

Approved 4/28/10

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2010

7:15 p.m.

ATTENDING

Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Resa Levy
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent
Ivonne C. Lindley
Leticia Mederos
Larniece McKoy Moore
Regina L. Oldak
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

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

ABSENT

Leila Aridi Afas
Chandra Walker Holloway
Wilma Holmes
Manar Morales
Jane Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER-APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES..... President Lichter Vincent

President Lichter Vincent officially called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. She announced that the Conference Agenda Planning Committee was still in progress and since so much of its work involves the whole CFW, asked if the commissioners would like to re-arrange the agenda for tonight's meeting so the CAP meeting could merge right into the CFW meeting. Everyone present agreed.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather noted an additional agenda item under Section II (Business Meeting) and Section IV (Unfinished Business). Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley, seconded by Commissioner Atterbeary and unanimously passed, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley and seconded by Commissioner Atterbeary, the Minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. NACW CONFERENCE AGENDA PLANNING

Overview of Conference Plans

Plans are shaping up quickly for the July 22-25, 2010 NACW Conference; CFW's priority project. The following conference matters were reported:

A. Fundraising

Thanks to Commissioners Cryor Baldwin, Mederos, Smith, Levy and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, the conference now has nine sponsors. Approximately \$30,000 has been raised.

B. Federal Issues Briefing Plans

A briefing on Capital Hill is planned for the NACW conferees on July 23, 2010. Congresswoman Donna Edward's staff reserved a room for the briefing and is helping to coordinate the event. Commissioner Mederos will invite Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Staff will also send letters of invitation to Montgomery County's representatives from Congress, Chris and Hollen and Donna Edwards, as well as Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

C. Concurrent Session Planning

The following concurrent sessions will be offered during the Conference on Saturday, July 24, 2010: (Exact session titles may change)

Track 1 - Women in the Economy

- A. Work and Family Policies
- B. Women, Girls, Science and Technology
- C. Mothers and Poverty

Track 2 - Women Facing Special Challenges

- A. Immigrant Women in the U.S.
- B. Older Women's Issues
- C. Women and Girls in Abusive Relationships

Track 3 - Strengthening Commissions for Women

- A. Survival Strategies for Commissions for Women
- B. Effective Advocacy Skills and Strategies
- C. Running Effective Meetings

Commissioner Oldak agreed to serve as the moderator for the Survival Strategies for Commissions for Women session. Other MCCFW commissioners will serve as facilitators for each of the planned sessions. The commissioner responsible for a session will be asked to coordinate that workshop. The CAP Committee will identify the speakers and make the invitation and confirmation. The facilitators are asked to contact the panelists and speakers, coordinate their presentations, get their “bios” and AV needs, greet the speakers at the conference, serve as moderator, etc., and generally host the workshop and the panelists.

D. Keynote Speakers

There are about seven opportunities for keynote speakers. Sara Manzano-Diaz, Director of the Department of Labor Women’s Bureau has been invited.

Commissioners supported the idea of accepting the offer by TV star Mary McDonough, of the National Center for Policy Research for Women and Families, to serve as a keynote speaker.

E. MCCFW Welcome Reception

Many current and former commissioners have donated money for the MCCFW Welcome Reception to be held for the conferees on July 22, 2010.

F. Marketplace

Commissioner Atterbeary agreed to serve as coordinator of the conference’s on-site “marketplace.” The marketplace will be a venue of representatives from Empowered Women International (EWI), a publicly supported non-profit organization that promotes the arts and entrepreneurial success for immigrant and refugee women and families. Items crafted by the women will be offered for sale at the conference. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will put Commissioner Atterbeary in touch with EWI’s President Marga Fripp.

G. Parliamentarian

MCCFW has to find a registered Parliamentarian for the three NACW business meetings held during the conference. It is preferred that a volunteer Parliamentarian be found to serve in this capacity. Commissioner McKoy Moore will inquire about the availability of a Parliamentarian she knows.

H. SWAG

Commissioner Lindley has been in contact with a few conference sponsors and organizations that can provide items and information for the conference tote bags.

Commissioner Rai will ask Holy Cross Hospital for items. Staff will use the County's vendor to order conference tote bags and speaker gifts.

I. Tasks to Accomplish Between Now and the April CFW Meeting

- 1. Continue fundraising
- 2. Finalize the Call to Conference packet
- 3. Invite/Confirm concurrent session speakers

J. Timeline for Conference Planning

April – Send out speaker invitations, workshop presenter invitations; open registration;
 May – Confirm speakers, workshop presenters; collect SWAG, confirm sponsors;
 June – Finalize program and signage – send to printer; order conference bags and speaker gifts; finalize catering orders at hotel; finalize field trip plans; confirm registration desk attendants; confirm commissioners' responsibilities on-site.
 July – Close registration; confirm participants; prepare conference binders and bags; brief speakers and workshop presenters via conference call; finalize welcome reception logistics; final prep meeting with commissioners.

III. BUSINESS MEETINGPresident Lichter Vincent

A. Meeting with County Executive

The CFW's annual meeting with County Executive Leggett on February 25, 2010 went very well. Mr. Leggett seemed impressed with work on the Divorce and Separation Handbook. He reiterated a concern he expressed last year regarding violence in teen dating relationships. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that the topic would be discussed during a concurrent worksession at the NACW Conference and that the CFW could also publish a newsletter article on the subject.

The commissioners mentioned their concerns to the County Executive about cuts to the CFW budget.

B. Recruitment of New Commissioners

Commissioners Levy and Oldak's terms will be expiring in June and having served two full terms, they are not eligible for reappointment. Commissioners Lindley, McKoy Moore, and Rai are eligible for reappointment and were asked to inform Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and send a letter to the County Executive if they are interested in continuing to serve.

A committee consisting of Commissioners Atterbeary, Holmes, and President Lichter Vincent, will review and interview the CFW candidates. The deadline for applying to serve on the CFW is April 30, 2010.

C. NACW Office

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather informed the NACW Board of Directors that due to county budget cuts, MCCFW would no longer be able to host the NACW office which it has done for the past 5 years. MCCFW will continue to provide support to NACW through the annual conference in July. After that time, the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women may take over the operations of the NACW office, but it will have to move before July 1.

D. Legislative Activity

President Lichter Vincent said that she has spent time in Annapolis advocating two of CFW's priorities: the Earned Income Tax Credit Bill and the Gender Equity Health Coverage Bill. Commissioner Morales testified on the Family Responsibilities Discrimination Bill. Staff will provide an updated status report on the CFW Legislative Agenda to commissioners. President Lichter Vincent noted the passing of the Health Care Reform Bill!

E. Scholarship Program at Montgomery College

On March 3, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the Montgomery College Women's Studies Program Annual Scholarship Breakfast honoring 2010 Student Scholarship Award winners as well as the 2010 "On Her Shoulders We Stand" award recipients: Dr. Esther Schwartz-McKinzie, Dr. Rita Kranidis, and Professor Sharon Anthony. All are current faculty members and former Women's Studies campus coordinators.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that the entire ceremony was very moving and that each of the student scholarships were very well deserved. She suggested that MCCFW consider sponsoring a scholarship for this program in 2011, instead of providing scholarships for the Summer Computer Camps for Girls. This issue can be discussed at the annual CFW planning meeting.

Commissioner Rai said that he would talk to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather about other funding options for the Summer Computer Camps for Girls program.

F. CFW President Election

Intent to Run forms for the office of CFW President will be distributed in the April CFW Meeting packet. The forms will be due back by the May 26, 2010 meeting. Commissioners should also begin to think about the offices of first and second vice president, which will be elected two months after the new commissioners are on board.

G. FY11 Planning Meeting

CFW's annual planning meeting is typically held in August. It was the general consensus of the commissioners to not have a July CFW meeting so that commissioners could attend the NACW Conference July 22-25.

IV. STAFF REPORTVaughan-Prather

A. Budget for FY10 and FY11

Montgomery County's serious budget challenges continue to grow and one consequence is a further cut into CFW staff. In the second round of FY10 budget cuts, MCCFW lost two valued, long-time employees. On March 15, the County Executive released his recommended operating budget for FY11 and it is recommended that CFW will lose another full-time employee. .

B. FY09 Annual Report

The FY09 Annual Report is being proofed by staff and will be sent to the printer by the end of the week. In the interest of both the economy and the environment, only 80 copies will be printed. The report will be distributed via e-mail and posted on the CFW website.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Women's History Month Program

Montgomery College sponsored a Women's History Month panel discussion "*In Their Own Voices*" on March 12, 2010. Commissioner Holmes served on the panel and presented her own personal story and spoke about the MCCFW. Approximately 15 people attended and the event was well received.

B. Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

On March 18, President Lichter Vincent and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the Maryland Commission for Women's Hall of Fame ceremony in Annapolis. Former CFW President Patricia Cornish served as Chair of this year's event and President Lichter Vincent said it was a beautiful ceremony and that it was dedicated in the memory of former State Delegate Jean Cryor.

The MCCFW nominee Irene Morgan Kirkaldy (1917-2007) was inducted along with five other nominees. Aleah Bacquie, the granddaughter of Ms. Kirkaldy was present to receive the honor on behalf of her grandmother.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Commissioners are invited to attend a farewell luncheon for CFW staff members Janice Herold and Susan Koenig on March 25, 2010.
- B. The Montgomery College (Rockville Campus) Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice and the Women's Studies Program will present "*Motherhood and Money: Hidden Costs, Hidden Values,*" a talk by award-winning author Ann Crittenden, on Thursday, March 25, 2010.
- C. The Maryland Commission for Women is seeking a liaison from MCCFW to serve on the Maryland Women's Heritage Center. This will be discussed at the April 14, 2010 Executive Committee meeting.
- D. A representative from the Eisenhower Foundation is meeting with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather on April 12, 2010 to discuss how women's issues are addressed in a democratic society.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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