

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2010

7:16 p.m.

### ATTENDING

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

### STAFF

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

### ABSENT

Wilma K. Holmes  
Regina L. Oldak

### GUEST

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director  
for Congresswoman Edwards

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## I. CALL TO ORDER-APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Atterbeary

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Atterbeary who noted that President Lichter Vincent would arrive later.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley, seconded by Commissioner Levy and unanimously passed, the agenda was approved as presented.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Morales and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the Minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Atterbeary**

**A. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)**

On January 19, 2010, MLAW held its Annual Legislative Reception and Briefing to introduce the 2010 agenda. Approximately 60 persons attended including President Lichter Vincent and Commissioner Atterbeary. President Lichter Vincent reported on SEIU's bill to unionize child care workers.

Commissioner Morales said that MLAW added to its agenda the Family Responsibilities Discrimination initiative, which would prohibit employment discrimination based on familial responsibility. Delegate Kaiser will introduce the bill.

**B. Women's Legislative Briefing**

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Legislative Briefing will be held Sunday, January 31, 2010. Over 600 persons have registered and staff will close registration on January 29. Senator Barbara Mikulski has offered to attend and introduce Keynote Speaker Lilly Ledbetter.

*(President Lichter arrived, thanked Vice President Atterbeary and presided over the remainder of the meeting)*

**C. Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**

The Maryland Commission for Women has selected MCCFW's nominee Irene Morgan Kirkaldy to be inducted into its Women's Hall of Fame. Ms. Kirkaldy, who passed away at the age of 90 in 2007, refused to give up her seat on a bus ride from Virginia to her home in Baltimore in 1944. These actions led to one of the most notable cases of the Civil Rights Movement when the Supreme Court ruled on June 3, 1946 in Irene Morgan v. Commonwealth of Virginia, that segregation in interstate travel was unconstitutional.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held March 18, 2010 in Annapolis. President Lichter Vincent will introduce the nomination.

**D. Half The Sky**

A special event, *Half the Sky Live*, based on the 2009 book Half The Sky by husband and wife authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, is being scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day in March. The book follows the stories of extraordinary women around the world as they struggle to overcome oppression. The March 4 event will feature musical performances, screening of a new short film, *Woineshet*, and commentary by the book's authors.

Commissioner Aridi Afas looked into the possibility of MCCFW hosting a screening of the *Half the Sky Live* event at the AFI Silver Theater, but learned it was not possible to do with such short notice. For more information, visit [www.halftheskylive.com](http://www.halftheskylive.com).

E. Vision 2020

Vision 2020 is a national project focused on advancing gender equality by energizing the dialogue about women and leadership. The organization is seeking nominations for delegates to help launch an action agenda to move America toward equality by 2020, the centennial celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. For more information, visit [www.drexel.edu/vision2020](http://www.drexel.edu/vision2020).

F. Divorce Handbook

The Spanish language edition of “A Woman’s Guide to Surviving the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce in Maryland” is now available. A press release will be issued and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo made the excellent recommendation to send each library in the state of Maryland a copy of the book to encourage the use of the publication in circulation and reference collections.

Copies of the English and Spanish versions may be purchased for \$5 from MCCFW. President Lichter Vincent will find out if DLLR is interesting in purchasing copies.

G. Meeting Sustenance

In light of the budget cuts, the Executive Committee decided that the CFW could no longer provide dinner for the commissioners using CFW funds, even though it recognized that most commissioners come to the meetings directly from work with no time to stop for a meal. Commissioners agreed to take turns providing dinner on CFW meeting nights and a schedule was circulated. Administrative Specialist Rodgers will provide commissioners with information on restaurants that deliver in the area.

H. Meeting with County Executive

The MCCFW’s annual briefing with County Executive Leggett is scheduled on February 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. The officers and committee chairs will attend.

**III. STAFF REPORT** .....Vaughan-Prather

A. Budget

County departments had to take a second budget cut this fiscal year and this cut will most likely extend to FY11.

B. Staffing

Due to the second round of budget cuts this fiscal year, MCCFW is losing two full-time positions occupied by valued, long time employees. This latest cut brings the total number of positions in the department down to ten. Five of those ten positions are part-time and four of those are counseling positions.

C. Commissioner Reimbursements

Forms were distributed for reimbursing commissioners for their attendance at MCCFW meetings. Please return these to Administrative Specialist Rodgers.

**IV. MAPPA .....Commissioner Smith**

At the MAPPA meeting held January 20, 2010, it was decided that the Committee will suspend further meetings in order for members to focus on and support the work of the NACW Conference Planning Committee. However, the MAPPA Committee has a few items of “unfinished business” remaining:

- Offer a briefing to the Women’s Caucus of the Maryland General Assembly and the Montgomery County Delegation, on the Single Mothers and Poverty Action Agenda. Staff will write to both groups to see if there is interest in being briefed on the project.
- There is some legislative advocacy being done on:
  - Earned Income Tax Credit
  - Expansion of family planning coverage
  - Expansion of FMLA
- Commissioner Morales is working with Delegate Anne Kaiser on the Family Responsibilities Discrimination proposal; she will develop a fact sheet for use in drafting the bill.
- Staff is working on a National Association of Counties (NACo) award submission for the Single Mothers and Poverty Action Agenda.
- There will be a workshop on “*Fighting Poverty for Single Mothers*” at the January 31, 2010 Women’s Legislative Briefing and the July 2010 National Association of Commissions for Women conference.

**V. NACW CONFERENCE AGENDA PLANNING.....Aridi Afas**

A. Fundraising .....Levy

- The CAP Committee and some commissioners are working with Commissioner Levy; however more corporate sponsorships are needed! Commissioner Mederos has provided a number of names of contacts for potential supporters and Commissioner Levy will follow up on those contacts.
- There is also a list of under \$1,000 items that smaller companies (law firms, endorsing organizations, etc.) may want to contribute.

- In addition, the MCCFW has invited all current and former commissioners to donate \$140 to sponsor a “Welcome Reception” hosted by former commissioners Sharon Grosfeld and Connie Morella. A total of 25 commissioners including three current commissioners and one staff person, responded with donations totaling \$3,375, so far.
- Commissioners are asked to please continue to let Commissioner Levy know if fundraiser letters and packets are needed or if follow-up phone calls to potential sponsors are needed.

B. Briefing in Washington, D.C.

There may be the possibility to have a briefing for the NACW delegates at the Old Executive Building. Commissioners Mederos and Samuels previously offered to help Executive Director Vaughan-Prather on planning this event. Commissioner Mederos volunteered to try to set up a tour of the new Capitol Visitor’s Center.

C. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau Support for the Conference

Staff is waiting to hear back from the Department of Labor; however, President Obama’s appointee for DOL Women’s Bureau director has not yet been confirmed and no decision will be made before the confirmation.

D. Conference Project Plan

Copies of a Conference Project Plan were distributed to each commissioner. Help with this conference is needed from all commissioners. The CAP Committee will have updates of the project plan at every CFW meeting.

E. NACW Staffing

Gersenda Varisco, a former volunteer with the CFW Counseling Center, has been hired to assist part-time with NACW’s work.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. MCPS Policy on Pregnant and Parenting Teens

There is no system-wide policy for excusing absences from school when a student parent misses school while caring for a sick child. Staff emailed a former commissioner who now works with MCPS to inquire about this. A response immediately came back announcing that MCPS has now established a policy for its secondary schools to excuse such absences.

B. CFW Attendance Policy Proposal

Commissioners Walker Holloway and Samuels decided to table discussion of their draft proposal until after the NACW Conference.

C. Judicial Conduct

President Lichter Vincent read a draft letter to be sent to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities to express MCCFW's concern about the presiding judge's insensitive comments made in the local high school rape case. Commissioner Cryor Baldwin moved that the letter as drafted, be sent. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Samuels and passed by majority vote, with one abstention.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENT**

- A. Commissioner Levy announced that the Montgomery County Family Justice Center is holding its first annual benefit on October 3, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel. Catherine Leggett is hosting the vent.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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