



## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

May 8, 2008 – 6:00 PM

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

### MINUTES

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Jan Kiely, Tiffany Renée, Donna Roper, Priscilla Vivio

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Patricia Boyd (Leave of Absence), Christina Brenner (Notified), Karen Famini (Notified), Rebecca Hollingsworth (Leave of Absence)

**JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Rhiannah Rovelli-Alyxander

**STAFF PRESENT:** Maggie Martin

**I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:**  
Renée called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:** The Agenda was approved with a correction noted that the third items under New Business should be the “California Parenting Institute Advertisement” rather than the “California Partnering Institute Advertisement” and the April 10, 2008 meeting Minutes were approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lisa Fochetti, a current resident of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, explained that she is interested in working with (and possibly serving on) the Commission. She informed the Commission that she is an attorney and is currently assisting in a friend’s legal office. Her particular concern is to educate and assist victims of domestic violence.

**IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Martin explained that Allen has recently moved from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> District, and that she understands that Supervisor Brown will be appointing Allen to represent the 1<sup>st</sup> District in the very near future. Once that appointment has been made, there will openings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 openings), 4<sup>th</sup> (1 opening), and 5<sup>th</sup> (2 openings) Districts for 5 openings overall.

**V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**



### Announcements:

- Roper reported that she would make a presentation at the upcoming annual meeting of the League of Women Voters about The Report. The event will be held on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at the office of Canine Companions on Dutton Avenue in Santa Rosa.
- Kiely announced that May 12<sup>th</sup> is National Women's Check-Up Day and Healdsburg District Hospital will be holding clinics for heart, stroke and breast examinations for women in honor of the event.

### Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Kiely reported that she, Allen and Acosta had met with Supervisor Kelley on April 28<sup>th</sup> and felt that the meeting had gone very well. They provided an update on CSW's activities and task forces, with particular emphasis on the LAW and Older Women's initiatives. Supervisor Kelley would like CSW to focus on communications with the public, and one tool that could help is the newly approved openings for Public Information Officers.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

Proposed Projects Update for Work Plan: Martin reported that Hollingsworth and Judy Boyce (Chair of the Commission on Human Rights) had jointly presented the Commissions' work plans to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As part of the presentation, they announced the upcoming Human Trafficking Awareness Event on which the two Commissions are collaborating. The Supervisors each expressed their support for the Commissions' work and their pleasure at the increased collaboration between the two bodies.

WIN Scholarship Fund: Item tabled due to Hollingsworth's leave of absence. Renée asked whether the funds could be used to sponsor the AAUW "Tech Trek" program.

Human Trafficking Event: Martin reported in Brenner's absence and noted that the planning group has made impressive progress toward finalizing plans for the Event. Highlights of the progress made to date are:

- The date has been finalized, and the Event will be held on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Congregation Shomrei Torah has graciously offered to host the event in its sanctuary and has volunteered to provide the refreshments during the reception that will precede the formal program.
- Additional funds have been raised through the generous support of the Soroptimists, and the fiscal backing now stands at \$3,500.
- The promotional campaign is being developed and will focus primarily on publicity through local media, posters and e-mail distribution.
- No admission will be charged and advance reservations will be strongly urged.
- The evening will begin at 5:00 with a reception/registration during which appetizers will be served and various organizations (including CSW) will staff information booths. The formal program will begin at 6:00 (or shortly thereafter) with introductory

comments followed by the screening of *CARGO: Innocence Lost*. The evening will conclude with a panel discussion (primarily question and answer format the audience).

- The panelists are being finalized, but they include Michael Corey Davis (CARGO's writer and producer) representatives from the District Attorney, Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, California Attorney General's Office, and United Against Sexual Assault.
- Nick Sensley, a national and international expert on the issue, will serve as moderator for the discussion period.

On a final note, Martin explained that *CARGO* is a compelling documentary that can be disturbing. Therefore, all Commissioners should arrange to preview the film before the Event. They can contact Nadine to arrange to see it in the Commission's office or conference room.

Renée noted that Petaluma's Healthy Community Consortium (HC<sup>2</sup>) could be a valuable resource given the successes they've achieved in organizing and publicizing events.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

Officer Positions: Renée announced that Hollingsworth will be taking a leave of absence until September and, therefore, is no longer able to serve as Chair. The succession for Officers provided in the Bylaws provides that the Vice-Chair assumes the responsibilities of the Chair and the Office-At-Large, in turn, assumes the responsibilities of the Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term (June 30<sup>th</sup>). Elections are then held for the Officer-At-Large position.

With the short time remaining in the year, undergoing the election process to fill the vacant Officer-At-Large opening would mean that whoever was elected would only serve in the position for the June Commission meeting.

Nominations and Elections: Martin explained the Commission's Bylaws' provisions for the election of officers. The term for Officers coincides with the County's Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30). The Bylaws state and that a call for nominations from the floor will be made at both the May and June meetings with elections held after nominations are closed at the June meeting. She then opened the floor for nominations.

Roper nominated Renée for Chair, Acosta for Vice-Chair and Allen for Officer-At-Large. When Renée declined based on her other commitments, Roper amended her nomination to Acosta for Chair. Acosta nominated Kiely as Vice-Chair.

## **VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- ***Junior Commissioner Project:*** Rovelli-Alyxander reported that the Junior Commissioners were finalizing the summaries and presentations on the focus groups they each conducted on an issue(s) of concern to youth. Their final meeting will be held starting at 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Sheriff Department's Training Room. The meeting will include their focus group presentations and a discussion panel with women who hold elected office or work in the political arena. She invited all the Commissioners to attend.

Martin noted that the Junior Commissioners would be recognized by the Board of Supervisors at their June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She encouraged as many Commissioners to attend as possible. Rovelli-Alyxander volunteered to help with the formal address to the Board, as long as her final exam schedule permits.

- ***Self Sufficiency Calculator:*** Renée announced that the software has been updated with the latest earnings and cost figures. She and Martin will work on contacts with County Departments (e.g., Human Services) and outside agencies that would be appropriate end-users for this tool.
- ***Non-Traditional Career Exploration:*** No report in Brenner's absence.
- ***Public Opportunities for Women's Equal Representation (POWER) Task Force:*** Roper plans for the Leadership Institute For the Economy and Ecology (LIFEE) to hold a training program on the steps for and issues in running for political office. The program will be held from 9:00 to Noon, on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Santa Rosa City Council chambers. The fee will be \$5.00 to cover lunch and LIFEE's administrative expenses not covered by the contract with CSW. LIFEE is handling all the logistics (e.g., registration) for and promotion of the event. She shared a copy of the flyer used to announce the event.
- ***Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison:*** None in Boyd's absence.
- ***Women's Organizations Liaisons:***
  - South County: Renée reported that the AAUW of Petaluma's officer installation ceremony, at which she was took office of co-Chair, held on May 15<sup>th</sup> was well attended. She remarked that the organization's re-commitment to its fundamental mission holds encourages prospects.
  - North County: None in Hollingsworth's absence.
- ***ACCW Liaison:*** Acosta reported that she has not received any communications from ACCW, and noted that the next quarterly meeting should be occurring in the near future. She inquired whether any other Commissioners had received e-mail notifications of meetings, since we have had on-going difficulties with receiving consistent communications. No one else has heard anything. She will attempt to contact the person responsible for communications.
- ***Legislation Affecting Women (LAW) Task Force:*** Acosta distributed a draft of the proposed procedure for a review of CSW's advocacy positions. She also reported that she and Martin are scheduled to meet with Lori Norton, Deputy County Administrator next week to learn more about how the County's Legislative Program is developed, share the proposed procedures and explore how to work most effectively with the County Administrator's Office on CSW's advocacy positions in the future.
- ***Older Women's Task Force:*** Kiely reported that she and Allen had met on April 25<sup>th</sup> to review the project. In doing so, they had to honestly recognize the vast scope of issues that affect the aging segment of our community. As a next step, they would like to work on gathering a group of key leaders from community organizations as well as government agencies together to hold a public roundtable/forum on the topic. Their

first step will be to contact Ginny Doyle (former Commissioner and staff to the Area Agency on Aging) for advice on how to best proceed.

- ***Speakers Series:*** Report covered under the Human Trafficking Event.
- ***Women's History Month Coordinator:*** No report in Hollingsworth's absence.

**IX. STAFF REPORT:**

Resource Referral Tool: Martin explained that the office reorganization is still not complete, and Nadine having to cover for the Division Secretary who's on leave. Therefore, this project is not complete yet.

Attendance Report: Martin distributed the report on Commissioners' attendance at Commission meetings. She noted that no one has missed more meetings than allowed under the Bylaws.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff's Current Activities/Issues: Martin reported that, thus far, no cuts have been proposed in CSW's program funds for the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year.

**X. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Renée adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.