010 CFW meeting.

H. Tasks to Accomplish Between Now and the March CFW Meeting

1. Continue fundraising – target small donors for specific conference items – Commissioners are asked to update Commissioner Levy on their conference sponsor outreach efforts. Please copy Commissioner Aridi Afas and Administrative Specialist Rodgers on any correspondence regarding sponsorship outreach.
2. Finalize the Call to Conference packet – Staff is planning to send the Call to Conference registration packet out within the next few weeks.
3. Identify workshop session titles and speakers – Concurrent Session tracks and workshop subjects have been identified. Specific workshop titles will be determined and commissioners responsible for those workshops will be emailed.

Commissioner Samuels suggested that one topic focus on what’s going on in Washington—from a policy standpoint.

Commissioner Aridi Afas asked if staff could conduct a survey (e.g., using the on-line program “Survey Monkey”) in order to get an idea from the NACW membership as to who is planning to attend the conference.

I. Timeline for Conference Planning

1. March – Identify workshop topics; assign commissioner to each workshop; continue fundraising push
2. April – Send out speaker invitations, workshop presenter invitations; open registration;
3. May – Confirm speakers, workshop presenters; collect SWAG, confirm sponsors;

4. June – Finalize program and signage – send to printer; order conference bags and speaker gifts; finalize catering orders at hotel; finalize field trip plans; confirm registration desk attendants; confirm commissioners' responsibilities on-site.
5. July – Close registration; confirm participants; prepare conference binders and bags; brief speakers and workshop presenters via conference call; finalize welcome reception logistics; final prep meeting with commissioners.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

President Lichter and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will attend the Maryland Commission for Women's Hall of Fame ceremony on March 18, 2010 in Annapolis, to introduce CFW's nominee Irene Morgan Kirkaldy who will be inducted. (*See January 27, 2010 Minutes*). The 25th Anniversary Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony will honor the memory of former State Delegate Jean Cryor who passed away in 2009.

- ### **B. Baby gifts were presented to Commissioner Aridi Afas by commissioners and staff to welcome her soon to be born son. Commissioner Aridi Afas thanked everyone and said that she will keep everyone updated when her baby is born.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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