



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 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 6:37 pm.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Linda Koelling, Becky Abens, Vivian Lino, Anisha Weber, Christine Padilla, Marguerite Machen, Lisa Williams, Darya Larizadeh, Annie Lu.
Staff Present: Rocio Kiryczun, Tanya Beat.

3. Public Comment

Two members of the public in attendance. No public comment.

4. Approval and Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Anisha Weber, seconded by Christine Padilla, to approve and adopt the September 2017 meeting agenda. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Linda Koelling, seconded by Lisa Williams to approve and adopt the June 2017 meeting minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

6. Group Agreements

Linda Koelling reviewed the group agreements.

7. Veterans Services/Commission Presentation

Norman Aleman, Veteran Services Officer presented on the Veterans Services Office services (CVSO) which is part of the Human Services Agency.

Overview:

Established in 1946 by the Board of Supervisors; it's important to note that VSO staff are county employees and not VA staff. San Mateo County (SMC) Veterans Services are free of charge. Anyone in the county can go to the Veteran Services Center. CVSO serves anyone who served in the active military, their dependents and surviving spouse, children or parent of deceased veterans.

Benefits:

Disability compensation and pensions; health care; shelter services, education &

training; housing/home loans; access to health programs; burial assistance. The CVSO serves as a liaison with the Dept of Veteran Affairs (VA), CalVet, and Veterans Services Organizations. With education and the GI Bill, it's one of the biggest benefits available and they can access it at any time in their life. Mr Aleman shared that the CVSO provides a County Veteran ID card which includes free entrance to SMC parks, discounts at stores, and access to their benefits.

Demographics

In 2014, SMC did a needs assessment and have demographics on county Veterans. Only 5% are women though in looking at veterans aged 18-35, about 18% of young veterans are women. Mr Aleman proceeded to share demographics of Veterans nationally. Female veterans are more likely to have service-connected disabilities but less likely to access VA medical services. Female veterans are less likely to identify as a veteran but he's not sure why. To finish, it's important for female Veterans to know and access their benefits. Request to post information on CSW Facebook.

8. Report from Commission President

Linda Koelling reported on the following:

- Honora is extending her leave until the end of the year. We appreciate the service that Rocio has provided during this transition. We welcome Tanya Beat as Interim Director.
- Wanted to check-in about where we are for the year. Revisit goals from the Retreat at the November meeting with Pat Brown facilitating.
- For future Agendas, request that Juda Tolmasoff from Supervisor Groom's office represent and/or be the liaison for the Board of Supervisors.
- Request that Commissioners provide feedback for updating the website and for Facebook updates. All information goes to Tanya.
- Change in the Agenda specific to project group report outs. We ask project groups to report-out first, then recess into groups. If there are updates after project groups finish then they can provide brief comments.
- Linda and Tanya attended the Youth Commission mixer and met Annie Lu and Chelsea Lo who will be joining us on the CSW. We will add a Youth Commission agenda item. Anisha has agreed to be a mentor and we need one more mentor.
- Linda asks for a Domestic Violence Council work group report out.

9. Report from Commission Director

Rocio informed the Commission on the following:

- Juda Tolmasoff is checking in with Supervisor Groom about what these report outs could look like; probably focused on legislation.
- Welcome to Tanya Beat and she's working with the DV Council and the LGBTQ Commission.
- Dory was interning with us and she ended her internship last week.
- Women's Hall of Fame Report Out from Tanya. Nomination Form is up and as soon as the Save the Date is ready, will send it to you. She will provide you with tools for promotion along with a press release on the site. Nomination deadline

is November 30th.

10. Reports from Work Groups

- Domestic Violence Council: Christine Padilla liaison
Event: Barbara Hammerman Awards are coming up. Will send that out. The Board of Supervisors Oct 17 meeting will do a Proclamation.
Event: Assessing Danger and Domestic Violence Cases; will send that out. The DVC will be meeting again in October. Will share with Tanya to send out to the Commission.
- Criminal Justice Workgroup met with Melissa Wagner (Darya). Contact visits with children <6 have been approved. Looking at raising the age level if the visits are successful. They want to partner with us for programming. Proposing a Re-entry handbook and they are working on something similar so we'll collaborate. Proposing a survey and focus group in the jail and they received that well. Will start on questions for the survey next. They may have funding for the handbook and the Commission would not be able to apply for a grant but HR would look into the funding possibilities.
 - Would be a good idea to bring Melissa Wagner back once we define more specific projects to work on.
 - Darya will move forward to learn how Santa Clara County handles re-entry.
- Women's Leadership Conference (Lisa Williams)
 - Assessed abstracts and edited down to 3 general sessions: Capitalizing on Women's Leadership/Creating a pipeline for powerful women leaders; Powerhouse Female Legislators/Government & Community Engagement; Mentoring & Networking.
 - WLC logo is done and the website is being worked on. Speakers are still being assessed. Fundraising and sponsorship has been established. Need the entire Commission's help for speakers and supporting the conference.
- Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit is Oct 19, 6:30pm (Christine Padilla). Reception kicks off the traveling exhibit. Speakers are Supervisor Groom, Davina Hurt, Terri Cook. It's free and open to the public.
- Promoting Women in the Workforce (Anisha Weber). Suggest to refocus on the WLC. Anisha has been soliciting speakers for the WLC.

11. Meeting of Work Groups

- Work/Project Groups have 20 minutes for discussion.
- Brief Report Outs/Comments:
 - i. request to remind Commissioners to participate in their assigned work groups because we need their help.
 - ii. WLC: we discussed speakers and review of a draft budget.

12. Announcements

- Senate Bill 1322: Human Trafficking (Linda Koelling) – children cannot be legally arrested for prostitution. Law enforcement uses arrests to get children out of human trafficking so there is much discussion around this bill.
- Women’s Equality Day (Linda, Anisha, and Becky): Program was great and it was well attended. Becky shared that there is a great story-telling project there too.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.