



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

October 11, 2007 – 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Liz Acosta, Chris Allen, Patricia Boyd, Ginny Doyle, Karen Famini, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Jan Kiely, Carol McHale, Tiffany Renée, Donna Roper

Commissioners Absent: Roxanne Meuse (Notified)

Junior Commissioners Present: None.

Staff Present: Maggie Martin

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

II. Consent Items: The Agenda and Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Commission meetings were reviewed, revised and approved.

III. Public Comment:

Julie Silk, President of Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) – Sonoma County, made a presentation on the organization and its goals related to supporting young girls in the preparation for and pursuit of careers in the math, science and engineering fields. She explained that, given the shared goals with CSW, she would like to explore opportunities for greater collaboration between the two organizations.

IV. Commission Update:

Swearing in of New Commissioners: None.

Appointments and Openings: Martin reported that Alexander and Robinson had resigned since the last Commission meeting. Therefore, there are openings in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Districts.

V. Commissioner Announcements and Updates:

Announcements: None.

Supervisor Communication Updates: None.



VI. Old Business:

Report Card Presentation: Hollingsworth made a formal presentation on The Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County – 2007, based on the presentation made to the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2007.

Report Card Event: Acosta reviewed the logistics and preparation plans for the breakfast on October 19th. She asked for volunteers to help set up the room at 4:00 PM on Thursday, October 18th. She also asked Commissioners to arrive by 7:30 on Friday morning and to help greet our guests.

Boyd is working on donations for floral arrangements for the tables. Hollingsworth noted that, based on responses received thus far we can expect 45 attendees.

Martin explained that the caterer will be delivering, but not setting up the food, so asked for Commissioners to help with that. She also explained that she had sent out a reminder e-mail to all those who had not responded and had invited all those who had indicated that they could not attend to this evening's meeting. She also announced that she would be sending out an e-mail confirmation to all those attending (including CSW members) with directions and an electronic copy of the Executive Summary.

Planning Process and Project Updates:

- ***Self Sufficiency Calculator***: Renée reported that she has been in contact with Marty Bennett of Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) who has identified the National Economic Development and Law Center (NED&LC) as a source for the calculator. NED&LC's model includes details for Sonoma County's cost of living and has the capacity to handle a wide variety of family "profiles." These features should make their program a useful tool.

NED&LC has a fully funded program, including training for users. She would like to contact the Human Services Department to explore facilitating the use of this tool locally and asked for help with identifying the appropriate contact. Doyle offered to assist with this process.

- ***Non-Traditional Career Exploration***: Brenner reported that the workgroup has decided on three areas in which to focus attention:
 - Identify programs already in place within our community and determine how to support those and/or what gaps need to be addressed.
 - Focus efforts on outreach to students at younger ages in schools.
 - Target parents and school counselors to increase the awareness of alternative career choices.

In addition to the prospect of working with EYH, she has also meet with Stephanie Thompson of SRJC who informed her that women enrolled in "non-traditional programs" are definitely in the minority. Brenner is also scheduled to meet with the Sonoma County Office of Education next week.

- ***Public Opportunities for Women's Equal Representation (formerly Public Office & Appointments)***: Roper reported that the group had met and chosen a new name Public Opportunities for Women's Equal Representation (POWER) task force. As a first step, they will draw on the Report for a listing of all women in appointed and elected positions. Renée is also contacting trainers of existing programs to explore possible partnerships. The group will also work to provide training through a number of media,

including public access television and will ensure that we use translators so that we can reach the Latina population.

Acosta offered to provide a list of elected officials.

- ***Family Violence Prevention Council:*** Boyd reported that the full Council had met, and that the restructuring efforts are the focus of activity for the larger group. However, the youth outreach subcommittee is still quite active. Although they did launch their poster contest, unfortunately they did not receive any submissions. Therefore, the group is working hard to publicize the event by distributing and posting flyers throughout the County.
- ***Junior Commissioner Project:*** Famini reported that interviews have been concluded, and 13 Juniors have been selected for this year's Program. The Juniors are 9th – 12th graders from 7 high schools. Two are returning from previous year's Programs. The orientation will be held on Sunday, October 21st at SRJC. Plans for this year's Program include a field trip in March to commemorate Women's History Month, a luncheon in February, and on-campus focus groups to do research on issues affecting girls that will culminate in a forum in April. Karen also asked whether Commissioners would support an effort to "connect" each Junior with someone working in the fields that they are interested in pursuing, and the group was enthusiastic about this mentoring opportunity.
- ***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 – 6, 2008. She will be recruiting over 150 volunteers to help staff the event. This year's theme will be "it's all about the mission," to highlight AAUW's newly adopted mission statement.
 - Hollingsworth reported that she has also been working to support the convention by providing contacts for keynote speakers. She has recommended Dr. Michelle Jolly of Sonoma State University, given her work on the history of the women's movement in Sonoma County. She has also recommended Supervisor Brown.
- ***ACCW Liaison:*** Acosta reported that the next meeting will be held in Southern California on November 2nd. She is unable to attend and asked if any Commissioner would be interested in representing CSW at that meeting. The first quarterly meeting in 2008 will be held on February 15th in Marin. Martin asked Commissioners to consider going as a group and offered to coordinate a car pool using County vehicles.
- ***Legislation Affecting Women (LAW) Task Force:*** Acosta reported that the group will review current legislation so that they can inform Commissioners on the various initiatives that have been proposed and the status of their progress through legislative bodies with a goal of developing advocacy positions for CSW, where appropriate. For this effort, they will draw from California Commission on the Status of Women legislative watch web postings as a starting point. They will also work to prioritize the importance of pending laws on the local, statewide and national levels. Finally, they would like to develop a program designed to educate women on the legislative process that can be added to the Speakers Series Resource Library. For budget purposes, Acosta proposed that we reserve \$500.00 to cover potential costs for travel/education related to the effort.

- ***Older Women’s Task Force:*** Kiely announced that the group had met and identified an exhaustive list of potential topics. These include healthcare issues, safety, financial education, training for re-entry to the workforce, and dealing with such life changes as losing loved ones. They will be meeting again on Friday, October 12th to do more strategy development but hope to first identify the organizations and programs currently available for a resource packet and then identify the gaps that should be addressed.
- ***Speakers Series Task Force:*** Brenner distributed a “matrix” she drafted that includes a timeline for the task force’s various activities over the next 12 – 18 months. She asked Commissioners to give her feedback on this and their preferences for the order of topics for the forums. She views the Speakers Bureau as a potential resource to strengthen the CSW as a whole and the various “initiative areas” that other groups are working on.
- ***Women’s History Month:*** Hollingsworth reported she is considering using the elections as a springboard for topics in developing her lesson plans.

VII. New Business:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Martin explained that she had overlooked asking for the Commission’s formal support of staff’s request for Board of Supervisors to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness in Sonoma County at the September meeting. CSW has traditionally jointly sponsored the request with the Sheriff’s Department and the District Attorney’s office. They also draw support from the Family Violence Prevention Council and the YWCA. She worked with these partners again this year, and the Board made its proclamation on October 2nd, but she asked for CSW’s formal retroactive approval of this action.

MOTION BY DOYLE: *“Move to approve staff’s submission of a request that the Board of Supervisors proclaim October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Sonoma County.”* Second by Renée and carried unanimously.

Authorization for Board Proclamations: Renée asked the Commission to authorize staff to proceed with preparing submissions requesting the Board of Supervisors proclamations for regular observances each year so that formal CSW action is no longer required for each. **MOTION BY FAMINI:** *“Move to authorize staff take action required for the Board of Supervisors to proclaim Women’s History Month, Women’s Equality Day, Domestic Violence Awareness Month each year.”*

Hollingsworth asked that we add Child Abuse Prevention Month in April to the list. Martin said she would look into CSW joining the appropriate County Department(s) in the sponsorship of that proclamation.

Santa Rosa’s Tribute to Charles M. Schulz: Hollingsworth proposed that CSW write a letter in support of extending this Tribute for at least one additional year so that statues of a female character can be included along with Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Woodstock can be included. Famini explained that Craig Schulz is in charge of this effort and has stated that the campaign has taken too much effort for him to sustain it any longer. Furthermore, given the lead-time to produce the statues, a campaign in the summer of 2008 is probably not feasible. After a discussion, the group agreed to wait until the summer and to write a letter of support for the campaign.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Note: All reports covered above.

IX. Staff Report:

Reorganization: Martin reported that the application phase of the recruitment for the new EEO Manager is now closed. She explained that CSW's input into the process is a group interview with Judy Boyce, Chair, Commission on Human Rights and Rick Corbin, Assistant Director of Human Resources. With Alexander's resignation, she asked for a volunteer to help with the finalist interviews, scheduled for Friday, October 26th. Acosta agreed to help with this effort.

Since our last meeting, Karen Martin, EEO Analyst has joined the Division. She will be focusing on compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) for both employees and Title II that covers access to facilities and services.

Resource Referral Guide: Martin explained that she has not had time to devote to this project.

Group Resume Exercise: Martin explained that she has not had time to devote to this project.

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.

Correspondence: None.

Update on Staff's Current Activities/Issues: Martin explained that staff has almost exclusively focused on CSW activities of late. In fact, she has not had time to give the required support to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and their strategic plan development. She asked Commissioners to understand that she has to give priority to CHR for a period to "catch up." She also explained that she will probably be setting a schedule that will allow her to focus on each Commission exclusively at least one day a week in the near future.

X. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

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