

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2009

7:07 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbearly
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Jane Hobdy
Wilma K. Holmes
Chandra Walker Holloway
Resa Levy
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Manar S. Morales
Reggie L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

Leah Goldfine
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Ivonne C. Lindley
Larniece McKoy Moore

GUESTS

Helen Holton, President Maryland CFW
Ellie Elgin, Director of Outreach, MD MCW

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....President Oldak

President Oldak called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Lichter, the agenda was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osias, seconded by Commissioner Morales and passed unanimously, the Minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

II. REMARKSHelen Holton
President, Maryland Commission for Women

Commissioners introduced themselves to Ms. Holton, who was invited to the MCCFW meeting to present an update on Maryland Commission for Women activities. MCW's goal is to connect with local CFWs across the state and to see one established in every county. Some of the programs and issues that the MCW is working on include:

- Verizon Wireless Hopeline – a phone recycling program that puts unused wireless phones to work for victims of domestic violence.
- The 24th Annual Women's Hall of Fame was just completed
- On April 29, 2009, a book signing and luncheon, featuring Cokie Roberts, with proceeds benefiting the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

MCW is also working with women judges in Maryland to help incarcerated women with re-entry into society within six months of their release from prison.

Ms. Holton also said that she enjoyed participating in the Commission's 2009 Women's Legislative Briefing in January and she said that MCW is very committed to working with the Montgomery County CFW on the issues presented.

Ms. Elgin reported that Maryland Women's Heritage Center will be located at 39 West Lexington Street in downtown Baltimore. This location was given rent-free for two years to the Maryland Women's Heritage Center while it seeks funding and a larger space.

Information about the Verizon Wireless Hopeline program and the April 29 fundraiser was distributed to each commissioner in a gift tote bag from MCW.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTOldak

A. Meeting with County Executive

The Commission for Women's annual meeting with County Executive Leggett took place on February 25 and went very well. Chief Administrative Officer Tim Firestine was also present at the meeting. President Oldak was joined by CFW's Executive Committee members Atterbeary, Lichter, Lindley, and Osias, and by CFW Executive Director Vaughan-Prather. Mr. Leggett expressed his concern about relationship violence and he seemed very interested in CFW's brochures in six languages on the issue.

B. County Workforce Investment Scholarship FundHobdy / Rai

On March 24, Commissioner Hobdy testified on behalf of MCCFW in support of County Council Bill 7-09. Commissioner Rai also attended the hearing. The legislation creates opportunities for teacher training in the County's ten most

needed occupations “and proposes to provide scholarships for students preparing for careers in those areas of need.” CFW’s testimony urged the Council to ensure that women and girls are equally represented on the board that will award the scholarships and among the recipients of the scholarships.

C. FY10 Budget Public Hearings and Worksession

President Oldak will present testimony at the County Council’s public hearing on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. Others commissioners planning to attend the hearing include Aridi Afas, Lichter, Morales, Rai, Osias, Levy and Walker Holloway.

The CFW budget will be discussed in worksession by the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee on Friday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m. President Oldak and Commissioners Aridi Afas, Levy, Lichter, Morales, and Osias are planning to be present.

D. Women’s History Month

On March 24, County Councilmembers Ervin and Floreen presented a Proclamation in honor of Women’s History Month. President Oldak, accompanied by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, Program Manager Rambo, Program Specialist Goldfine and Administrative Specialist Rodgers were at the Council meeting to accept the Proclamation. Members of Montgomery NOW were also present.

On March 31, Commissioners Lindley, Morales, Osias, and Walker Holloway will present a panel discussion on contemporary women’s issues for the Women’s Studies program at Montgomery College’s Germantown Campus.

E. White House Council on Women and Girls

Commissioner Samuels attended the signing of the Presidential Executive Order creating a White House Council on Women and Girls. A letter was sent from MCCFW commending President Obama on creating the Council and recommending that consideration be given to providing some federal support to the National Association of Commissions for Women.

The Council on Women and Girls will fall under the auspices of Valerie Jarrett, the Senior Adviser to the President and it will include representatives from each of the cabinet level agencies to ensure that the interests of women and girls are addressed in all policies and programs at the federal government. Commissioner Samuels said that suggestions and ideas are welcome and that she will share an email address on where to send comments.

F. Dating Violence Education Awareness (HB 845)

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) has notified CFW that it is opposing HB 845, a bill requiring the state Board of Education to develop a program to educate public school students about dating violence. MNADV feels the bill needs more review and has formed an Ad Hoc Teen Dating Abuse School Curriculum Taskforce. The Taskforce will include the Office of the Attorney General and the Maryland State Department of Education.

G. Calvert Group Partnership with San Francisco CFW

A letter was sent to Barbara Krumsiek, President and CEO of The Calvert Group commending her on establishing The Calvert Women's Principles and its work with UNIFEM on *Advancing Women in the Global Marketplace*. The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women is one of Calvert's partners in the endeavor.

H. Commissioner Nomination Committee

Five commissioners' terms will be expiring in June and the four commissioners eligible to reapply are all planning to do so. The deadline for applying to serve on CFW is April 3. The committee to interview CFW applicants will include Commissioners Atterbeary, Morales and Holmes; with staffing provided by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There was no Unfinished Business to report.

V. NEW BUSINESS - There was no New Business to report.

VI. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. Budget

On March 16, the County Executive announced his recommended operating budget for FY10. The proposed budget eliminates over 400 positions in county government. Regrettably, the CFW's full-time program specialist position, occupied by Leah Goldfine is proposed for elimination, effective July 1. Every effort will be made to find another position for her. The cuts to the CFW's budget are in line with those of other county government departments.

B. Diversity Day

CFW was asked to participate in a County-sponsored diversity program; however the original date of the program fell on the Passover holiday and during the school spring break. Staff alerted the organizers who said they will reschedule the event.

C. LEP Advisory Committee

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather is serving on the county's LEP Advisory Committee, chaired by former Commissioner, Lily Qi, now a Community Liaison in the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships. The Task Force is working on county policies for serving limited English proficient residents.

D. Green Meeting Packets

Staff has proposed that the CFW agendas and minutes be mailed to commissioners electronically in order to save postage and time. The Commissioners expressed their support for this idea. Hard copies of the agenda and minutes will still be available on the night of the CFW meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Lichter

1. Commissioner Lichter reported on the actions taken on various bills on CFW's legislative agenda. Correspondence from CFW was mailed to the all of the appropriate House and Senate committees and PAL Alerts were also sent out on these issues:

- SB 740 – Family Law – Custody Determinations
- SB 681 and HB 1090 – 3rd Degree Sexual Offense Person in Positions of Authority
- HB 288 – Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act of 2009
- HB 845 and SB 1049 – Domestic Violence-Tween/Teen Dating Violence Education Awareness
- HB 1280 – Gender Equity Health Coverage
- SB 467 – Domestic Violence- Expungement of records – (A PAL Action alert opposing this bill was sent out on 3/19/09)

2. County Council Bill 7-09 Re: Workforce Investment Scholarships - A letter was mailed to County Councilmember Mike Knapp and members of the Council urging that women and girls are equally represented in awarding the scholarships.

3. Commissioner Lichter said that SB 267 Family Law-Protective Orders-Surrender of Firearms was amended to include a provision to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to obtain firearms. This amendment causes a serious concern and Commissioner Lichter asked that staff send out letters and an urgent PAL Alert opposing the amendment.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin) (*Program Specialist Leah Goldfine gave the report in Commissioner Lindley's absence*)

The IWin Committee met at and took a tour of the Charles Gilchrist Center on March 20. The Divorce Guidebook is ready to go to print. Commissioner Lindley and her mother have volunteered to translate the book into Spanish.

C. Mothers and Poverty (MAP)Osias

The MAP Committee met earlier in the evening to continue work on the Action Agenda that will be published by the end of April. Commissioner Osias proposed that the Action Agenda be presented to the Montgomery County Council of Women's Organizations (MCCWO) in June instead of in May as originally proposed. The commissioners agreed and staff will make arrangements for the MCCWO to take place on June 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Staff will also arrange for a briefing for the County Council prior to the June presentation.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Preschool Implementation Work Group.....Lichter

The Montgomery County Council's Preschool Implementation Work Group released its final report and recommendations on March 30 and will present its findings to the County Council on March 31, 2009.

B. Family Justice CenterLevy

The Family Justice Center's grand opening is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

C. National Association for Commissions for WomenVaughan-Prather

The NACW Board will hold its annual meeting April 23-24 at the CFW's office.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. CFW Presidential Election

Intent to Run forms for President of CFW will be sent to commissioners in the April CFW Agenda Packet. The forms are due back to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather by the May 27 CFW meeting and an announcement about who is intending to run is made at that time. The election takes place at the June 24 meeting.

B. Washington Woman Magazine

Staff distributed copies of the March issue of *Washington Woman* magazine that included an article about CFW's Sexual Harassment brochures.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**