

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

Summary of Discussion

June 26, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Chandra Walker Holloway, President
Maria Montserrat Alvarado
Elizabeth Callihan
Debra Bright Harris
Wilma Holmes
Maliha Ilias
Nick Martinez
Barbara Mintz
Manar Morales
Katie Smith

Absent:

Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Lorna Forde
Catherine Hill
Larniece McKoy Moore
Colleen Kelly

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

Guests:

Calli Lipping
Natalie Harris

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- I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and MinutesPresident Walker Holloway**
The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m. The agenda for the evening's meeting as well as the June meeting minutes were adopted as presented. President Walker Holloway thanked Commissioner Debra Bright Harris for hosting a delicious dinner for the commissioners this evening.
- II. Executive Committee Report..... President Walker Holloway**
- A. Meetings with the County Council Members**
The Commission has met with all County Council members, except Councilmen Rice and Reimer. President Walker Holloway noted again that these meetings should begin with the County Executive and be scheduled in the fall so commissioners may advocate for the CFW budget. She said that the CFW will request that the counseling positions be made permanent positions.
- B. New Commissioner Recruitment**
Commissioners Bright Harris, Forde and Hill interviewed 12 candidates for the 4 openings on the MCCFW. The recommendations have been sent to the County Executive. The executive has made his decisions and they will be made public next week when they will be presented to the Council for approval.

C. MD CFW Health Care Reform Act Education Initiative/Invitation

The MD Commission for Women and the Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform have invited the MCCFW to partner in providing information sessions statewide on the implications of the Health Care Reform Act for women, by hosting a session in Montgomery County. Commissioner Alvarado offered to chair a committee that will work specifically on this project. Commissioner Smith offered to co-chair while Commissioners Mintz and Ilias agreed to serve as members of this Committee. The date of the event is as yet undecided but will probably be in September or October. The MD CFW will provide the institutional expertise but the MC CFW will need to manage the logistics.

Commissioner Morales moved to establish this committee and agree to partner with the MD CFW and the MDWCHC on this initiative. Commissioner Martinez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

D. New Meeting Schedule for FY14

The Commission will be meeting every second Thursday of the month starting July 11th.

E. Annual Planning Meeting

The Annual Planning Meeting will be on September 12th and will start at 6 pm rather than 7 pm. President Holloway Walker requested the Commissioners to start thinking about projects and issues that we would like to prioritize for FY14.

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

A. Counseling Services Development

The MC CFW now has one part-time counselor as the other recently-hired counselor has left the position. Two individuals have been offered the two remaining part-time temporary counseling positions. It is hoped that they will be able to start work here in July.

A letter from the President of the Muslim Community Center (MCC) was directly sent to the President of the County Council requesting that Counselor Jamila Allouane be made available to the MCC’s populace on an as-needed basis. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather is working with Council staff to develop a response.

B. Program for Muslim Mothers at ICC

The International Cultural Center hosted a workshop for Muslim mothers on how to talk to their children about events such as the Boston bombings. The workshop was co-sponsored by MC CFW and our Counselor, Jamila Allouane, conducted the seminar. Commissioner Ilias attended and informed the Commission on its success, applauding Ms. Allouane’s style and the content of the presentation. The workshop was well-attended and very well-received.

C. Update on CFW brochure

The updating of the brochures is ongoing. Edited text has been delivered to the MCPS graphics office. Reprinting will be complete in August.

D. Annual Report

It is time to begin work on the FY 13 annual report. It is hoped that much of the text can be taken from interim reports of the CFW’s activities during this past year. Commissioner Smith, as the Chair of the Policy and Legislation committee, will draft the report of her committee.

E. Foster Care and Human Trafficking

Executive Director Vaughn-Prather recently attended a training offered by the University of Maryland School of Social Work on the relationship between foster care and human trafficking. The training stressed that children in foster care are easy targets for pimps as they often have suffered previous abuse and may be especially vulnerable to recruiting strategies. Traffickers often target teens in foster care, including those who are aging out of care.

A peripheral issue discussed during the training was that foster children are made obvious by the use of plastic trash bags to transport their belongings from one home to another as they often lack suitcases. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather suggested that, for the CFW’s participation in the County’s 2013 Community Service Day, the MC CFW might want to conduct a suitcase drive for foster children.

Discussion followed, with several ideas springing from the conversation: Commissioner Ilias suggested adding human trafficking to the list of sessions in this year’s Legislative Briefing. President Holloway Walker suggested seeking donations from the president of each organization attending the Presidents’ Networking Session at the WLB. Commissioner Morales suggested that asking each co-sponsoring organization to contribute money and request local retailers to provide a discount for each \$10 of donation we bring in.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather offered to check with the county’s Department of Health and Human Services to see if this is a real need in Montgomery County.

IV. Committee Reports

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

In FY 13, the CFW was able to offer 11 seminars: two on Financial Literacy, eight on the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce (four of these were offered in Spanish), and one for Muslim Mothers, with a total attendance of over 200 individuals. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with the representatives of the Bar Association Family Law Division and the Women’s Bar Association and is developing the schedule for the fall. No seminars will be offered over the summer months to give both the attorneys and the staff time to formalize the legal seminar agenda and handout materials.

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

Letters supporting S.120 the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act was sent today to Senators Mikulski and Cardin.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Bylaws Review

Two different versions of the by-laws were presented for review. The second version is one with comments from the County Attorney which were not visible on some versions of MS Word. Commissioner Mintz moved that the MCCFW vote on the version prepared by Commissioner Morales and reviewed previously by the Commission. The Executive Committee will then look over the commented version and make recommendations for any further changes for a vote at the CFW’s November meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Callahan and was carried unanimously.

B. International Girls Rights Day – October 11, 2013

Commissioner Alvarado motioned to not adopt this initiative. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mintz and was passed unanimously.

C. MD CFW Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony

Having participated in the honoree selection process, Commissioner Bright-Harris attended the awards ceremony on June 20th. There were three winners and three honorable mentions. Commissioner Bright-Harris reported that the stories of the winners were both moving and inspirational. Dr. Lillian Lowery, Maryland Superintendent of Schools, presented the keynote address. The Fredrick County CFW has a similar award ceremony.

VI. New Business

A. Latin American Advisory Group Event re: BCC Participation Alvarado

Commissioner Alvarado will represent the CFW at this event on June 27th, providing information on the role and activities of the MC CFW.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. MLAW.....Smith

No updates.

B. Teen dating Violence Task Force/ Choose Respect Conference.....Forde/Alvarado

The meeting dates for this group will conflict with the new MC CFW meeting dates. However this organization meets every other month at 5 p.m.

C. NACW.....Vaughan-Prather

The Conference is scheduled for the end of July. Executive Director Vaughn-Prather has been approved to attend. Funds donated to the CFW through NACW will be used to cover the travel expenses and conference registration.

VIII. Election of New CFW President

There being no nominations on the floor, Commissioner Bright-Harris moved to elect by acclamation Chandra Walker Holloway president of the CFW for a second term. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

IX. Announcements

A. Montgomery College Women’s Leadership Colloquium

Commissioner Smith represented the CFW at the June 7 Women’s Studies Summer Colloquium on Women’s Leadership at Montgomery College’s Germantown Campus.

B. Running Start: Young Women’s Political Summit

Running Start is an organization designed to encourage mre women to seek election to public office. Commissioner Morales is speaking as part of a panel on “Quantifying the Value of Women in Business and Politics” at this conference on July 13th.

C. MC CFW Facebook Page

Commissioner Callahan has created a Facebook page for the CFW and requested the Commissioners to visit the site and “like” it.

X. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Maliha Ilias
Commissioner

APPROVED
July 12, 2013