



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

September 6, 2007 – 6:00 PM

Permit and Resource Management Department
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Carylon Alexander, Patricia Boyd, Ginny Doyle, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Jan Kiely, Tiffany Renée

Commissioners Absent: Karen Famini (Notified), Carol McHale (Notified), Roxanne Meuse (Notified), Jeanne Robinson (Notified), Donna Roper (Notified).

Junior Commissioners Present: None.

Community Members: None.

Staff Present: Maggie Martin, David Phillips

I. Call to Order - Introduction of Commissioners and Staff: Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Martin introduced David Phillips, Investigator for the EEO Division and explained that he was attending this evening's meeting because he wants to gain a better understanding of how the Commissions operate now that they are under the Human Resources Department's EEO Division.

II. Consent Items: The Agenda and Minutes of the July 12, 2007 and August 24, 2007 Commission meetings were reviewed and approved.

III. Public Comment: None.

IV. Commission Update:

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Renée reported that there is one opening in the 5th District.

V. Commissioner Announcements and Updates:

Announcements:



- Hollingsworth reported that she and Brenner represented CSW at Ursuline High School's Service Day and spoke to a number of students and parents about the Junior Commissioner Project and the current recruitment campaign for Juniors.
- Hollingsworth announced that Women Build in Sebastopol has now broken ground on their first project after experiencing some delays.

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Kiely reported that Acosta, Allen and she are met with Supervisor Kelley on July 30th to discuss the Report. He was pleased that the CSW has become more action-oriented and is taking direction from the Report for future projects/initiatives. He asked that they update him again in six months.

VI. Old Business:

Report Card Event: Acosta reported we are currently planning to hold a breakfast on Friday, October 19, 2007 to present the Report to local media, elected officials and community partners (potential strategic partners). We are working on an invitation list based on the lists developed in the Spring for potential guests and funding sponsors. She invited Commissioners to give their input on the invitation list, as it has to be finalized in the next couple of weeks so that we can get invitations out in a reasonable time.

Martin reported that she has been working with the Fountain Grove Lodge. Right now we have a quote for a continental breakfast, including fruit, for about \$16.00 per person. Although she has been working based on an anticipated attendance of 50 – 60 people, the room they have reserved for us can hold up to 75 people and other rooms are available.

Hollingsworth reported that she does not have a firm commitment from the Soroptimists on sponsorship of the event. Her contact has to bring the matter to the next regional meeting to determine the extent of sponsorship and whether they are interested in sponsoring the event (now that the format has changed) or would prefer to contribute towards the printing/design costs.

The Commission discussed the matter at some length. The final formal actions taken were as follows:

- Motion by Kiely: *Move to authorize the task force to proceed with plans for a breakfast announce the Report to the media, elected officials and potential partners among community leaders.* Second by Renée. Carried unanimously.
- Motion by Kiely: *Move to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$2,000 to cover the cost of the event/breakfast.* Second by Acosta. In the subsequent discussion, Renée objected to that level of expenditure on food for the event.
- Motion by Brenner: *Move to approve expenditures not to exceed \$1,200 (potential sponsorships) to cover the cost of the event/breakfast.* Second by Doyle. Carried unanimously.

Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County: Doyle announced that the Report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on September 18, 2007. The finished printed version of the Report will be available for that date. The final Report will be available on the web.

She is working on the Executive Summary with the help of McHale and Alexander who worked on the draft. The Summary is with the designer, and she hopes to have that available in time for the Board presentation.

The group discussed potential criticisms of the Report at some length. Some of the highlights of the discussion were:

- The Supervisors and County Administrator had asked the wording on CSW support for initiatives and legislation to help ensure that everyone in Sonoma County earns a living wage be softened. Although this was, done the words “living wage” still appear in both a recommendation to the Board and in the Focus for Community Action section. We may encounter some objections to those words not having been edited out.
- Martin and Hollingsworth pointed out the significant degree of support that Ann Goodrich (Director of Human Resources) has shown for the Report by recognizing CSW’s approach to the Report and supporting the Commissioners in representing the Report and the CSW’s positions and findings. In addition, the printing costs (up to \$2,500) are being covered by the Human Resources printing budget rather than being charged against CSW’s program funds for this fiscal year. Hollingsworth asked that CSW’s appreciation for this level of support be formally recorded.

VII. New Business:

Women’s Equality Day: Martin explained that she had overlooked asking for the Commission’s formal support of staff’s request that the Board of Supervisors recognize August 26th as Women’s Equality Day in Sonoma County at the July meeting. Renée: *“Move to approve staff’s submission of a request that the Board of Supervisors proclaim August 26, 2007 to be Women’s Equality Day in Sonoma County.”* Second by Kiely and carried unanimously.

The Board did issue the proclamation at its meeting on August 14th. Hollingsworth’s address to the Board was extremely well received.

Group Resume Exercise: Martin reported that, given the positive response to this exercise from the Strategic Planning session, she will work on developing a more formal “group resume” that can also be used in promotional efforts for CSW. Toward that end, she will be developing a standard “information sheet” and asking Commissioners to provide that information via e-mail.

Planning Process and Project Updates:

- **Report Dissemination:** Acosta noted that the dissemination will be handled along with the process of the Report Event.
- **Self Sufficiency Calculator:** Renée reported that she is researching the resources available on line. Two alternatives she’s evaluating is a “state calculator” developed by social services and one developed by Penn State University that operates without a modifier for the cost of living in a city.
- **Non-Traditional Career Exploration:** Brenner reported that the group has not met yet. Acosta volunteered to share some information that she had gotten from the most recent ACCW conference, and Hollingsworth suggested that the group explore the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEMS) program.

- **Public Office & Appointments:** Renée reported that, while the group has not met yet, she has begun discussions with the League of Women Voters' local chapter. She learned that they will request a presentation to their Board before co-sponsoring a project with CSW.
- **Family Violence Prevention Council:** Boyd reported that the education subcommittee on which she serves is moving forward with a poster contest for youth. Plans are still being finalized, but Supervisor Brown has offered to be the judge. The full Council will meet next month.
- **Junior Commissioner Project:** Hollingsworth reported that applications are due on September 15th, and the office has received four applications to date. We have sent letters to Supervisors with the forms asking if that they pass them along to anyone who might like to participate or submit a nomination. Hollingsworth is also working on plans for the annual orientation retreat.
- **Women's History Month:** Hollingsworth reported that this project become active once the Junior Commissioner project is underway.
- **Women's Organizations:**
 - Renée reported that she has begun the work of planning the state convention to be held in Rohnert Park on April 4 – 8, 2008. She will be recruiting over 150 volunteers to help staff the event.
 - Hollingsworth reported that she has not made contact with the Santa Rosa chapter of AAUW yet. However, she has been communicating with her contact at the Soroptimists of Windsor about sponsorship for the Report and their willingness to act as fiscal partner to manage the Women in Industry (WIIN) scholarship funds.
- **ACCW:** Acosta reported that she had attended the most recent quarterly meeting held in San Francisco in August. The highlights of the meeting were as follows;
 - California Assemblymember Flores (Fresno area) is sponsoring hearing to review Title IX compliance and has formed a select committee to review issues of gender discrimination because of recent legal *settlements involving the CSU and UC systems*.
 - California Senator Steinberg is sponsoring California law (AB2404) requiring community-based athletic organizations operating outside the public school systems to comply with Title IX. The bill is aimed at preventing gender discrimination in youth athletic programs, including the allocation of resources that support them (e.g., allocation and access to public sports facilities).
 - The Los Angeles City Commission has received a grant to support its efforts to counter human trafficking in the area.
 - The City/County of San Francisco has a department devoted to ensuring compliance with CEDAW and is integrating those principles into how that government entity does business.
- **Older Women's Task Force:** Kiely announced that the group will hold its first meeting on Friday, September 13, 2007, and she will have a report at the next Commission meeting.
- **Speakers Series:** Brenner reported that Boyd, Martin and she met. They hope to develop a program involving three separate components:

- Public Forums: Presentations (e.g., panel discussions, lectures, and/or films) on a single major topic will be held periodically (quarterly). The proposed topics are Human Trafficking, Domestic (Family) Violence, Health care Issues for Women, Childcare & Balance of Personal/Work Life Issues, and Older Women's Issues.
- Resource Fairs: These events will be related to the Forum topics and held at locations throughout the County. These "fairs" will bring programs, organizations and agencies working in the highlighted topic areas together so they are accessible to the public.
- Speakers Bureau & Presentation Resource Library: This will be a compilation of presentations (speeches and supporting materials) that can be used by Commissioners when presenting to local groups, schools, etc. Aside from information on the Forum topics and general presentations about CSW and its projects, it would be ideal if the other projects could add to the "library" by developing a presentation(s) on their topic.

Brenner informed the Commission that she has contacted the producer of the film "Cargo" that has been approved as a tool for law enforcement training and learned that the recent screening by the Los Angeles Commission was a great success. Hollingsworth reminded the group that January 11, 2008 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

- Projects Not Formally Adopted by CSW for 2007 – 8 and 2008 – 9 Biennium:
 - Calendar Project: Hollingsworth reported that she will work on a proposal for a 2009 calendar for presentation at a later date.
 - CSW Liaison to CHR: No further development.
 - Community Health Care Council: Hollingsworth has learned that there are 30 seats on this Council and has contacted Rita Scardaci (Director, Department of Health Services) about Kiely serving on that body.
 - Health Care Literacy: Absorbed into Speakers Series.
 - Human Trafficking: Absorbed into Speakers Series.
 - Sonoma County Strategic Plan: Martin urged Commissioners to attend one of these sessions because of it is critical that CSW's projects to support the County's response to the challenges it faces in the years to come.
 - Resource Referral Guide: No progress report.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Note: All reports covered above.

IX. Staff Report:

Reorganization: Martin reported that the recruitment for the new EEO Manager has been reopened. Karen Martin, an EEO Analyst specializing in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be joining the Division on September 11th.

Attendance: Martin distributed the quarterly update on attendance at regular Commission meetings.

Staff Responsibilities: Support, Timelines and Work Flow: Martin asked if Commissioners had any questions about the respective responsibilities for herself and Nadine after having a chance to review the information distributed at the Strategic Planning Session. She asked for Commissioners' help in setting subsequent meetings

when the various work groups are together, because coordinating schedules remotely is a drain on staff time.

Correspondence: Martin shared a letter received by the Office as an example of the types of issues and requests received from the public for assistance and referrals.

Update on Staff's Current Activities/Issues: Martin explained that staff has been primarily focused on CSW activities of late, and the coordination of the presentation of the Report to the Board of Supervisors and the breakfast event. However, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is also in the process of developing their strategic plan and the start of their fall campaigns for educational programs and the Human Rights Awards program.

X. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

XI. Adjournment: Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.