

**Montgomery County Commission for Women  
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850**

**Summary of Discussion**

**May 22, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Attending:**

Chandra Walker Holloway, President  
Maria Montserrat Alvarado  
Lorna Forde  
Catherine Hill  
Nick Martinez  
Barbara Mintz  
Larniece McKoy Moore  
Maliha Ilias  
Colleen Kelly  
Katie Smith

**Absent:**

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin  
Liz Callihan  
Debra Bright Harris  
Wilma Holmes  
Manar Morales

**Staff:**

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

**Guest Presenter:**

Melissa Yao, Maryland Rescue and Restore Coalition

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**I. Presentation on Human Trafficking.....Melissa Yao, Executive Director  
Maryland Rescue and Restore Coalition**

Melissa Yao presented on “The anti-trafficking initiative of Samaritan Women”. Human trafficking has become a very profitable business and is considered the second fastest growing criminal business in the world, surpassed only by illicit drugs. There are an estimated 27 million human slaves in the world and Maryland is the third most profitable state in the U.S. for human trafficking, due to its association with so many of the enabling factors such as closeness to Route I95, the gambling venues, big sports arenas, proximity to an international airport and extreme poverty in proximity to great affluence. Ms. Yao stressed that traffickers can be anyone and are almost 50% female while the buyers represent a wide range in income, education and ethnicity. Victims can be of any race or ethnicity and are frequently children who are estranged from a protective social network, and who have been sexually abused. There is a set grooming process which starts with using internet sources such as Facebook, recruiting/seducing by the pimp, followed by harboring or pulling the victim away from his/her protective network, transporting the victim to another location, provisioning to establish control over the victim, and finally ending with obtaining/selling. Ms. Yao also presented a legislative overview pointing to the bills that have passed and those that still need support. One that passed in Maryland is the Asset Forfeiture bill which will make possible that the perpetrators who are caught may forfeit all assets at conviction. A bill that still needs support with the Safe Harbor for Minors Act, because right now, there are no shelters for girls arrested for sex trafficking. Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Susan Lee have been leading the legislative battle to end human sex trafficking in Maryland. We still need

mandatory training for prosecutors, judges and casino workers; increased penalties for buyers, the Safe Harbor Act, and a law that would direct funds developed from the forfeited assets of traffickers go to support services for victims, or even to the victims directly. The Samaritan Women group is a long-term residential and therapeutic program for victims. It is located in South West Baltimore on a 23 acre estate with a capacity to hold 14 beds. First intake was in 2011 and since then the organization has been providing training and academics to women who have been saved from the streets. The Commissioners were very appreciative of and impressed with the presentation.

**II. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes.....President Holloway Walker**

The business meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. The commissioners thanked Commissioner Mintz for providing dinner. The agenda for this evening’s meeting was approved. The minutes of the April CFW meeting were amended for a grammatical error. Commissioner Ilias moved to approve the minutes as amended and Commissioner Mintz seconded. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. Executive Committee Report..... President Holloway Walker**

**A. Meetings with the County Council Members**

At the February meeting, it was decided that the CFW would schedule meetings individually with each member of the County Council. President Holloway Walker, Commissioner Lorna Forde and Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather have met with most of the Council members. A meeting with Valerie Irwin’s Chief-of-Staff is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. Meetings with Council members may be scheduled in fall annually.

**B. New Commissioner Recruitment**

Ten candidates have applied for the two vacant terms this year. The interviewing will be scheduled in early June since the terms start July 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioners Bright Harris, Forde and Hill agreed to serve on the nominations committee.

**C. Commissioner Attendance**

President Holloway Walker stressed the importance for Commissioners to try their best not to miss any meetings. County law provides that three absences means an automatic resignation from the Commission. Commissioner McCoy Moore agreed to draft the letters that will alert any Commissioner who is close to three absences. If there are mitigating circumstances, the Commissioner may write to the County Executive to request a waiver. Commissioner McCoy Moore also drafted the second letter which will inform a Commissioner in the event of a fourth absence within a twelve month period of their resignation from the Commission. Commissioner Mintz moved to approve this process while Commissioner Forde seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

**IV. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather**

**A. Counseling Services Development**

Two part-time Counselors are very busy attending to the large volume of calls attesting the needs for these services.

**B. Update on CFW brochure**

The updating of the brochures is ongoing, working with a contractor to coordinate the update and reprint of four brochures (two in six languages, one in five and one in three) and the CFW’s Guidebook for Surviving the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce. It is hoped that this project will be complete before September.

**C. Budget Update**

No change to report on the budget. The Council approved the Executive’s appropriation of \$140,000 for counseling services in FY 14.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Program Planning Committee.....Mintz/Morales**

Commissioner Martinez conducted a very successful financial literacy seminar on May16. The next seminar is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. when Jamie Lapin will conduct a program on divorce and personal finances. Commissioner Forde’s sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter, co-sponsored these two financial literacy seminars which increased the attendance considerably.

**B. Policy and Legislation Committee.....Smith**

Commissioner Smith distributed a chart of the CFW’s federal legislative activity. The Committee passed a motion recommending the adoption of the ‘Peace Corps Equity Act’. The Commission unanimously passed this motion. Commissioner Alvarado will draft a letter to the National Women’s Law Center for the Commission. The Committee also recommended a motion to oppose the ‘Working Families Flexibility Act’. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**A. Bylaws Review**

The proposed changes to the CFW Bylaws are outlined in the minutes from the April meeting. Commissioners are urged to read page 3 of the April minutes as the CFW will vote on that proposal at the June meeting.

**B. Malala Legislation**

Commissioner Smith volunteered to draft a letter tailored to each Senator outlining the Commission’s support of the Malala legislation.

**VII. New Business**

**A. International Girl’s Rights Day – October 11, 2013**

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

**B. Announcement of the Candidates for CFW President for 2013-2014**

President Holloway Walker has submitted her intent to run for re-election to the office of CFW President. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

**VIII. Liaison Reports**

**A. MLAW.....Smith**

The annual MLAW conference will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore.

**B. Teen Dating Violence Task Force/Choose Respect Conference.....Forde**

Commissioner Forde attended the first conference planning session. A facility was tentatively identified in Takoma Park. The Conference will be held in March 2014.

**C. NACW.....Vaughan-Prather**

Planning is well underway for the annual conference to be held July 23 – 25 in San Jose, CA. As a member of the NACW Board of Directors, Ms. Vaughan-Prather is expected to attend representing the MC CFW.

**IX. Announcements**

Commissioner Hill attended the anniversary commemoration for the Family Justice Center and was impressed by their program.

**X. Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by  
Maliha Ilias, Commissioner

APPROVED: JUNE 26, 2013