

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

Summary of Discussion

July 11, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Chandra Walker Holloway, President
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Barbara Mintz
Maliha Ilias
Katie Smith
Manar Morales
Debra Bright Harris

Absent:

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Lorna Forde
Catherine Hill
Larniece McKoy Moore
Colleen Kelly
Nick Martinez
Elizabeth Callihan
Wilma Holmes

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The agenda for the evening's meeting as well as the June meeting minutes were adopted as presented.

II. Executive Committee Report..... President Holloway Walker

A. New Commissioner Recruitment and Orientation

Since the last meeting, Commissioners Wilma Holmes and Catherine Hill have resigned from the commission, citing the extraordinary qualities of the new candidates and their own on-going schedule conflicts. In addition, Elizabeth Callihan did not complete her request for reappointment, also due to schedule conflicts.

The County Executive has appointed six new Commissioners. Their appointments are scheduled for confirmation by the County Council on July 16. After confirmation, they will be invited to attend the MCCFW August meeting. The appointees are: Linda Amendt (Wheaton); Farah Nageer-Kanthor (Silver Spring); Sheena Collier (Silver Spring); Natalia Farrar (Rockville); Safia Qadri (Silver Spring) and Karmen Rouland (Silver Spring). Commissioners Alvarado and Martinez have been reappointed to serve second terms. The new Commissioner's orientation will take place on August 1st and their first official meeting will be on August 22nd.

B. 2013 Women’s Legislative Briefing

The MCCFW 2013 WLB is scheduled for January 26th at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. Planning meetings will take place at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month starting in September at the White Oak Community Recreation Center in Silver Spring. It was emphasized that the entire Commission should be involved in the planning and implementation of the Briefing. Running Start could be invited to host a session for teen girls.

C. Elections of CFW First and Second Vice Presidents

Nominations for these positions were submitted at the meeting, and elections will be held at the August meeting. Commissioner Debra Bright Harris submitted her intent to run for the office of First Vice President, and Commissioner Maliha Ilias submitted her intent to run for the office of Second Vice President.

D. Change Date of August Meeting to August 22nd

The Commission agreed that, to avoid vacation schedules, the next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22nd.

III. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. Counseling Services Development

Two job offers have been made for the counseling positions. It is hoped that the social worker will be able to start work on July 18th. If all goes well, with these two new employees, the Commission will offer counseling services in five languages: English, Arabic, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

B. Update on CFW brochure

The updating of the brochures will not be complete till August.

C. Annual Report

Most of the Annual Report for the past fiscal year (FY 13) is complete. President Walker Holloway will draft a president’s message to open the report and Commissioner Smith, as the Chair of the Policy and Legislation committee, will draft a section reporting on the CFW’s legislative activity this past year.

D. Policy and Procedures Manual Development

A manual containing information on policies and procedures pertaining to the operation of the Commission and the counseling services is being developed. A small amount of the funds provided in the past fiscal year for counseling services was used to contract with a former volunteer of the CFW’s Counseling Center to develop the manual with all the counseling forms and procedures. This is important for consistency of current functions and also for succession planning and continuity of operations.

E. Travel Schedule

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be attending the NACW conference July 23 - 28 and will be on vacation the first two weeks of August. She will travel to China as part of the Montgomery County Sister City project September 15 - 25. In addition, she will be visiting Bornova, Turkey November 3 - 10, by invitation of the American Councils for International Education, to exchange strategies and best practices on how local governments can address women's issues in their communities.

IV. Committee Reports

A. MD CFW Health Care Reform Act Education Initiative.....Alvarado

It was determined that the County is already conducting many workshops on this matter and so the Committee has decided that the Commission will partner in these efforts rather than duplicate them.

B. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Mintz/Morales

Divorce Law seminars in English have been scheduled for every month through December coupled with a Spanish-language seminar offered every other month. There will also be a special seminar on mediation.

C. Policy and Legislation Committee.....Smith

The CFW was asked by Delegate Ariana Kelly to host an organizational meeting for a Parental Leave Coalition for the state of Maryland. Delegate Kelly introduced a bill last year that would have extended unpaid leave for six weeks to any employee in the state working for a company with 15 – 50 employees. The federal Family and Medical Leave Act provides job protection and unpaid leave for up to 12 weeks following the birth or adoption of a child, but only covers companies with 50 or more employees. Commissioner Smith and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be attend the meeting scheduled on July 30th. Commissioner Morales may also attend.

V. New Business

A. Fredrick County CFW's Maryland Women's Conference

The Fredrick County CFW is organizing a Maryland Women's Conference on October 26th. The theme of the conference is "Jobs, Health, Money: Helping Women Have It All". Sessions include such topics as "10 legal steps every woman should take." They are asking the MCCFW to help advertise the event and possibly have a table at the event. The Commission has decided to help publicize the event, and will send a delegation to the conference.

VI. Liaison Reports

- A. MLAW.....Smith**
The annual MLAW conference is scheduled for October 19th in Baltimore. The theme will be “Women Make the Difference”. Commissioner Smith has been tasked with finding a speaker on how to use social media to run an advocacy campaign. Commissioner Alvarado may be able to speak on this topic.
- B. Teen Dating Violence Task Force/ Choose Respect Conference.....Forde/Alvarado**
The planning meetings for this conference are the second Thursday of every month.
- C. NACW.....Vaughan-Prather**
Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will travel to San Jose, CA for the annual conference of the National Association of Commissions for Women. She is a member of the NACW Board of Directors and is co-chair of its Public Policy and Resolutions Committee. For the past several years, she has used funds donated in the past by NACW to the MC CFW (when Mc CFW was hosting the national office for NACW) to cover the costs of the conference. This cost of this year’s travel will probably expend the last of those funds.

VII. Announcements

- A.** Commissioner Morales is speaking at the National Association of Women Lawyers Conference on July 25th in New York. The topic is “Women Navigating Internally Within Law Firms”.
- B.** Commissioner Morales is the featured speaker at a lunch seminar on “The Status of Women in the Law,” on July 24th at noon at the Washington Area Women’s Foundation.
- C.** Commissioners Smith and Alvarado will attend the Running Start event scheduled for July 13th. Commissioner Morales is speaking at this conference.
- D.** Cornell University is organizing a conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Commissions for Women following the 1961 release of the report of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women appointed by President John F. Kennedy, and chaired by former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Esther Peterson, later to be appointed the first director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau.

VIII. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Maliha Ilias
Commissioner

APPROVED AUGUST 22, 2013