

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2009

6:25 p.m.

### ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas  
Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin  
Jane Hobby  
Chandra Walker Holloway  
Resa Levy  
Jaclyn R. Lichter  
Ivonne C. Lindley  
Leticia Mederos  
Larniece McKoy Moore  
Manar S. Morales  
Sanjay Rai  
Regina L. Oldak  
Jocelyn Samuels

### STAFF

Ruby V. Marcelo  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

### ABSENT:

Wilma Holmes

### GUESTS

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director  
for Congresswoman Donna Edwards

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by President Lichter. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather recommended an agenda addendum of 7 items. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Morales, the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Oldak and seconded by Commissioner Atterbeary, the Minutes of the June 24, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER.....** President Lichter  
*(STAFF’S NOTE: The order of the meeting was adjusted in order to allow time for Commissioner Mederos’ arrival; however, her introduction is being noted at this point for purposes of the Minutes.)*

President Lichter welcomed new Commissioner Leticia Mederos who was recently appointed by the County Executive. Ms. Mederos is the Legislative Director for U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Those commissioners in attendance introduced themselves to Ms. Mederos. The County Executive also reappointed Commissioners Aridi Afas, Atterbeary, Lichter, and Morales to each serve a second three-year term on the CFW.

**III. ORIENTATION TO PLANNING PROCESS.....** President Lichter

President Lichter explained that the goal for the Annual Planning Meeting session is to develop a consensus on the CFW’s agenda for the 2009-10 year and to decide tasks and responsibilities. She reviewed the goals for the planning meeting, the ground rules for discussion and CFW’s legislative mandate and mission. All of this information was distributed to commissioners with the agenda packet materials.

**IV. REVIEW OF CURRENT COMMITMENTS .....**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Atterbeary

Commissioner Atterbeary gave an overview of CFW’s current commitments. These included:

- Women’s Legislative Briefing – Lilly Ledbetter has been secured as the Keynote Speaker for the WLB’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event taking place January 31, 2010. Commissioner Atterbeary is chairing the 2010 WLB Planning Committee.
- Montgomery County Council of Women’s Organizations – Typically convened 2-3 times a year, these meetings provide an opportunity for representatives of county women’s organizations to come together to share information, agendas, and priorities, discuss common concerns and devise strategies for advancing the status of women in our county.
- Newsletter – Staff produces on a quarterly basis. Commissioners are asked to contribute articles for publication.
- Community Service Day (Seasons of Service) – Three times a year, there are County-sponsored opportunities for residents, members of boards and commissions, and staff to undertake community service projects.
- Summer Computer Camp Scholarship Program – The Commission for Women provides scholarships to middle school girls to attend 2-week summer computer camps on Montgomery College’s campuses.
- NACW Office Staffing – MCCFW houses the offices of the National Association of Commissions for Women and helps provide staff support and supervision. The office is staffed by a part-time paid Intern.

V. **SELECTION OF INITIATIVES** .....President Lichter

President Lichter explained the criteria for the selection of priorities, noting that it was important that selected projects be consistent with the legislative mandate of the CFW and that a realistic level of support exists to carry out the project. She also noted that in the past, the Policy and Legislation committee remained as a standing committee; however, this was not a requirement in the CFW Bylaws.

- A. Executive Committee Proposal – Each CFW committee was represented at the July 8, 2009 Executive Committee and the group reached a consensus on the following recommendation: That the recommendations of the Mothers and Poverty Agenda become the focal point of the PAL Committee, and the Committee could be named the *Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda (MAPPA) Committee*.

In addition, the Executive Committee recommended that CFW sponsor NACW’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in July 2010.

The IWin Committee would like its focus to continue as a priority concern but would suspend its meetings for this year and plan to offer educational sessions on immigrant women’s issues at the NACW Conference.

President Lichter noted that the planning of the NACW Conference will take a lot of work on the part of the commissioners. The Executive Committee proposed that a substantial part of each CFW meeting be devoted to work on the conference.

- B. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Atterbeary noted that NACW really needs the support of the MCCFW in making the conference happen.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather explained that the proposed date for the conference would be the third week of July 2010. She noted that if CFW did not host the conference, it would be the second year in a row that an NACW conference was not held. President Lichter remarked that the conference presents a good opportunity to showcase the depth of CFW’s ability to hold such an event, and the year 2010, an election year, is good time to obtain speakers. Ms. Vaughan-Prather discussed the possible conference with an Assistant County Administrative Officer, who said that it was a good idea for CFW to host the conference.

Commissioner Aridi Afas noted that the conference is the main revenue driver for NACW. She also noted that the MAP Committee was happy with the strategy of keeping its Agenda highly visible and continuing its momentum. She said the conference would give the CFW the opportunity to present its MAP and IWin work and lend the benefits of these projects to others commissions for women around the country.

Commissioner Samuels expressed some reservations. Having attended a number of conferences over the past year, she has noticed that attendance rates have been low due to the economy and she worried about it not being a success. She was also uncomfortable with the fundraising aspects and wondered if there were things the CFW could do that would be a better use of the CFW and the commissioners' expertise and skill. She said she would be interested in "testing the waters" to see how many people would attend.

Commissioner Morales noted that it was a great idea to host the conference and to fold the MAP Agenda into a policy and legislation initiative.

Commissioner Levy noted that it is very difficult to fundraise for a conference, but she said she thought that it is an important thing to do. She suggested that the CFW could possibly offer continuing education units to attendees.

Commissioner Walker Holloway liked the idea of sponsoring the conference because she understood that if CFW did not host the event, it is likely that no one else would. However, she also expressed concern about the economy and said there was a need to be realistic about the current economic climate.

Commissioner Oldak noted that in some ways, MCCFW is obligated as a strong CFW to sponsor the conference. She thought that a sufficient number of people would attend and said that it would be an exciting time to offer such a conference in the Washington, D.C. area. However, she did not want the CFW to give up its substantive work.

A MAP Agenda for Action Chart was distributed for the commissioners' review. The chart listed recommendations from the MAP Agenda. The proposal under consideration is that the items on the list would become the CFW's policy and legislation agenda and the new MAPP Committee's members would advocate the recommendations listed, not only by proposing legislation, but also by testifying on behalf of it.

C. Decision on FY10 Agenda

President Lichter asked the commissioners if there were any alternative initiatives they wanted to propose. Commissioner Lindley moved to approve the Executive Committee's proposal that the Mothers and Poverty Agenda become the focal point of the PAL Committee which would become the *Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda* (MAPP) *Committee*, and that CFW sponsor NACW's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in July 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morales and passed by a 14-0 vote with Commissioner Samuels abstaining.

Staff will prepare each Committee's FY10 work plan for commissioners' approval at the August 26, 2009 CFW meeting.

- D. Formation of Committees – The committees were formed with the following Chairs and members. President Lichter serves on both committees.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Members</u>
<b>Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda</b>	Jane Hobdy, Chair Chandra Walker Holloway Wilma Holmes* Resa Levy Leticia Mederos Manar Morales Reggie Oldak Jocelyn Samuels
<b>NACW Conference Committee</b>	Leila Aridi Afas, Chair Vanessa Atterbearly Jean Cryor Baldwin Resa Levy Ivonne Lindley Larniece McKoy Moore Sanjay Rai

*\*Staff's Note: Commissioner Holmes elected to serve on the MAPPA Committee*

- E. Review and Designation of Liaisons

Liaisons for the following organizations were either selected or re-selected for Fiscal Year 2010:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY 10 Liaison</u>
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	Resa Levy
Divorce Roundtable	Elma Rambo
BPW Women of Achievement	Leila Aridi Afas
Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women	Vanessa Atterbearly Jaclyn Lichter
Nat'l Association of Commissions for Women	Leila Aridi Afas Judith Vaughan-Prather
Interagency Fair Housing Coordinating Group	Ruby Marcelo

**Organization**

**FY 10 Liaison**

Family Justice Center

Resa Levy

Subcabinet on Senior Issues

Judith Vaughan-Prather

Healthy Teen Dating Relationships Conference

Resa Levy  
Judith Vaughan-Prather  
Ruby Marcelo

Reproductive Health Care Work Group (RHEA)

Cryor Baldwin  
Reggie Oldak

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Group

Ivonne Lindley  
Judith Vaughan-Prather  
Ruby Marcelo

**VI. AGENDA ADDENDUM**

- A. Election of Vice President and Other Officers - Intent to Run forms for the Office of First and Second Vice Presidents were in the meeting agenda packet. The forms are due back by or before August 26, 2009 and the election will be held at the September 23, 2009 meeting. However, interim vice presidents and at-large members were necessary to conduct the Executive Committee's work. Commissioner Atterbeary will continue as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and without objection, Commissioner Lindley was selected to serve as Interim 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Commissioners Cryor Baldwin and McKoy Moore were selected to serve as At-Large members on the Executive Committee.
- B. Bylaws Revision Update – Staff will draft revisions to the Bylaws to change the date in which vice presidents are elected. Language will be added to note that officers will be elected at the CFW's annual planning meetings. A draft copy of the proposed Bylaws revisions will be distributed to commissioners in the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda packet.
- C. CFW's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The MCCFW will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012. Now is a good time to start thinking about some ideas to celebrate this event!
- D. Attendance Issues – There are six commissioners who have missed three meetings in a 12-month period. The 12-month period is based on a “rolling calendar” with each monthly CFW meeting starting off a new 12-month period. Commissioners are reminded to be aware of when their 12-month period runs and of their attendance records.

- E. Federal Funding for Early Childhood Education – Federal legislation (H.R. 3221) was introduced on July 15 that would fund competitive grant programs for high quality early learning programs. This is in line with the MAPPA recommendations. After the legislation passes the House, the MCCFW should write to support it and specifically mention funding for core services such as the continuance of CDBG funding. This matter will be referred to the MAPPA Committee.
- F. MAP Agenda Implementation - Suggestion was made that the MCCFW authorize the MAPPA Committee to take any appropriate action that forwards the recommendations in the MAP Agenda so it can send letters, sign onto letters, submit testimony, and speak up at meetings or forums, etc., as long as the action is directly in support of specific recommendations of the MAP Agenda. The MAPPA Committee was asked to develop a proposal for such a process and present it to the full Commission at the August 26, 2009 meeting.
- G. Planning Board Appointment – On July 21, the Montgomery County Council selected Marye Wells-Harley to serve a full four-year term on the Montgomery County Planning Board. Ms. Wells-Harley would become the first African-American female to serve on the planning agency. MCCFW has sent a letter of congratulations to Ms. Wells-Harley.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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

## CFW ACTION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1.</b>	Intent to Run forms for the Office of First and Second Vice Presidents are due back by or before August 26, 2009 and the election will be held at the September 23, 2009 meeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2.</b>	Staff will prepare each Committee's FY10 work plan for commissioners' approval at the August 26, 2009 CFW meeting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3.</b>	Staff will draft revisions to the Bylaws to change the date in which vice presidents are elected. In addition, language will be added to note that officers will be elected at the CFW's annual planning meetings. A draft copy of the proposed Bylaws revisions will be distributed to commissioners in the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda packet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4.</b>	The MCCFW will celebrate its 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012. Now is a good time to start thinking about some ideas to celebrate this event!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5.</b>	Attendance Issues – There are six commissioners who have missed three meetings in a 12-month period. The 12-month period is based on a “rolling calendar” with each monthly CFW meeting starting off a new 12-month period. Commissioners are reminded to be aware of when their 12-month period runs and of their attendance records.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6.</b>	Federal legislation (H.R. 3221) was introduced on July 15 that would fund competitive grant programs for high quality early learning programs. This is in line with the MAPPA work. After the legislation passes the House, the MCCFW should write to support it and specifically mention funding for core services such as the continuance of CDBG funding. This matter will be referred to the MAPPA Committee.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>7.</b>	The MAPPA Committee was asked to develop a proposal for a process that would allow the committee to take any appropriate action that forwards the recommendations in the MAP Agenda so it can send letters, sign onto letters, submit testimony, and speak up at meetings or forums, etc., as long as the action is directly in support of specific recommendations of the MAP Agenda. The proposal will be presented to the full Commission at the August 26, 2009 CFW meeting.