

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2010

7:11 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Noha A. Bakr
Miriam J. Carter
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Chandra Walker Holloway
Wilma K. Holmes
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent
Ivonne C. Lindley
Nick Martinez
Leticia Mederos
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar S. Morales
Jane C. Smith

STAFF

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

ABSENT

Jocelyn Samuels

GUEST

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director
for Congresswoman Donna Edwards

I. CALL TO ORDERPresident Lichter Vincent

President Lichter Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Appreciation was expressed to Commissioner Cryor Baldwin who arranged the commissioners' dinner for the meeting. Commissioner Holmes was also thanked for suggesting the Sisters' Sandwiches and Such restaurant. Staff put together and distributed to commissioners a list of possible resources for easily and conveniently ordering future dinners for the CFW.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. BUSINESS MEETING

A. Congresswoman Edwards' Meeting on Re-entry Programs

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was invited to participate in a meeting hosted by Congresswoman Edwards to discuss assistance to ex-offenders in their re-entry process. Approximately 50 representatives from groups throughout the Metropolitan area took part in the November 10th meeting. There is a stigma attached to these citizens who are returning to society, and unfortunately, society is not very forgiving. It is especially difficult on women ex-offenders who have been separated from their children. Future meetings will be planned.

B. Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Award

The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) will present its Community Service Award to former Commissioner Resa Levy at its 10th Anniversary Tribute program on November 21, 2010. Mrs. Levy is also the President of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation.

C. Women Legislators Annual Opening Reception

The Women Legislators of Maryland is holding its annual Opening Reception on January 11, 2011 at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis. The MCCFW was invited to attend but will be unable to do so because of budget cuts.

D. Portrait Project Briefing Request

The Washington Area Women's Foundation (WAWF) released an updated report on the status of women and girls: *Portrait Project 2010* and is in the process of issuing the report to the community and engaging in discussions of the reports' findings. Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat, Vice President of Programs for WAWF, has agreed to participate in the Women and Poverty workshop at the January 30, 2011 Women's Legislative Briefing where she can discuss the report's findings.

E. February-March 2011 CFW Meeting Schedule

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be out of the country at the time of the February 23, 2011 CFW meeting and the Executive Committee recommended moving that meeting to March 2 and holding the March Executive Committee Meeting on March 16. The March 23 CFW meeting will not take place in order to allow for commissioners to participate in the March 31, 2011 Women's Bureau National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility, which the MCCFW is coordinating.

F. Montgomery College STEM Scholarships

A letter of intent was sent informing Montgomery College that MCCFW will fund on a one-time basis, three scholarships in the amount of \$600 each to female students in the STEM field. The money will come from funds that were donated to the MCCFW for the purpose of encouraging women and girls to study Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

G. Newsletter

The next MCCFW Newsletter will be published in December.

H. Maryland Women’s Conference

Former member of the Frederick County CFW, Darby Jones is co-chairing the second annual Maryland Women’s Conference on November 19, 2010 in Frederick, MD. The mission of the conference is to provide knowledge and skills that positively impact the financial future and quality of life for women and families in Maryland. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather talked with Ms. Jones and said that MCCFW might be interested in helping with next year’s conference.

IV. WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING.....Atterbeary

A. To date, there are 70 co-sponsoring organizations. Registration is now open and participants can register on-line. Attendees will pay \$15 to register and \$20 at the door.

B. The WLB Program Committee met earlier in the evening and decided on seven workshops: Effective Advocacy, Getting Women into Elective and Appointive Office; Older Women’s Issues; Healthcare; Women in the Workplace, Women and Violence, and Women and Poverty. Staff will be soliciting ideas for workshop speakers from commissioners.

C. U.S. DOL Women’s Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Diaz, the Opening Keynote speaker and Dr. DeRionne Pollard, the new President of Montgomery College, who will give the closing keynote, are now both confirmed.

D. There will be a pre-briefing networking session for presidents of the co-sponsoring organizations.

V. POLICY AND LEGISLATIONLichter Vincent

A. The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Annual Fall Conference takes place on November 20, 2010 at the Montgomery County Education Association in Rockville. President Lichter Vincent, Commissioner Walker Holloway, and Legislative/Budget Specialist Ruby Marcelo will attend the conference. President Lichter Vincent is one of the panelists on navigating the legislative process. Immediately following the conference, there is a special workshop on advocacy.

- B. Maryland Delegate Sue Kullen, from Calvert County who was active with MLAW, was defeated in the November election.
- C. Last year, legislation passed reforming unemployment insurance. This year, it is hoped that legislation will be proposed to keep people who have to leave work due to domestic violence (e.g., having to relocate their residence) from being automatically disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance. President Lichter Vincent invited commissioners to submit to her any ideas for possible sponsors to propose this legislation.

VI. WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY CONFERENCE.....Morales

- A. On November 9, 2010, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and her staff conducted a site visit to the Silver Spring Civic Center. The facility is beautiful and has more than adequate space for the conference plenary and breakout sessions. The Center is also close to the Metro and a parking garage is directly across the street. There is AV equipment on site, but staff will have to arrange for video taping of the conference.
- B. Commissioner Morales reported that she spoke to Joan Williams (Director of the Center for Work Life Law) about reporting on research on local low income wage earners in the hotel/tourism industry. Commissioner Morales will also develop a list of workshop speakers. Since the MCCFW doesn't meet until January 26, 2011, the Workplace Flexibility Conference planning committee was given approval to develop the speakers list.
- C. The Montgomery County Office of Economic Development will be invited to work with MCCFW on conference publicity and invitations. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will also invite Ramona Fullman, Executive Director of the Delaware CFW to participate and invitations will also be extended to other CFWs in Region III.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. NACW
 - 1. Mary Molina Mescall, Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women (NMCSW), was elected president of NACW in July and the NACW office was moved to the NMCSW. The Executive Director of the NMCSW is appointed by the Governor of New Mexico. With a new Governor being elected on November 2, the Executive Director's position could be in jeopardy and the NACW office might have to be relocated to another CFW.
 - 2. The Phoenix, Arizona CFW expressed an interest in hosting NACW's 2011 National Conference.

- B. Teen Dating and Violence Prevention Taskforce.....Holloway Walker / Atterbeary

Planning meetings are underway for the second annual "Choose Respect" teen dating conference. The next meeting date is December 6, 2010.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Commissioner Morales and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather participated in a panel discussion on single parents that was hosted by the Montgomery College Office of Diversity. Commissioner Morales gave a presentation on the Mothers and Poverty Report and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather spoke about the services and programs offered by the MCCFW's Counseling Center.
- B. Commissioner Holmes announced that the Executive's Ball for the Benefit of the Arts and Humanities takes place on December 5, 2010. Tickets and group sponsorships are available. This year's theme is "Stepping Out." Proceeds from the Ball support arts programs in Montgomery County.
- C. Commissioner Morales reported that D.C. Urban Moms ran an advertisement for a job in Silver Spring and listed the requirement that applicants not have child care and school pick up issues. This requirement is contrary to the family discrimination laws of Montgomery County. Commissioner Morales said that the Center for Work Life Law posted the issue as an Internet blog and there was such a public outcry, that the job requirement was changed.
- D. Commissioner Mederos reported that the Paycheck Fairness Act failed to pass Senate by a vote of 48 to 50. Given the results of the November 2 election, this was probably the last chance for this bill until 2012.
- E. President Lichter Vincent announced that she is pregnant; the baby is due in April 2011.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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