

APPROVED: September 5, 2012

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

Summary of Discussion

June 26, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Vanessa, Atterbeary, President
Debra Bright Harris
Chandra Walker Holloway
Maliha Ilias
Colleen Kelly
Larniece McKoy Moore
Liz Callihan
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent
Nick Martinez
Wilma Holmes

Leila Aridi Afas
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Maria Montserrat Alvarado

Absent:

Manar Morales
Leticia Mederos

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Consuwella Carrington, Americorps Intern

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

President Atterbeary called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. and called for approval of the agenda and minutes from the May 23 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bright Harris moved, and Commissioner Callihan seconded the motion to approve the minutes and the agenda as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Atterbeary

A. Ratification of Emergency Between Meeting Vote on Proxy Voting

The date of this evening's meeting was changed due to unavoidable schedule conflicts for several commissioners. However, this change meant that two other commissioners would be unable to attend. The CFW presidential election is to be held this evening, and those two commissioners asked to vote via proxy. The CFW bylaws prohibit proxy voting. Therefore, it was proposed that the bylaws be set aside for this one meeting to permit proxy voting by the two commissioners who had notified the CFW office in advance that they would be unable to attend. A poll was taken of the commissioners on this issue, and the result was a unanimous vote in favor of the proposal. That vote must be ratified at tonight's meeting. Commissioner Martinez so moved and Commissioner Callihan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Annual Planning Meeting

The Annual CFW Planning Meeting will be held on September 5, 2012 at 6 p.m. The CFW will not meet July 25. The 40th Anniversary event on July 11 will replace the official meeting for this month.

The objective of the Annual Planning Meeting is to determine the priorities and initiatives for the 2012-2013 year, and to form committees to carry out the CFW's work.

B. MLAW Board of Directors

The Commission for Women has been invited to designate a representative to the board of directors for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). President Atterbeary noted that in some years, two commissioners have shared the responsibility to travel to and from Columbia, MD for meetings. It was decided to wait until the annual planning meeting to decide who will represent the MC CFW on the MLAW board. At that meeting, all the liaison responsibilities will be considered.

C. Maryland CFW

Patricia E. Cornish (who previously served on the Montgomery County Commission for Women for six years and as its president for two consecutive terms) was recently elected Chair of the Maryland Commission for Women.

III. Staff Report.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. CERB

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with the co-chairs of the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) on Tuesday, June 12. The co-chairs asked probing questions about the work of the CFW, but made it clear that the CERB has no agenda other than a fair, unbiased appraisal of each of the county boards, committees and commissions under its purview.

B. Requests for Service

Americorps Intern Carrington reported that from the dates of May 24, 2012 - June 26, 2012, there have a total of 55 requests for assistance. The majority of the calls are in regards to General Counseling, Career Counseling, and Family Counseling. Since July 11, 2011, the staff has responded to a total of 431 calls.

C. Website Updates

There have been recent improvements to the CFW webpage, but the County Government is updating its entire website. Changes include upgrades in layout design, the CFW's newer logo, and also updates on the commissioner biographies, publications, and the Women's History Archives pages.

D. Volunteer Registration Forms/Commissioner Reimbursement

All members of the county's officially appointed boards, committees and commissions are required to submit volunteer registration forms and volunteer driver registration forms. Those forms were distributed to the commissioners this evening. In addition, commissioners may request reimbursement for their travel to and from official CFW meetings and for dependent care expenses incurred while attending those meetings. Those forms were also distributed to the commissioners.

IV. Committee Work

A. Program Planning Leadership Committee.....Kelly/Ilias

Commissioners Kelly and Ilias reported that the Program Planning Committee met on May 31 with the community members who have helped organize the four legal seminars. Although the divorce law seminars were a great success, logistically it is difficult to manage these seminars without adequate funds and staff, especially on a regular basis. Discussion followed regarding coordination of volunteers, creating a task list, the size of the workshops, how often during the year to provide the workshops, and also advertising/outreach to the Spanish-speaking population. The committee will not meet over the summer, but some of its attorney members are reviewing and updating the text of the CFW divorce law handbooks. If it is possible to make the necessary changes, it is likely that the new guidebooks will be posted online, rather than sold at the workshops, to make their information both more accessible and easier to update when necessary. However, if funds permit, some print versions should also be made available.

B. Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Bright Harris/Ilias

Commissioner Ilias and Bright-Harris reported that many good ideas were discussed during the WLB preliminary planning meeting that took place June 14, 2012. The goal of this meeting was to discuss plans for the 2013 event with a few of the key members of the 2012 WLB Planning Committee. Some ideas that were brought to the table include changes in the program format to include a keynote speaker, and possibly themed workshops including a seminar or speaker focusing on coverage of women’s legislative issues in the mainstream broadcast media.

The dates for the WLB Planning Committee meetings, all at the White Oak Library at 7 p.m. , are:

- August 29, 2012
- October 3, 2012
- November 7, 2012
- December 5, 2012
- January 9, 2012
- March 6, 2013

C. 40th Anniversary Committee.....Lichter Vincent/Aridi Afas

Work is well underway for the July 11 40th Anniversary event. Currently there are more than 60 registrants, through Eventbrite.com. Commissioners are encouraged to use the same method to register before July 10, 2012. Organizations are also able to purchase tables of eight, ten, or twelve individuals. Former Commission President and fiber artist extraordinaire Anne Sanderoff-Walker delivered the new quilt to the CFW office for display at the 40th Anniversary. There is still much work to be done in preparation, but it appears that this will be a very nice event with a good attendance.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Appointment of New Commissioners.....Bright Harris/Martinez

On June 5 and 7, Commissioners Bright Harris and Martinez, and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather interviewed 16 candidates for appointment to the CFW. They recommended four to fill the positions of the commissioners whose terms are complete, and two alternates. It is anticipated that the County Executive will send the names of his appointees to the County Council on June 27 and will make the appointments formally on

June 27. The appointments should be scheduled for confirmation by the County Council on July 17 and the new commissioners will be officially “on-board” in time for the CFW’s planning meeting. Vaughan-Prather thanked Commissioners Bright Harris and Martinez for the hours and hours of time they committed to this process – including a 12-hour marathon of interviews on June 5. President Atterbeary and the commissioners extended their appreciation and commended the interview committee for its hard work.

B. U.S. House Obstetric Fistula Legislation

At last month’s meeting, Commissioner Lichter Vincent agreed to draft a letter to the Montgomery County delegation to Congress supporting Congresswoman Delauro’s bill. Commissioner Lichter Vincent reported that because of the demands of co-chairing the 40th anniversary event, she has been unable to draft the letter, but promised to get the draft to the commission before her term expires on July 1.

VI. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. MLAW

Because of the change in meeting dates, Commissioner Mederos was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. She has represented MC CFW on the Board of MLAW for the past year, but her term on the CFW is complete. As discussed earlier in tonight’s meeting, a decision regarding CFW representation on the MLAW Board of Directors will be made at the annual planning meeting.

B. NACW

The 2012 National Association of Commissions for Women 42nd Annual Business Meeting and Conference will take place July 25 - 28 in Charleston, West Virginia. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather is a member of the NACW Board of Directors and will represent the MC CFW at the conference. MC CFW volunteers Bev Thoms, Luyang Liu and Meaghan Tarquinio have been working on updating the NACW database.

VIII. ELECTION OF 2012-2013 CFW PRESIDENT.....Atterbeary

Two candidates have submitted their intent to run for the office of president of the MC CFW: Wilma Holmes and Chandra Walker Holloway. Each candidate described her vision for the CFW and what she would bring to the 2012-2013 year if elected. The election was held by secret ballot, and Commissioner Chandra Walker Holloway was duly elected President of the CF for 2012 - 2013. Commissioner Holloway thanked the commissioners for their support and said that she is very much looking forward to working with all of them in the coming year.

IX. Announcements.....Atterbeary

This is the final meeting for Commissioners Atterbeary, Mederos, Lichter Vincent and Aridi Afas. Each was presented a certificate of recognition and appreciation signed by the County Executive to honor her dedication and service as a member of the CFW.

President Atterbeary thanked all the commissioners for all that they have done and for supporting her leadership, noting how much she appreciated the opportunity to have served in this capacity. The commissioners in turn expressed their appreciation for the work of these four commissioners.

X. Adjournment.....Atterbeary

There being no further business brought before the CFW, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
Consuwella Carrington
Americorps Member
Project Change