



## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

October 9, 2008 – 6:00 PM

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

### MINUTES

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chris Allen, Pat Boyd, Karen Famini, Priscilla Vivio, Liz Acosta (Chair), Jan Kiely, Rebecca Hollingsworth

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Christina Brenner; Tiffany Renee; Donna Roper;

**JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Julia Gass; Katie Delucchi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dell Jacoby

**I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:**

Acosta called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**II. CONSENT ITEMS:** The Agenda for October 9, 2008 was approved; Minutes from the September 11, 2008 Commission meeting were approved with minor revision.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Acosta reported that there are 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. When possible, Commissioners will distribute information about Commission openings.

**V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**

Announcements:

- Kiely reported she presented to the North Bay chapter of the National Organization for Women in September. She used the PowerPoint developed to highlight the Report on the Status of Women as a format for discussion and distributed copies of the Report to attendees. Present were 12 members of NOW. The 2008 NOW project is Women in the Justice System and the group was very interested in that section of the Report. Kiely also discussed Commissioner openings.
  
- Kiely also reported that she has been contacted by the local AAUW Chapter to present in the spring; AAUW is interested in Domestic Violence prevention.



- Acosta reported that the Commission sponsored a Gold Resolution before the Board of Supervisors on September 23, proclaiming October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Sonoma County. The resolution was co-sponsored by the Department of Health Services, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, the Family Violence Prevention Council, and the YWCA. Also attending were four Commissioners – Roper, Acosta, Vivio, and Boyd – as well as leadership and staff from United Against Sexual Abuse (UASA) and from the Victim Assistance Center.
- Boyd reported that she presented to a Gender Equity class at UC Davis on the efforts of the Commission, the recent Report and on the Junior Commissioner project, and shared materials with the class.
- Boyd also reported she, Brenner and Renee will present a proclamation to the Petaluma City Council on October 20, proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Boyd has arranged to meet with UASA to discuss a possible partnership and will report back to the Commission on the outcome.

Supervisor Communication Updates:

- Famini reported a conversation with Supervisor Brown in which the Supervisor congratulated the Commission on the Domestic Violence Awareness resolution and on the Junior Commissioner project.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Recruitment Strategies: Acosta reported on the work she and Hollingsworth did on recruitment strategies and presented a spreadsheet of priorities, with a beginning focus on District 3 and 5 recruitment. Number one priorities are: contact Soroptomist Clubs in Santa Rosa and Windsor (Vivio), Healdsburg and Cloverdale (Kiely), AAUW North (Kiely) and the Volunteer Center (Acosta.) Previous contacts include League of Women Voters (2008 Roper), NOW (Kiely and Roper, 2008.) Staff will forward contact information for Soroptomist clubs to Acosta and Kiely. **Action Taken:** The Commission agreed to make this an ongoing project of the Commission and will add this to their annual work plan.

Courtesy Pledge: Vivio presented the revision of the Courtesy Pledge, revised by Vivio, Famini and Brenner. The Commission discussed and agreed to change the word “Board” to “Commission” so that there would be no confusion between the Commission and the Board of Supervisors. **Action Taken:** the Commission moved to accept the Courtesy Pledge with one minor revision.

Committee Reporting: Allen opened a discussion on how Commission activities are manifested through Committee work. Allen feels it is important that Commission work be done in Committee and reported on to the full Commission. Although some business may come up in Commission meetings, the business should then be sent to the appropriate

Committee for action. Allen feels the work of Committees forms the basis of the Commission efforts and should not be circumvented.

Kiely and Acosta also spoke to the importance of tracking project progress through use of the project update form. This update should be done by each Committee prior to the monthly Commission meeting and forwarded to staff, so that members can be fully informed of Committee work and so that County administration can easily track Commission progress.

**Action Taken:** Hollingsworth and Vivio have agreed to review and revise the project update form to serve as a monthly project update to the Commission. The revision will include budget projections, critical dates, Committee membership and partnerships and any crossover to other Committee efforts. Once revised and accepted by the Commission, Committees will be asked to provide an updated project form for each Commission meeting.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Budget Update:** Kiely led a discussion on the Commission's annual budget. Staff prepared and distributed a spread sheet outlining all Committee and Commission budget projections for projects and other miscellaneous expenses. Kiely reported that, based on projections, the overall project budget is over allocation. She has asked Committees to update each project with a more realistic budget so that the Commission can evaluate and prioritize Commission expenditures.

**Commission Calendar:** Kiely introduced a monthly calendar of key dates for Commission/Committee efforts, as well as other important dates for the membership. Commissioners are asked to update staff with key dates. Staff will also check into the possibility of a shared calendar for Commissioners.

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

- **Junior Commission (Famini):** Famini reported that the Junior Commission Orientation went very well, with staff, Hollingsworth and Acosta participating. Hollingsworth led a discussion with the Juniors on women's history and Acosta spent the afternoon working with Juniors on a poster project. Gass, Junior Commissioner, reported that the Junior Commission also learned about Robert's Rules of Order at the orientation. DeLucchi, Junior Commissioner, reported that the first meeting of the Commission they discussed the posters created at orientation and then took the Oath of Office, a very exciting experience. The Junior Commissioners parents attended the swearing in.
- **Women's History Month Coordinator (Hollingsworth/Vivio):** Hollingsworth reported she has been approached by Monte Rio School District to present to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on women's history and women's civic involvement and asked the Commission's permission to present. Hollingsworth also reported that Molly McGuire, founder of the National Women's History Project, contacted her to update the Commission on the one-woman show about Rachel Carson coming in the spring and to encourage the Commission to support nomination of eligible women for the *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet* awards. Hollingsworth asked Commission permission to contact McGuire to

discuss partnership. Additionally, Hollingsworth, Brenner and Vivio will arrange for a link to the Commission's Women's History project on the Sonoma County Office of Education website in January and will revise the curriculum materials for distribution by January.

**Action Taken:** The Commission authorized Hollingsworth to represent the Commission and present women's history to the Monte Rio School District and to represent the Commission in discussion with the National Women's History Project on possible collaboration.

- Self-Sufficiency Calculator (Renee): Renee was unable to attend the meeting, but staff updated the Commission on changes to Insight, the company that sponsors the Calculator. Insight now requires constituencies to raise funds in support of the Calculator and there may be a requirement that a portion of those funds be shared back to Insight. Staff and Renee will follow-up with Insight and report on their findings.
- Organization Liaisons
  - South County (Renee): No report.
  - North County (TBD): Kiely presented to the NOW organization of Sonoma County in September (see Commissioner Announcements – Section V.) She will also present on the Commission and the Report Card at the North County AAUW meeting in spring of 2009. When she is aware of an upcoming meeting in North County, she will send an announcement to all CSW Commissioners until a liaison is identified for the North County. Commissioners will attend as they can.
  - ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta) – no communication from this organization. Acosta will follow up.
  - Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison (Boyd): Boyd reported that the Domestic Violence Poster Contest was a success; she shared copies of the three winning posters with the Commission; the original art work was presented to Judge Bertolli, Court Liaison to the Council; the Board of Supervisors was also presented with copies of the winning posters; there are plans to make the posters available to hospitals and businesses for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The Education and Prevention Subcommittee of the Council is researching community needs; they facilitated a teen focus group at Chops for @20 teens.
  - Community Issues Liaison (formerly Human Trafficking) (Brenner): No report.
  - Non-Traditional Career Exploration Liaison (Brenner): No report.
- Representation and Legislation Task Force (Acosta/Roper): Acosta reported that she and Roper will seek to maintain the objectives of both POWER and LAW Task Forces that combined to form this task force. They continue to seek out partnerships and hope to build this effort once the election cycle is complete. At this time, legislation is quite and is expected to remain so until after the November election. This Committee is revising its goals and will project budget needs. The next meeting will be November 13 at 5:00 PM in the La Plaza conference room.
- Older Women's Issues Task Force (Allen/Kiely): Kiely and Allen reported the focus of the Task Force has been narrowed based on recent information which showed that most needs

of retirement age women are being met or there are resources to meet them. A collaboration with the Area Agency on Aging and the Adult and Aging Division of Human Services was preliminarily discussed with Ginny Doyle, Program Planning Analyst, and Allen and Kiely felt there was a good possibility of collaboration between the Commission and the Division. When they met again with Adult and Aging, the Department did not see a clear connection with the Commission's efforts. Allen and Kiely will continue to seek community partnerships to proceed. The impact of the housing market collapse is an issue still to be discussed.

- Speakers Series Task Force (Brenner): No report.
- Recruitment Task Force (Acosta): This is a new Task Force and the first report is outlined under Old Business in these minutes. This Task Force will be added to the Commission's annual work plan.

#### **IX. STAFF REPORT:**

Correspondence: Staff reminded the Commission that Sarah Gurney of the Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire will present to the Commission on November 13 regarding services available.

Attendance Report Distribution: Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners. A correction was made to Boyd's attendance, showing her present at the August 14 Commission meeting.

Update on Staff Activities: Staff reported that the Commissions Office will be very busy with the Human Rights Awards through January of 2009.

**X. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Acosta adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.