

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

Summary of Discussion

April 24, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Chandra Walker Holloway, President
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Elizabeth Callihan
Lorna Forde
Debra Bright Harris
Catherine Hill
Wilma Holmes
Maliha Ilias
Colleen Kelly
Katie Smith

Absent:

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Nick Martinez
Barbara Mintz
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar Morales

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive
Director

Guests:

Jamila Allouane
Esonija' D'Almeida

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTESPresident Walker Holloway

President Walker Holloway called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Callihan moved to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Agenda was unanimously approved as submitted. President Walker Holloway called for approval of the minutes of the March 22nd, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Callihan moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Kelly for hosting the dinner for the evening.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....President Walker Holloway

A. April 4th meeting with County Executive.....Commissioner Morales

Commissioners Morales, Bright Harris, Smith, Mintz, Holmes and Forde met with the County Executive on April 4 at 9 p.m. They presented an overview of the CFW's work this year, and each committee chair explained the initiatives they have undertaken. Commissioner Morales thanked Mr. Leggett for the inclusion of funds in the FY 13 budget for counseling services and stated the CFW's hope that those funds would continue in FY 14. She emphasized the CFW's recommendation for conversion of those temporary part time positions into permanent positions with benefits. The county executive indicated his continuing interest in the CFW's addressing issues of concern to immigrant women, senior women, and teen girls.

B. Meetings with County Council Members

CFW President Walker Holloway and Commissioner Forde have met with County Council members Navarro, Floreen, Elrich, Andrews and Berliner to brief them on the CFW’s activities and urge them to support the FY 14 appropriation. A meeting with Councilman Levanthal is scheduled for tomorrow, and with Councilwoman Ervin on Friday. Council President Navarro urged the CFW to meet with all members of the Council. Councilman Berliner encouraged more regular contact between the CFW and the Council to share the CFW’s legislative priorities as the Council may want to support some of those bills too. He also urged the CFW to send its legislative agenda to the Maryland Attorney General. Councilman Erlich offered to come talk to the CFW regarding his proposal for rent control legislation. President Walker Holloway suggested that the CFW should meet annually with the Council members in the Fall, and encourage all commissioners to be actively involved. The Commission needs to focus on its advocacy role and needs to respond to any new bill that fits its mission.

C. New Commissioner Recruitment

Commissioners McKoy Moore and Kelley will not be returning to the MCCFW for the next term. Therefore, MCCFW will need to recruit at least two new Commissioners. Given the altered budget constraints and the resulting lack of staff, President Walker Holloway stressed the importance of recommending Commissioners who will be able to commit time and effort to the Commission’s work. Commissioners Bright Harris and Mintz have agreed to serve on the candidate interview committee. President Walker Holloway indicated that she would like to serve on that committee as well.

D. CFW Community Outreach Activities

Commissioner Alvarado organized Latina leadership networking event organized by County Council President Navarro. Commissioner Mintz also made a presentation to a senior women’s group at the Randolph Village residential complex.

E. Speaker from May 22nd meeting

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather informed the Commission that at the next meeting on May 22nd we will be hosting a speaker who will present on the topic of human trafficking in Maryland. Commissioners are requested to arrive before 7 p.m. for that meeting.

III. STAFF REPORT.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. Counseling Services Development – Introduction to Counselors

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather introduced the two counselors who have recently been hired to provide counseling services part-time. Ms. Jamila Allouane, the counseling service coordinator, and Ms. Esonija’ D’Almeida introduced themselves to the Commission. Both counselors bring with them extensive experience and expertise and are already engaged in outreach activities for the Commission. For example, Ms. Jamila will be working with the organization WORDE (World Organization for Resource Development and Education) to design and organize a seminar for Muslim mothers on how to talk with their children about events such as the Boston bombings. MCCFW will be offering collaborative, solution-focused, short-term counseling services by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 5 pm at the Commission’s offices. Counseling services will be offered in English, French and Arabic.

- B. CEC/CFW Budget Work Session with County Council Government Operations Committee**
Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended this meeting and reported that overall the Committee was pleased that the CFW had hired the Counselors. Council President and Committee Chair Navarro specifically asked the Executive Director to remind the CFW that the Councilwomen had been instrumental in securing the funding for this much-needed resource.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Vaughan-Prather for Morales and Mintz**
Seminars are scheduled for May 9th, 16th and 23rd. Attorneys Nelson Garcia (in English) and Mariana Cordier (in Spanish) are presenting the two Legal Process of Separation and Divorce seminars on May 9. Commissioner Martinez will be presenting the seminar on financial literacy on the 16th. Jamie Lapin will be presenting the seminar on the impact of divorce on personal finances on May 23rd.
- B. Policy and Legislation Committee.....Smith**
Commissioner Smith distributed charts that expertly laid out the MCCFW’s 2013 State and Federal legislative priorities and activities. The handouts clearly noted all the important dates related to the Commission’s work in regards to each piece of legislation as well as a brief summary and outcome. The Commission commended Commissioner Smith and the members of her committee for all their work.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Bylaws reviewWalker-Holloway**
Commissioner Morales drafted recommended changes to the CFW’s bylaws. The proposed changes have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney’s office. The May meeting will be used for the final review and then the final vote on these bylaws will be held at the June meeting. Certain changes suggested were to change the roles of the first and second vice president. The proposed new language reads:

Section 2. First Vice President - The First Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President. At the request of the Commission, the First Vice President shall be responsible for drafting communications on behalf of the Commission and President. The First Vice President shall also be responsible for any other duties the Commission for Women shall from time to time deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 3. Second Vice President - The Second Vice President shall, in the absence of the President and First Vice President, perform the duties of the President. In addition, the Second Vice President shall be responsible for recording the minutes at all Commission meetings and any other duties the Commission for Women shall from time to time deem necessary and appropriate.

Commissioner Alvarado moved to accept these changes. Commissioner Lorna Forde seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Another suggested change was to alter Article IV, Section 3 and 4 to specify the month in which the CFW officer election processes take place, rather than the length of time between the appointment of new commissioners and the elections, in order to ensure that the elections are not delayed. The new language would read:

Section 3: Nominations for officers shall be by letter of intent. The President shall designate one Commission member to be responsible for establishing the slate of nominees. Intent to run forms for the office of president shall be submitted to each commissioner at or before the April meeting. The forms must be returned to the Commission office at or before the May meeting. The slate of candidates shall be announced at the May meeting. At the May meeting, candidates may be nominated from the floor, with the consent of the nominee. Intent to run forms for the offices of first and second vice presidents shall be submitted to each commissioner at or before the June meeting. The slate of candidates will be announced at the July meeting. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at that time.

Section 4. Elections - The election of the President shall take place annually in June: the election of the First Vice President and Second Vice President shall take place annually at the August meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Alvarado moved that the CFW accept these changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Callihan and passed unanimously. The proposed new bylaws will be resubmitted to the CFW at the May meeting for a final review. The official vote will be taken at the June meeting.

B. Publications on the CFW WebsiteAlvarado

The subcommittee has not had time to review the CFW brochures for necessary updates, including the CFW address, changes in services available, any changes in the contact information for the resources listed in each brochure, etc. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather offered to have the new counselors review each of the four brochures (Employment Rights of Pregnant Women, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Employment Guide for Domestic Workers, and Let’s Talk about Violence in Relationships). She has contacted the MCPS graphic office, where the brochures were designed and published originally. That office has agreed to make the changes at a very reasonable price and to provide electronic copies that can be posted on the CFW website. Commissioner Callihan offered to make those changes, but Vaughan-Prather was concerned about the necessity of getting the job completed as quickly as possible. The task is complicated by the fact that two of the brochures are published in six languages, one in five, another in three. Funds for this project are only available until the end of the fiscal year so it is imperative to conclude this initiative as expeditiously as possible. Commissioner Alvarado has offered to translate any necessary changes in Spanish.

C. Malala Legislation.....Ilias

Commissioner Ilias will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission supporting the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act. Commissioner Smith will send an example to guide Commissioner Ilias.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.....President Walker Holloway

A. International Girls Rights Day – October 11, 2013

Discussion about this item was tabled until next meeting.

B. Maryland CFW Women of Tomorrow Awards.....Commissioner Bright Harris

The MCCFW was invited to help evaluate nominees of 18 young women for the Maryland CFW’s Women of Tomorrow Awards program. The MD CFW was delighted that MC CFW Commissioner

Bright Harris volunteered to serve on the selection committee. She reported that the committee reviewed all the nominations and selected on winner and one honorable mention honoree, based on their academics and leadership. The awards ceremony will be held in June.

C. June Election of CFW President 2013-2014

Intent to run forms for the office of CFW president were distributed in the packets for tonight's meeting. Candidates are asked to complete and submit the form if they would like to nominate themselves for the position. The candidates will be announced at the May meeting, and nominations may be made from the floor at that time. The election for CFW president will be held at the June CFW meeting.

VII. LIASON REPORTS

A. MLAW.....Smith

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. Commissioner Smith has represented the MC CFW on the MLAW Board this past year. Commissioner Holmes moved that the MC CFW nominate Commissioner Smith to represent the Commission at MLAW again this year. The motion which was seconded by Commissioner Hill passed unanimously.

B. Teen Dating Violence Task Force/Choose Respect Conference.....Alvarado

Commissioner Forde will be attending the meeting on May 9th. She will share her notes and the date of the Choose Respect conference with the Commission.

C. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW).....Vaughan-Prather

Commissioner Holmes displayed the beautiful gift basket she created for the MC CFW to donate for auction at the NACW annual national conference this July. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather encouraged all commissioners to join NACW as individual associate members to support the CFWs only national organization.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Walker Holloway thanked all the commissioners for their enthusiastic participation, their openness to new ideas, and their willingness to work so hard. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Maliha Ilias

APPROVED May 22, 2103