

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California
93003

MINUTES

Saturday, February 9, 1985

9:07 a.m.

PSSA Training Facility
77 California St.
Ventura

The meeting was held

- I. The meeting was chaired by Alicia Ramirez-Brewer. Introductions showed the following:

Commissioners Present

Ray Clayton
Ginny Connell
Julie Elliott
Dot Engel
Louise Grethel
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Candace Matson
Alicia Ramirez-Brewer
Sandra Ryder
Mary Silverman
Martha White

Commissioners Absent

Tila Estrada
Lupe Gonsalves
Maggie Mireles

Guests Present

Lee Anderson, President of the Friends of the Commission
Cathy Sluter, Simi-Conejo N.O.W.
Shirley Van Lieu, Ph.D., works with the L.A. Commission for Women
Sara Radding, Interface Community
Sylvia Armitta, Interface Community
Bonnie Warrington, V.P., Friends of the Commission
Val Michaelis, Executive Director, Coalition Against Household Violence

It was announced that Commissioner Ginny Connell has been elected Vice-Chair of the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee.

- II. The Minutes of January 12, 1985 were accepted as submitted.
- III. Executive Secretary, Sandra Ryder, reported on the following correspondence:

Incoming

- .Supervisor Erickson reappointed Alicia Ramirez-Brewer, Sandra Ryder and Julie Elliott to this Commission.
- .California CSW - information items.

Incoming Correspondence (cont'd)

- .NACW - fundraising kit
- .Diane Bury, Santa Barbara Co. CFW re: their community survey, Quality of Life for Women in Santa Barbara County.
- .Stanislaus Co. CFW re: NACW Region IX Conference in Modesto, April 12-14.
- .EEOC re: expanded presence program in Oxnard.
- .Juanita Braud, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau with a brief history of the Women's Bureau.
- .Maxi-Memo - information on other commissions for women.
- .Orange Co. CSW, a copy of their child care needs assessment report, How Can We Work and Care For Our Children?
- .An invitation to attend the retirement party for Ventura County Counsel, Dorothy Schechter.
- .Linda Crawl, Oxnard college, asking for information on speakers provided by the Commission.
- .United Nations re: "California and the Emerging World Community" Conference at USC, Feb. 21-24.
- .NACW Resolutions from the 1984 convention and an action plan.
- .Sen. William Campbell re: 1985 Conference on Women in Anaheim.
- .Montgomery Co. Maryland CFW re: their commission and women's centers.

Outgoing

- .To Library Services Agency, Community College Libraries, Women's Centers and Social Science Depts. re: Women's History Week.
- .Sheila Hawkins, Title IX Assistance Office, California Dept. of Education, commending the recent women's history workshop held at CLC.
- .Thanks to Supervisor Erickson and Clinton Tatum for participating in the orientation session in January.
- .Molly MacGregor, National Women's History Project, thanking her for the excellent workshop.

Feb. 22 is the next deadline for material for California Women, published bi-monthly by the California Commission on the Status of Women.

IV. Financial Report

As of February 1, 61% of the fiscal year had elapsed with 43% of the budget expended.

M/S/P with 2 abstentions (Clayton, Johns)

To include in our budget proposal a policy item to fund reimbursement to Commission for Women members for transportation expenses (mileage).

Rationale: In discussing this issue, Co-chair Dot Engel stated that the Commission for Women is to represent all women in the county and all women who are qualified and able to serve on the Commission should feel eligible for appointment regardless of their financial circumstances. Commissioners are aware that it does cost money out-of-pocket to serve on this commission. Mileage reimbursement would alleviate some expense.

V. Informational Presentation-Val Michaelis, Executive Director,
Coalition Against Household Violence

The Coalition Against Household Violence (CAHV) was founded in 1976. Initially the service consisted of a 24-hour hotline but was expanded in 1982 when a shelter was opened in Ventura. The shelter is a 6-bedroom, 2-story house. Three bedrooms are used for clients; 3 are used by the staff and managers. Eleven women and their children can be accommodated for a total of 17. CAHV still operates a 24-hour crisis hotline and has a drop-in counseling center located in the old Mounds School. Individual, family and group counseling is offered. One of the important counseling groups is play therapy for children. There is a group for women batterers who make up 5% of those who batter. Planned counseling groups are: Batterers Anonymous for men, a support group for women who have left a battering situation, assertiveness training, and stress reduction.

The current staff includes Executive Director Val Michaelis, 2 shelter managers and 1 half-time secretary. They have plans to add others to the staff, another counselor and a volunteer coordinator.

Statistics:

In 1984, CAHV housed 91 women and 120 children in the shelter. In January alone of this year, 23 women were housed. Many came after having seen The Burning Bed on tv.

- . 50% of all marriages in this country will have at least one incidence of domestic violence.
- . 10%-25% of marriages have on-going violence. Battering happens at all socio-economic levels in all parts of the country. The higher socio-economic levels may have even more because it is more hushed up and not reported.
- . 20% of women seen in hospital emergency rooms are battered.
- . Battering is the single major cause of injury to women.
- . 1/3 of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands.
- . 60% - 80% of young men who are in jail for murder are there for murdering their mother's abuser.
- . 23% of the police officers killed in the line of duty are on domestic violence calls.

Women stay in a battering situation for many reasons. Fear that he can get to them no matter where they go. Hope that things will get better. Financial dependence with no money and no job skills. A belief that the success of the marriage is up to them, if they could only find the key, the right way to behave or the way to change him. Fear of losing their children to a more powerful husband if they divorce.

CAHV counselors tell clients right away that the battering is not their fault. It has nothing to do with who they are. They just happen to be there.

Women who stay in a battering situation may have been abused as a child or seen their mother abused, and have a sense that "this is what people who love you do to you." Most men who are batterers were abused as children. There is a cycle of child abuse/spouse abuse which must be broken.

Many women do not seek help because they are embarrassed and think they are the only ones with their problem. Batterers are controllers who often control every aspect of their wife's existence. It is difficult for women who do leave a battering situation to begin to handle things for themselves, such as finding a place to live, handling a checking account, planning and shopping for meals. CAHV needs volunteers to help with those things, to give support to women who move out on their own.

After an arrest, the number of violent incidents drops.

Val Michaels is available to speak to community organizations and students. Just hearing about the extent of the problem may encourage someone who is being battered to seek help.

It was requested that CAHV provide testimony for the Needs Assessment project.

VI. Unfinished Business

Co-Chair Dot Engel reported that CAO Analyst Clinton Tatum is preparing the final draft of the County Employees' Child Care Needs Assessment Report. We will be notified when that report is to be presented to the Board of Supervisors so that Commissioners can be present at the meeting.

Staff is directed to request a copy of the final report prior to the Board presentation.

Commissioner Connell requested that the order of the agenda be changed to allow for committee reports to come earlier in the order of business. It was decided to call for committee reports after the Financial Report in future agendas and to move at this point to the committee reports.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Needs Assessment

Commissioner Connell requested that notices of steering committee meetings be sent to all committee members.

Commissioners were requested to name specific individuals and organizations to provide input for the public hearings, people whose information definitely should not be overlooked.

Dates and locations of public hearings: scheduled by Advance Marketing Services: (The following information is a revised schedule)

March 13, Simi Valley City Council Chambers, 7-10 p.m.

March 20, Ventura, Government Center, Supervisors' Board Room, 7-10 p.m.

March 27, Santa Paula City Hall, 7-10 p.m.

April 1, Oxnard City Council Chambers, 7-10 p.m.

JoAnn Olivares-Bernard, Advance Marketing Services, announced that fliers and letters will be mailed and that they are seeking co-sponsors in each area for each hearing.

M/S/P to add a 5th hearing to take place in Thousand Oaks, if possible. JoAnn Olivares-Bernard will investigate and schedule if possible.

The Commission for women must raise \$6000 in the next 6 weeks to fulfill our contract with Advance Marketing Services. The fundraising committee consists of Commissioners Estrada, Connell, Clayton, Engel, Bonnie Warrington of the Commission on Human Concerns and Ruth Pettigrew, formerly with Ventura County Women's Employment and Education. VCWEE has contributed between \$3000 and \$4000 to our original commitment of \$10,000.

Each commissioner is urged to seek a contribution from at least one business contact.

Ruth Pettigrew will train volunteers to speak to businesses about the goals of the Needs Assessment.

The Friends of the Commission Report was taken at this time. President Lee Anderson reported that as a result of the commission's request of support for the needs assessment project, the Friends have planned an event to publicize and garner public support for the needs assessment.

Friends will host a dinner on Tuesday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. at the Oxnard Hilton Inn. Cost is \$13.50. Reservation deadline is March 8; reservations will be \$15.50 after that date. The program will be presented by Advance Marketing Services and will be a vehicle for the Commission for Women to reach the community and to inform about the goals of the needs assessment project.

Commissioners are asked to support this dinner with their attendance and to bring others. Invite business contacts. Pledge cards may be provided at the dinner.

Commissioner Johns suggested including fliers re: the needs assessment with city water bills.

Needs Assessment Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates. Meeting time is 7:00 p.m.

February 21, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer's, 420 Blaine Ave., Fillmore
March 19, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer's, 420 Blaine Ave., Fillmore
April 16, Commission on Human Concerns, 255 S. Laurel, Ventura
May 21, " "
June 18 " "

B. Employer-Assisted Child Care

Commissioner Engel reported that she and Clinton Tatum had met with Supervisor Erickson to discuss the role the Commission should play in the United Way Child Care Task Force. They feel the commission could better serve on the survey task force than on data collection.

C. NACW Planning Committee - Commissioner Grethel, Staff

A letter requesting NACW member commissions to participate in the display/exhibit portion of the June 19-22 Convention has been given to the convention planning committee for mailing.

Convention registration fee is \$100 for NACW members. Fees for non-members to attend the convention and/or special events are: 1 day , \$25; 2 days, \$40; 3 days, \$50.

Events available at extra cost to non-NACW members:

- .Wed, June 19, 5 p.m., bus trip to Newport Beach and dinner or to Hollywood and dinner.
- .Thurs., June 20, American Living History Theater performance and dinner at Hilton Hotel, Pasadena, \$40.
- .Sat., June 22, Breakfast at Hilton Hotel with Gloria Molina, \$20.
- .Sat., June 22, Lunch, Billie Jean Young, poet and founder of Southern Rural Women's Network, \$25.

Staff was directed to find out if NACW members can register for individual days or events if they can't attend the whole convention.

D. Women's History Week Task Force - Commissioner Connell

"Make Women in History Come Alive in Your Classroom", a workshop for teachers, was presented at California Lutheran College on Jan. 25-26 by Molly MacGregor, co-founder of the National Women's History Project. 25 educators from Ventura and L.A. Counties attended. It was enthusiastically received. Barbara Marino, a teacher from Simi Valley, reported that almost 100% of her faculty colleagues had requested copies of the resource material received at the workshop; the school will pay the duplication costs. Bonnie Hoult, another Simi Valley teacher, reported a successful grant application for \$4000 to develop women's history materials for her school district. Kelleyanne Pearce, reporter for the Star Free Press,

attended the second day of the workshop and wrote a very good article afterwards.

This year the California State Department of Education issued a resolution for Women's History Week. A copy was sent to each school district in the state!

Commissioner Connell and staff made a presentation to the county schools curriculum council on Feb. 6 re: Women's History Week and distributed new resource material to the council members. Curriculum Superintendent Lyn Perino has asked that the presentation to the council be done annually.

Letters encouraging support for Women's History Week have been sent to the County Library Services Agency, Community College libraries, women's centers and Social Science Departments.

On March 1 at 12:00 noon there will be a luncheon at Mercury Savings at 2797 Agoura Rd., Westlake Village. The speaker will be Dr. Janice Bowman, California Lutheran College, whose topic will be "Women in Literature - an Ethnic and Cultural Perspective." Advance tickets required. \$8 per person. Proceeds will fund the already mentioned workshop and will be used for women's history materials for the county schools system. For reservations call Candace in Simi, 581-2897; Ginny in Thousand Oaks, 495-5590; or Martha in Camarillo, 484-9604.

E. Domestic Violence Services

CAHV has recruited a volunteer to be on-site M-Th from 4:40-6 p.m. They need a volunteer for Friday.

Commissioner Grethel reported on having visited the Interface shelter for battered women. She was impressed by their projects to offer continuing support for clients, especially the parenting classes. They have an excellent volunteer recruitment program. The shelter is in good order.

F. Communications

Commissioner Ryder reported on the recently issued newsletter; the next issue is already in the works. She will work to develop the brochure re: commission information and expertise in employer-assisted child care.

G. Legislative Analysis

Commissioner Connell reported that a key piece of legislation in this session will be the Civil Rights Act of 1985 which would reinstate Title IX.

On the state level, there will be a new AJR1 which would

memorialize the President of the United States to introduce a new Equal Rights Amendment.

There will be another AB1 which would prohibit discrimination against anyone based on sexual preference.

Comparable Worth issue will arise in SB2. Other legislation vetoed last session by the Governor will be reintroduced - latchkey bills, nursing home reform bills, child abuse bills.

H. Awards Selection Committee

Commissioner Matson reported that the committee has revised the nomination form, developed guidelines for making the nominations. They will make a complete report with recommendations at the March meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business

Commissioner Silverman and staff reported on progress in developing the organizational manual. A memo regarding items to be included in the manual was distributed to each commissioner. Biographical information about each commissioner will be included. Silverman and staff will develop a format.

VII. Friends of the Commission

President Lee Anderson reported the Friends now require 100% attendance by their Board of Directors at each meeting. The fiscal year runs from January 1 - December 31. The treasury balance is \$1347.67.

The Friends' permanent meeting place is 2220 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo. The next meeting is at 7:30p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19. They will be working on the March 12 dinner already mentioned in these minutes. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

VIII. New Business

A. Commissioner Mireles has submitted a verbal resignation from the Commission due to family health concerns. With full agreement from the Commissioners present, Martha S. White will take over the position of financial officer.

B. UN Decade for Women - Commissioner Elliott
In 1975 the UN General Assembly proclaimed 1976-1985 the UN Decade for Women. The 1985 World Conference to be held July 15-26 in Nairobi, Kenya will review and appraise the achievements of the Decade and develop strategies for the continuing advancement of women up to the year 2000. The major themes of the Decade and conferences are equality, development and peace with sub-themes of education, employment and health.

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M/S/P The Commission will send a letter to the President urging the following points: at least half of the delegates appointed by him to the Nairobi Conference will be women; all appointees will have demonstrated expertise on women's issues; the delegation will be bipartisan; the delegates should be selected early enough so that they can be thoroughly briefed on the issues to be dealt with and that they be supported by an adequate staff.

C. Annual Report

Commissioners were asked to complete their record of time, expenses and mileage expended on Commission duties in time for the May meeting. The record sheets (activity sheets) should be turned in to Martha White. Committee chairs are asked to have their reports for the Annual Report ready at the May meeting also.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Baskerville, staff

Martha Baskerville