



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

### Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

**San Mateo County Office Building**

**455 County Center, Redwood City – Room 101 (first floor)**

**6:30 PM**

#### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by CSW President Linda Koelling at 6:34 pm.

#### **2. Roll call**

Commissioners Present: Linda Koelling, Kristy Koberna, Anisha Weber, Shweta Bhatnagar, Janet Dulksky, Stacie Furia, Tanisha Hughes, Darya Larizadeh, Vivian Lino, Marguerite Machen, and Christine Padilla

Staff Present: Honora Miller, Juda Tolmasoff, and Dory Memarzia.

#### **3. Swearing in of Reappointed Commissioners**

Reappointed commissioners were sworn in by the Deputy County Counsel Monali Sheth.

#### **4. Public Comment**

No public comment

#### **5. Approval and Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Anisha Weber and seconded by Kristy Koberna to approve and adopt the January 2017 meeting agenda. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **6. Approval of September & November 2016 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Tanisha Hughes and seconded by Christine Padilla to approve and adopt the September 2016 meeting agenda. Motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Anisha Weber and seconded by Shewta Bhatnagar to approve and adopt the November 2016 meeting agenda. Motion was approved unanimously.

## **7. Group Agreements**

Linda Koelling reviewed the group agreements- commissioners should arrive on time/ start on time, take turns speaking, speak loudly enough for everyone to hear, be courteous of other opinions, listen to hear a different perspective than your own, mute phones, allow the chair to guide the process, chair will check in about remaining time 8:15 pm.

## **8. Presentation: San Mateo County Legislative Program**

Connie Juarez-Diroll, San Mateo County Legislative Program Director, presented information about the County's Legislative Program. Below are some highlights:

- The County works with two state lobbying firms and one federal lobbying firm to keep track of legislation. Bills are reviewed that impact San Mateo County -- departments, services and programs, and funding. The area that is covered is extensive and in order to organize that work, the County has developed policies that are listed in the legislative program.
- Every year, legislative staff work with departments and groups to receive feedback on legislative matters. Based on the information, language is crafted, and then reviewed and approved by the Board. The legislative session program also covers priorities, which change over time. For example, healthcare will be a significant topic this year.
- The new legislative program is being developed and will be presented to the Board in February. If the Commission on the Status of Women wants to include a legislative item in the document, they would first work with Honora, who would then work with Connie.
- The Commission may also request that the Board take a position on a certain bill. (As an example, last year, the LGBTQ Commission asked the Board to support "all gender bathroom bill", that was supported by the Board and the Governor signed it.)
- The action the County can take is writing a letter on behalf of the board (signed by the president), stating the County's position on a specific bill; whether it will be supported or opposed, and urging committees to review the bill (since bills are sent to committees first). The County would then follow the bill throughout the session and send the lobbyist to sessions to testify in support or opposition to the bill. In addition, the County would visit member offices to try to get their support or opposition depending on how important the bill is. At the end, the County sends a letter to the governor asking him to sign the bill or veto it.
- Similar to legislative priorities, any letter of support or opposition from the Commission would be communicated by the liaison (in this case is Honora) who would share information with Connie, who would then work with the Board members to bring it to the full Board for their review and consideration.
- In terms of timeline, the state is currently at the beginning of the session; legislators have until February 19<sup>th</sup> to introduce bills.

## **9. Report from Commission President**

- Linda expressed her excitement about working with the commissioners and stated that the mission of the commission is to improve the quality of life in the County of San Mateo. She indicated that during the meeting, the commissioners would have the opportunity to break into different work groups.
- Linda reported that there were efforts were underway to plan for the Commission's Retreat (scheduled for Friday, February 24, from 9-2 pm).

## **10. Report from Commission Director**

Honora highlighted the type of activities that the commission has been engaged in during its history, which has included:

- Planning women's conferences, and conferences focused on young women (since 1980s)
- Engaging women in political involvement
- Holding public hearings on different matters to get testimony from women to hear how various policies are impacting them. (There were specific hearings related to how access or lack of access to information about child support or the process of divorce was impacting them. The challenges around representation or knowing what the process was and that ultimately resulted in the county having a women's resource center, which provides legal information.)
- Holding legislative breakfasts with local legislators to obtain information about bills that impact women.
- Making recommendations to the Board about pending legislation and efforts to consider language for inclusion in the legislative program.

## **11. Selection and Approval of Commission Representative to the Domestic Violence Council**

It was noted that there is a standing position on the Domestic Violence Council (advisory body) for a Commission on the Status of Women Commission representative.

Christine Padilla volunteered to join the DV Council, a motion to approve this assignment was made by Anisha Weber and seconded by Kristy Koberna. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **12. Input Sought on 2017 Commission Retreat**

Linda informed the Commissioners that the retreat will be an opportunity to bring forward ideas and identify issues that align with the mission of the commission (dream, define, design, and deliver). A facilitator and location will be announced shortly.

## **13. Meeting of Work Groups** (Women's Leadership Conference; Women's Criminal Justice; and Women's Hall of Fame Working Groups will use this time to plan action

steps and make assignments of work to be completed before the next Commission meeting on February 28th).

### **Women's Leadership Conference**

Work group members present: Stacie Furia, Janet Dulsky, and Vivian Lino.

The work group mainly discussed their next meeting and its agenda. Accordingly, they scheduled the meeting for Saturday, February 18, from 10-12 pm. During the meeting these issues will be discussed:

- Abstract of topics
- Sponsorship
- Final topics
- Cost of food

In addition, the group narrowed down the venue selection to two options: the first place Canada College and the second place is College of San Mateo, and they are waiting for the final proposal from Canada College.

### **Women's Hall of Fame:**

Work group members present: Juda Tolmasoff and Christine Padilla

The workgroup discussed the following tasks during the meeting:

- Identifying the make/model of the iPad that houses the current exhibit and contacting the Peninsula Library System about integrating information with their technology.
- Arranging to relocate the exhibit from the San Mateo County History Museum and procure/identify a place to store items
- Reviewing the list of previous honorees in the Women's Hall of Fame and begin to identify hometowns and industry sectors at the time of their inductions
- Setting up a meeting with key Peninsula Library System staff to showcase the exhibit and to develop a plan of action for the exhibit rotation through the various library branches

## **14. Work Group Report Outs and Consultations with Full Commission** (Work Groups and the coordinator Clothing Drive Project will use this time to collaborate with each other and obtain specific direction from the full commission.)

- **Women's Leadership Conference:**

Janet reported that the workgroup has identified two possible venues: 1. Canada College and 2. San Mateo College.

The workgroup has also set aside a weekend in February to talk about the topics, the structure of sessions, and the topic abstracts.

The workgroup is also doing some research; the workgroup prepared a survey to evaluate topics and identify individuals who may be interested in attending the conference. Stacie asked the commissioners to share the survey with their networks to analyze the demographic of future participants.

- **Criminal Justice:**

Honora is setting up a meeting with Melissa Wagner, Sheriff's Office relating to women's jail programs. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the re-entry guide; see what already exists, and what she perceives the need to be, and to use that as a starting point.

Kristy Koberna suggested interviewing women in the jail to ask about their needs, and to talk to women who have been out for about six months, to see what challenges they might face.

The workgroup also talked about discussing the issues with Choices program staff.

- **Women's Hall of Fame:**

Christine reported that there are two parts of Women's Hall of Fame:

1. The annual award ceremony which will be held the same day as the Women's Leadership Conference (March 2018).
2. Women's Hall of Fame electronic exhibit. The Library is interested in having the exhibit travel to different libraries throughout the county.

## **15. Opportunities for Collaboration/Event Announcements**

It was noted that there will be a Women's Community Leadership Network event in Half Moon Bay.

Kristy Koberna mentioned that Thrive sponsored a session on Inauguration Day, and there will be another session on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Redwood City.

## **16. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by Linda Koelling.