

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

**Summary of Discussion**

**November 21, 2013**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Attending:**

Chandra Walker Holloway, President  
Maria Montserrat Alvarado  
Linda Amendt  
Lorna Forde  
Debra Bright Harris  
Maliha Ilias  
Farah Nageer-Kanthor  
Safia Qadri  
Heather Reichardt  
Karmen Rouland  
Katie Smith

**Absent:**

Barbara Mintz  
Manar Morales  
Natalia Farrar  
Nick Martinez

**Staff:**

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

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- I. Call to Order/ Approval of Agenda and Minutes.....President Walker Holloway**  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Bright Harris motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Amendt. The agenda for the evening's meeting was adopted as presented. Corrections to the October meeting minutes were noted and the minutes were adopted as amended. The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Nageer-Kanthor for dinner.
- II. Executive Committee Report..... President Walker Holloway**  
There will not be a Commission meeting in the month of December.
- III. Staff Report.....Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather**
- A. Update on Trip to Turkey**  
Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather discussed her trip to Turkey. She traveled with the director of the county's office of Human Resources. The 8-day trip, which included meetings with government officials, a shelter for abused women and their families, human and women's rights advocates in Izmir, Ankara and Istanbul, was funded by the American Councils for International Education through a fellows program of the U.S. State Department. She shared her insights and experiences on the issues related to women in general and female empowerment in particular in that country.
- B. Library Request for Support of Financial Literacy Program for Girls**  
Last summer, the Montgomery County Department of Libraries (MCDPL) received a grant from the Financial Literacy Organization for Women and Girls (FLOW) to host summer camp programs focusing on financial literacy for girls. MCDPL would like to offer the

week-long financial literacy workshop again in the summer of 2014 and asked if the CFW would be able to support the project. Commissioner Montserrat Alvarado will be the Commission's point-person on this. The staff was asked to gather further information on how MCDPL hopes the CFW may support this event.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. 2014 Women's Legislative Briefing.....Bright Harris**

The WLB Planning Committee met on November 20th. MCCFW was very well-represented as many Commissioners attended the meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Seminar Planning Committee identified eight topics for briefings, namely; (1) Effective Legislative Advocacy, (2) Safety, Justice and Human Rights (3) Women in the Public Realm (4) The Miss Representation Documentary on the Portrayal of Women in the Media (5) Advocacy for Older Women's Issues (6) A Briefing on the Implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act (7) Workplace Issues and (10) Women, Families and Poverty. Several Commissioners volunteered to help with facilitating and lining up speakers for these sessions. County Councilwomen from Montgomery and Prince George's counties will be invited to participate in a panel discussion on women in local politics in the opening plenary session. The teen/tween seminar committee also met yesterday. Discussions are still ongoing with regards to how best the movie "Miss Representation" can be used to facilitate these sessions. "Washington Parent" magazine will publish an ad for WLB flier in its December issue.

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

1. Minimum Wage Legislation

Commissioner Smith presented a review of the bill which proposes to increase the minimum wage in the county from its current level of \$7.25 an hour. Commissioner Montserrat Alvarado moved to support this bill with a formal letter to the County Council with a copy to the County Executive. Commissioner Qadri seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Recommendations on issues to be addressed by CFW

Commissioner Smith presented a comprehensive handout outlining several federal bills that may be of interest to the MCCFW. Commissioner Smith moved that the MCCFW support the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2013 as well as the Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act. Commissioners Montserrat Alvarado seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Working Matters Coalition

Commissioners Smith, Montserrat Alvarado and Reichardt attended the Working Matters Coalition conference call on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. The follow-up proposed for the Commission is to:

- Urge Senator Benjamin F. Kramer to support this Bill
- Testify in support of this Bill in Annapolis and
- Launch the campaign in support of the bill at the 2014 WLB.

4. AARP Event

Commissioner Smith attended the October 30 AARP briefing on long-term care, modernizing Medicare, etc. Commissioner Smith presented the major points regarding the discussion as well as the names of speakers and panelists for the Commission's interest.

5. Maryland Women's Legislative Agenda (MLAW)

Commissioners Smith, Walker Holloway, Reichardt, Forde and Bright Harris attended the MLAW fall conference held on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore. Commissioner Smith presented a list of the bills discussed at the conference. MLAW will soon develop a ballot so that its membership may vote to determine MLAW's 2014 legislative priorities.

**V. Unfinished Business**

**A. Prince George's County Women's Legislative Conference**

This WE<sup>3</sup> (Women Educated, Empowered, Engaged) Conference, sponsored by the Prince George's County Commission for Women, was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Prince George's County Community College. Commissioners Walker Holloway, Qadri, Nageer-Kanthor, Reichardt, Forde and Ilias attended the event which featured many wonderful speakers. Attendance appeared to be around 200.

**B. Maryland Women's Conference**

Commissioner Smith attended this event hosted by the Frederick County Commission for Women in October.

**C. Henrietta Lacks Nomination to Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**

Commissioner Amendt was commended for her initiative, leadership and very hard work in developing the MCCFW's nomination of Henrietta Lacks to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. She and President Walker Holloway did an extraordinary amount of research and coordination putting the nomination packet together, complete with supporting letters. Jack and Jill also submitted a nomination of Ms. Lacks for this honor.

**D. Divorce Law Seminar**

The next seminar on the legal process of separation and divorce is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>. President Walker Holloway will lead one of the two sessions (one in English and one in Spanish). Registration so far is very good.

**E. Community Service Day Project**

Commissioner Rouland lead the Commission’s’ 2013 Community Service project, supporting the National Center for Children and Families’ Comfort Care drive for the benefit of NCCF’s foster children. Commissioner Rouland collected over \$300 in personal donations from commissioners and staff and will be submitting our donation to NCCF very soon.

**VI. New Business**

No new business was brought before the CFW.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

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

The Teen Dating Violence (“Choose Respect”) Conference is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 at Montgomery College Takoma Park. The theme is “Piecing together a healthy relationship”. The committee is currently fine tuning the program. Commissioner Forde attended a meeting of the planning committee this evening before the CFW meeting, and is responsible for coordinating volunteers for the event.

**B. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC).....Walker Holloway for Mintz**

Commissioner Mintz attended the most recent DVCC meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The Council is exploring the possibility of establishing a supervised visitation center in Montgomery County A committee has been created to track data, consider who would be served, etc.. The Commission may consider supporting legislation to this effect should it be introduced.

**VII. Announcements.....President Walker Holloway**

**A. Holiday Book Club**

President Walker Holloway is organizing a CFW book discussion on December 11th for the Commissioners to discuss the book *Mothers of Intention* by the 2014 WLB Keynote Speaker, Joanne Bamberger. All Commissioners are invited to attend. The restaurant venue will be decided among the attending Commissioners.

**C. MC Executives Ball**

The Commission has received an invitation from former Commissioner Holmes to attend the MC Executive’s Ball to support the arts on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

**VIII. Adjournment.....President Walker Holloway**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by  
Maliha Ilias  
Commissioner