

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes / Virtual
November 9, 2023 / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**



“Don’t think about making women fit the world- think about making the world fit women.”

Gloria Steinem

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Lindsey Turnbull, 2nd Vice Chair

Jodi Danis

Ijeoma Enendu

Tonja Paylor

Liz Richards

Tondalayo Royster

Kathy Estrada

LaDonna King

Kimberly Mouzon

Betty Romero

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Absent

Isabel Argoti Vice Chair

Janet LaValle

Helene Meister

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

Guest: Dr. Lillian Agbeyegbe – Public Health Practitioner, would like to learn more about the commission

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

Agenda accepted as presented

October minutes adopted as presented

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT / CHAIR CLARK

Meeting was on Monday, 7 NOV, to review this month’s agenda
Accepting applications for CFW

Need commissioners to help with interview process
Someone who did not have to reapply this year
Kathy Estrada and Tonja Paylor volunteered to assist

Onboarding Committee: Ijeoma, Isabel, Liz, Kathy, Tonja

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

Two high school interns doing phenomenal job (M/W for 2 hours)
Interviewing UMD Social Work student next week

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Co-Chairs, Commissioners Royster and Meister

MLAW Conference was this past Saturday, 4 NOV
6 bills to recommend to the commission to support:
Consent Bill
Sexual Solicitation of a Minor
Gender Affirming Care Protection for Healthcare Workers
Wage Transparency
Bridget to Re-entry
Two-year College Institution Reproductive Healthcare Access

Committee moved to support these recommended bills

Amend Committee Motion to include:
Homecare Worker Misclassification
Firearm Background Check Denial – request for more information
Discussed need to have a champion for each bill
Second to motion -- motion passed

Committee vote on support the 8 recommended bills – motion passed

PALS will send out email to sign up to champion bills

Lobby day will be Thursday, 14 DEC

Montgomery County bill on menstrual products in public places
Bill will be introduced Tuesday, 14 NOV
PALS raised concerns on paying for products, enforcement
PALS recommended bill focus on county buildings
Bill supported by Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Black Collective
Question: What are the repercussions for businesses who do not comply?
Class A violation: \$500 first offense, \$750 for repeat offenses
Public hearing will occur after the bill is introduced
Commission would like more time to deliberate

PAL would like to propose that Montgomery County adopt a menopause policy

Propose Equal Rights Amendment with Maryland NOW

PALS will send out information so all commissioners can review

Program Planning / Chair, Commissioner Enendu

Financial Wellness – 100 people attended over all 4 sessions

6 DEC: last separation and divorce event of the year

Self-defense sold out for the year

13 DEC: Popup event on health/Women's Sexual Health & Wellness

16 NOV: Career Event

Need people to sign up to proctor:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AAAB28A0F4C25-fall1#/>

Budget / Chair Clark

No Report

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Romero

SPRE will not reconvene until after WLB

We will vote at next meeting on one issue a year

Emerging Leaders / Vice Chair Argoti and 2nd Vice Chair Turnbull

No Report

Public Relations / Vice Chair Argoti

No Report

Women's Legislative Briefing / Vice Chair Argoti

Cater selected

Justice Sotomayor cannot attend

Carmen reaching out to First Lady Dawn Moore's office

4 sessions separate from EL track/2 blocks

Advocacy Process

Focus on safety, education, workforce, pay equity, health, technology

Providing childcare during the conferences (ages 3 years+)

Chairs networking event in morning 10am-12pm

Going green – using QR

Ticketing Page Active: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-738129564397?aff=oddtcreator> (Early Bird: \$40)

Sponsorship Page Active: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sponsorships-only-2024-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-711263727957?aff=oddtcreator>

Circulate ticketing page and sponsorship pages to networks

All commissioners must purchase their ticket for the event

Discussion on backup to First Lady Moore if needed

Standard Operating Procedures / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

Nominating Committee

Questions in August minutes regarding voting

Poll could not be saved but showed 12 votes cast for each position

Questions in August regarding the write-ins; all write-ins were already on the ballot or who were nominated from the floor

13 votes for Secretary and Member At-Large; all votes were for the two incumbents

6. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Royster

No Report

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Commissioner Estrada

No Report, next meeting 15 NOV

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner Royster

Outreach committee doing apartment initiative

Outreach to doctors' offices

Awareness cards

Maryland Commission for Women, Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

No Report

Choose Respect / Commissioner Royster

Choose RespectFest 7 APR 2024 at Wheaton Rec Center
Open until 11 FEB
2 virtual events, week before and week after 11 FEB
Continue going into schools, reached 2,000 students this year

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

No Report

CFW Scholarship / Commissioner Argoti

No Report

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

No Report

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

November birthday – Lindsey, 27 NOV
Sign up to proctor events

10. Meeting Adjourned

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled:

March 14, 2024

June 13, 2024