County Commission for Women

**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

**21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330, Rockville, MD 20850**

**Summary of Discussion**

**August 21, 2014 7:00p.m.**

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

July 25, 2011 7:15 p.m.

**Attending**:

Debra Bright Harris, President

Linda Amendt

Daphnee Cherubin

Natalia Farrar

Lorna Forde

Beatrice Lauman

Nick Martinez

Giulia McPherson

Barbara Mintz

Farah Nageer-Kanthor

Safia Qadri

Angela Whitehead Quigley

Heather Reichardt

Karmen Rouland

Katie Smith

**Staff**:

Chickona Royster Edwards

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**I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes……………..President Bright-Harris**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. Barbara Mintz moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Qadri seconded. The agenda passed unanimously. Commissioner Reichardt moved to approve the July meeting minutes and Commissioner Smith seconded. The minutes for the July meeting passed unanimously. The Commissioners thanked Commissioner Amendt for the dinner.

1. **Introduction to New Commissioner and Staff:**
   1. Introduction to Giulia McPherson – Care International work with women and girls
   2. Chickona Royster-Edwards introduced herself – interim administrative assistant

**II. Executive Committee Report ………………………………..President Bright-Harris**

1. **County Executive Meeting**
   1. President Bright Harris will meet with County Executive, Leggett on September 3rd
   2. Possibly discuss the Executive Director position for the future
   3. Still on their agenda
   4. May be looking for a political appointee but we want a full time merit-based position in order to maintain consistency and stability
   5. Ask about budget status; need strategic plan to utilize that money since the counseling center has been closed.
   6. Commission for Women wants a voice in the selection of the new executive director.
   7. Provide President Bright Harris with any comments or concers
2. **Human Trafficking Task Force…………………………….Chair, Mintz**
   1. A public hearing on September 10th at 7pm – 9pm, COB, 100 Maryland Ave,. Rockville MD – 3rd Floor Hearing Room.
   2. Chair, Mintz has been asked to speak at several organizations and has visited several resource facilities.
   3. Three main areas of focus for the HTTF are:
      1. Victim services
      2. Law Enforcement
      3. Education – AAUW to help with education piece
   4. Deep problem in Montgomery County area
      1. Some victims don’t consider themselves victims
      2. Children – very complicated; nuances
   5. What can the Commission for Women - HTTF recommend legislatively that will be enforced to help this situation.

**III. Staff Report ……………………………………………………………… Royster-Edwards**

1. **Women’s equality day – Aug 26th** 
   1. Barbara Mikulski’s office asked what we had planned
   2. What can we do to recognize this issue?
   3. Press release? Op-ed – letter to editor
   4. Commissioner Giulia and Rouland will work on press release for Op-ed
2. **Dinner host list passed around for sign-up**
3. **Discussed adjustment to standard calendar for CFW meeting dates**
4. **Table decision on when the January Executive Board meeting will be**
5. **Review WLB meeting schedule**
6. **Any mass emails should be sent to President, Bright Harris and CFW staff prior to sending to the rest of the commissioners**
7. **Annual report is completed – looks very good**
8. **President, Bright Harris distributed membership forms for NACW and MLAW individual membership.**

**IV. LIAISON REPORTS**

1. **MLAW - Commissioner Cherubin** 
   1. Discussed budget and need more funding; raise membership fees?
   2. Nominated people for different positions – still working on this
   3. Main focus:
      1. Planning for conference; location not definite
      2. November 15 is next conference – Saturday
2. **Maryland Women’s Heritage Center - event AAUW** 
   1. Heather Reichardt, Natalia Farrar and Linda Amendt attended
   2. Nancy Pelosi spoke about how the women’s economic agenda and how they are impacted by Congressional decisions or non-decisions
   3. VAWA – GOP did not want to protect non-white women
   4. Stressed the women’s economic agenda of paid leave, minimum wage and family leave

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING:

1. Determine committees and choose priorities for CFW
2. We do not have an executive director to guide us this year
3. Commissioners have to decide what we can actually work on ourselves
4. Reviewed roles, goals, rules and mandate
5. Existing/standing committees:
   1. Women’s Legislative Briefing
   2. Human Trafficking Task Force
   3. Policy and Legislation
6. Women’s Legislative Briefing
   1. Committee plans for months
      1. Lorna Forde and Katie Smith will CO-CHAIR
      2. Need Chair of TEEN TRACK – Giulia McPherson & Angela Whitehead Quigley Co-chairs
   2. All hands on deck on the day of Women’s Legislative Briefing, January 25th
   3. Commissioners can serve as moderators, etc...
   4. Judith Vaughan Prather will offer support if we co-partner with the MD State CFW?
      1. President Bright Harris supports that model; give up some power…
      2. How do we get their help w/o giving up power
      3. Lorna Forde: invite them to the table and see how they respond?
      4. Do we have Judith Vaughan Prather’s project plan?
      5. Could hire a meeting planner
   5. Motion – Lorna Forde: invite the MD CFW to be a sponsor of the WLB – Katie Smith seconded
      1. Discussion – to what end – Barbara Mintz asked?
      2. Lorna Forde – if they come we can get their contribution
      3. Lorna Forde – amend motion to ask MD CFW to be a sponsor and then send a representative to the planning meetings (…could be Judith….)
      4. All in favor; motion carries.
7. Policy and Legislation Committee –
   1. Last year’s chair – Katie Smith
   2. Need a new chair - Karmen Rouland and Giulia McPherson
8. Human Trafficking Task Force – Barbara Mintz is chair
   1. Barbara Mintz – motion to retain commitment; Nick Martinez seconds motion
   2. Vote – all in favor
9. Capacity for new initiatives and projects:
   1. Current priorities
      1. Economic empowerment for women and families
      2. Health & safety for women and girls
      3. Unique challenges – seniors, etc
      4. Women in STEM
      5. Fairness in family law
   2. Review criteria for new projects
   3. Proposals for ideas / new initiatives
      1. President Bright Harris proposal – commitment to STEM is a priority but no projects; several MC commissioners
         1. Develop a scholarship for student to study STEM
         2. Could apply restricted funds – donor-based to start scholarship
         3. Could ask for piece of WLB registration fee to go to scholarship
         4. And ask registrants to donate more
         5. Could be book scholarship and/or tuition support
         6. Committee would work on the details
      2. Barbara Mintz – continue fairness in family – need is still there
      3. Heather Reichardt – commit to annual display for women’s history month-subcommittee has to link to the main priority – fits with STEM/education
      4. Lorna Forde – support county executive’s priorities
      5. Angela Whitehead Quigley – counseling services – how to reinstate: - health and safety
         1. Can social work program at Shady Grove support volunteer services
         2. Need a licensed social worker to oversee/supervise the student volunteers
      6. Beatrice Lauman – lobby for the executive director in case county executive cuts the position – need an executive director in order to continue - self advocacy
      7. Lorna Forde – maintain our existing priorities
         1. Fit new proposals under the current umbrella of priorities
      8. MOTION - Lorna Forde – maintain the 2014/15 priorities and incorporate our new initiatives into the existing priorities; Angela Whitehead Quigley seconds
      9. Vote: all in favor
10. COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP
    1. Scholarship committee: Katie moves to establish scholarship committee; Lorna Forde seconds
       1. Katie Smith
       2. Safia Qadri
       3. Farah Nageer-Kanthor
       4. Nick Martinez – Co-chair
       5. Beatrice Lauman - CHAIR
       6. Daphne Cherubin
       7. Debra Bright Harris
    2. Women’s History Month – Angela Whitehead Quigley motions; Linda Amendt seconds; all in favor
       1. Heather Reichardt
       2. Linda Amendt - CHAIR
       3. Angela Whitehead Quigley
       4. Farah Nageer-Kanthor
       5. Giulia McPherson
    3. Policy & Legislation
       1. Karmen Rouland – CHAIR
       2. Giulia McPherson
11. LIAISONS -
    1. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – Barbara Mintz
    2. Human Trafficking Task Force – Barbara Mintz
    3. MLAW – Daphne Cherubin /
    4. Teen Dating and Violence Prevention TF – Safia Qadri
    5. MD CFW – women of tomorrow – Angela Whitehead Quigley
12. September issues: - divorce and financial seminars; aging women’s workshop; Muslim women’s workshop??

**ADJOURNMENT……………………………………………...……..… President Bright Harris**

**Adjourned at 9:00PM**