

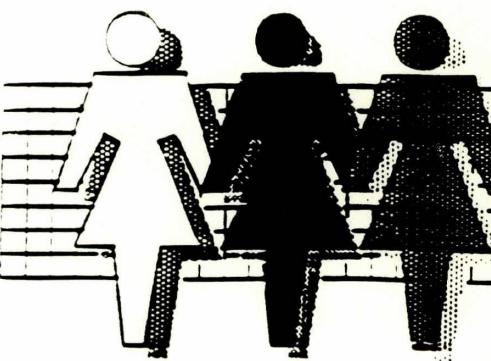
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1991, AT 9:00 A.M.

205.200

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

Presentation is given by Kathy Long and Stacy MacDonald, without motion the Board hereby receives and files the following report:



Ventura County Commission for Women

505 Poli Street Mail Code: 4400 Ventura CA. 93001

FAX: 805-652-7520
652-7611 or 529-2060 x7611

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT 1990-1991

Presented on behalf of the
Ventura County Commission for Women

Kathy Long
Co-Chair

Eliza Thomas
Co-Chair

DISTRICT 1 - SUSAN LACEY, SUPERVISOR

Karen Flock, Ventura
Suz Montgomery, Ventura
Helen Spencer, Ventura

DISTRICT 2 - MARIA VANDERKOLK, SUPERVISOR

Carol Breyman, Oxnard
Pat Harris-Murray, Oak Park
Jeannette Scovill, Thousand Oaks

DISTRICT 3 - MAGGIE ERICKSON KILDEE, SUPERVISOR

Kathy I. Long, Camarillo
Stacey B. Mac Donald, Santa Paula
Anna McVerry, Camarillo

DISTRICT 4 - VICKY HOWARD, SUPERVISOR

Connie Lawrason, Moorpark
Marilyn Maurer, Simi Valley

DISTRICT 5 - JOHN FLYNN, SUPERVISOR

Aurora de la Selva, Oxnard
Beverlee McGrath, Oxnard
Eliza Thomas, Oxnard

COMMISSIONERS WHO SERVED PORTIONS OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR:

DISTRICT I

Karen Greenslate
Katie Reeder

DISTRICT II

Diane Doria
Susan Witting

DISTRICT III

Naomi Kohl

DISTRICT IV

Teresa Cortes
Teresa Godinez
Eve Sayre

DISTRICT V

Jean Harris
Helen Lopez

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANNUAL REPORT

1990-1991

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The Commission for Women began the 1990/1991 year with an August Organizational Retreat Meeting to review the ten years of accomplishments and to visualize what opportunities and challenges lay ahead in the next ten years. As we must learn from our past, we must also focus on and learn from the present, so we can anticipate and be in charge of our future. Priorities were set which established new committees: Health Care for Women and Children, a Local Appointments Coalition, and a Women's Resource Center. These issues were extracted from our outreach meetings and previous needs assessments. Both committees set short and long term goals and have been working aggressively to meet the challenges.

We also continued with committees and co-sponsorship of events to address issues of child care, domestic violence, financial education and affordable housing. We co-sponsored the "Women's History Project Awards" event which honored women in Ventura County who have contributed to the field of education and as a community activist to further the goal of "making women in history come alive in the classroom." We co-sponsored the Women's Financial Information Program, which is an extensive eight week program to provide information and to educate women on financial needs for retirement, investment and estate planning. The "Survival Skills Day" was another successful event that brought resources and information to the public, targeting single women/head-of-household, offering employment opportunities, resume writing, continued education information and valuable information for child custody/financial security.

As we continue monitoring the two battered women's shelters in the county, we have also acted legislatively to support bills that secured rights for women during court cases that allowed for previous battered history to be included in the case. We monitor legislation and listen to advocates in the women's community to alert us to legislative action.

Affordable housing is an issue in all of the state. We have been a member of Networking for Housing, and continue to work with that organization to promote the development of more affordable housing in Ventura County.

Child care has been a priority of the Commission for ten years. Our successes can be counted in the formation of the 5 Child Care Advisory Councils in the county, in addition to the countywide Coalition that meets monthly to focus on the needs. The Coalition was instrumental in securing grant monies from the Mervyns/Dayton Hudson Foundation, that provides training courses for family day care providers, to improve and enhance the quality of child care in the homes.

The current effort of the Child Care Planning Council is a consortium of providers, advocates and agencies that have joined to develop a countywide plan to secure federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds in September; Estimated between 1-2 million, 75% to be for low-income families; 5% for quality enhancement and the remainder for programs.

The Commissioners attended the State Commission for Women's Annual Networking conference in Sacramento, bringing back new ideas to old solutions, energy to generate higher levels of commitment, and a resolve to make a difference in the county for women of all needs. As we work ahead into the next year, the goals are set, the challenge is there. As we learn and continue to evaluate our successes, the issues are maturing, and so do the solutions. Our network is stronger, our efforts are known and we continue to represent the community to which we are appointed to serve, in a most professional and proactive environment.

COMMISSIONER'S
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>COMMISSIONER</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PROFESSIONAL HOURS, CHILD CARE AND MISC. EXPENSES</u>
Breyman	528	60	\$1,850.00
De La Selva	125	20	\$1,200.00
Flock	419	96	\$2,976.00
Harris-Murray	135	6	\$ 265.00
Lawrason	446	31	\$ 930.00
Long ***	360	279	\$8,649.00
Mac Donald	1,086	278	\$8,618.00
Maurer	82	16	\$ 496.00
Mc Grath	93	28	\$ 868.00
McVerry	376	87	\$2,697.00
Montgomery	159	35	\$1,085.00
Scovill	404	28	\$ 868.00
Spencer	235	19	\$ 589.00
Thomas ***	362	252	\$7,812.00

(Executive Board Member ***)

Staff: Compensating time off given in exchange for time worked in excess of a 20 hour work week.

TOTAL MILES: 4.810

TOTAL HOURS: 1.235

TOTAL VALUE OF COMMISSIONER TIME @ \$30.00 PER HOUR: \$37.050.00

Recommendations to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors from the Ventura County Commission for Women:

In 1990, the Ventura County Commission for Women (VCCFW) identified health care for women and children as one of two priority areas for Commission activities during the 1990-1991 fiscal year. The Commission formed a Committee of Commissioners and interested community members to study health issues of women and children and make recommendations.

The VCCFW Health Care Committee report contains the results of that study and its recommendations. This report emphasizes Ventura County's system of prenatal and obstetrical care for low income women. The VCCFW recognizes the effort made by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to meet the health care needs of the county. The county medical system provides the majority of these services with the limited resources available. This is an area where serious problems exist and where there are realistic opportunities for improvement.

FINDINGS ON OBSTETRICAL CARE

The Commission has found inadequate provisions of prenatal and obstetrical care to low income women in Ventura County and feels this situation must be remedied. The urgency of the problem is illustrated by the following findings:

- (a) Obstetrical (OB) care and prenatal care for Medi-Cal and patients without insurance is almost unavailable in Ventura County outside of the Ventura County Health Care Agency System.
- (b) Almost all of the Medi-Cal patients are being sent to the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC). In 1989, 83.3% of all Medi-Cal deliveries occurred at the VCMC. Since 1985, there has been a steady increase in the number of deliveries at VCMC as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF BIRTHS AT VCMC</u>
1985	2,267
1986	2,243
1987	2,582
1988	2,782
1989	3,122
1990	3,627

- (C) The VCMC OB Unit is overwhelmed by Medi-Cal patients and patients without any insurance who have been turned away by other facilities. Since 1985, the number of births at the VCMC has increased by about 54%. Hospital officials give two main reasons for the increase.

- (1) Withdrawal of private doctors and hospitals from Medi-Cal contracts because of very low reimbursements.
- (2) Large influx of immigrants into the county from Mexico and Central America.
- (d) The main provider of OB care to Medi-Cal patients is the VCMC through its Satellite Clinics and the Women's Clinic at VCMC. Low income women in Ventura County have very limited prenatal care options. The waiting time to obtain an appointment for a new OB patient at the Women's Clinic is four to five weeks. Inadequate prenatal care ultimately increases the cost of obstetric and pediatric care. Loss of prenatal care results in an increase in low birth weight babies, thus dramatically increasing health care costs.
- (e) Statistics show that almost 30% of county births in 1989 were to Medi-Cal patients; in 1990 this figure increased to 35%. Recent legislation has increased the number of women eligible for Medi-Cal, without increasing Medi-Cal funding;
 - (1) SB2579 increased eligibility for pregnant women to 185% of the poverty level (\$18,000 annual income for a family of three)
 - (2) SB175 extended Medi-Cal coverage to include emergency and pregnancy related services to immigrants regardless of their residency status.

FINDINGS ON PEDIATRIC CARE

- (a) This area of pediatric care will be explored further in a future report to the Board of Supervisors.*
- (b) There are about 150,000 children in Ventura County, and a large percentage of them are from uninsured or working poor Latino families. The Pediatric Clinic had 7,027 visits in 1990, a dramatic increase over previous years.
- (c) Sick children from poor and indigent families enter the health care system much later in the course of their illness and may have had no prior medical attention at all.
- (d) Many factors affect the inadequacy of medical care for low income children. Working parents and lack of transportation make it hard for appointments to be kept. The Pediatric Clinic experiences a high "no-show" rate when the parents work or the family lacks transportation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) Increase the operating hours of the outpatient clinics to include evening hours. (This will increase the availability of services to the working poor.)
- (b) Increase the number of RNs, nurse practitioners, and doctors in the Satellite Clinics. Explore innovative methods of hiring bilingual staff.
- (c) Expand the Simi Valley Clinic to full time status. (Currently, when the Simi Valley Clinic is not open, Medi-Cal patients must either travel the 45 minute drive to the VCMC or go to the emergency room at Simi Valley Adventist Hospital.)
- (d) Expand the Moorpark Clinic to full time status.
- (e) Establish a committee to monitor the transfer of the county satellite clinics to private management. The committee would insure that the quality of patient care and availability of patient services are maintained.
- (f) Establish a program or mechanism to facilitate greater use of the WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) Program. (This program has been proven to increase the health of mothers and children in a cost effective way.)
- (g) Find ways to improve transportation to the clinics. (Low income women often do not have transportation to the clinics and as a result often miss scheduled appointments.)
- (h) Provide child care for patients at the VCMC and the clinics. The existing Hickory Dickory Doc Facility could be used for this purpose. (This would allow nurses and other professional staff to more effectively provide patient care, instead of impromptu child care service. Additional space must be provided for children. Currently, patients often must bring their own children with them. They also rely on friends to provide transportation to the clinics: the friends often bring their own children. As a result, many small children are in the crowded waiting room with other children who have communicable diseases for extended periods of time. Because of the lack of child care, young children often accompany their mothers into the examination room.)
- (i) Increase educational programs in preventive care, prenatal care, and AIDS. Make all programs bilingual. (These are cost effective ways of increasing community health.)
- (j) Explore private funding sources for health educators or experimental programs to increase the effectiveness of health care.

- (k) Expand the Comprehensive Peri-Natal Services Program (CPSP). (Currently, only the Clinicas del Camino Real utilizes this program. CPSP is a state funded program.)
- (l) Increase the utilization of the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), a free prevention health care program. (The qualifying income for this program is currently \$25,400 for a family of four. The program provides free regular health check-ups for children from birth to age 18.)
- (m) Facilitate greater local utilization of AB75 funds. (Funds available to physicians for uncompensated indigent care). Currently \$1.1 million in funds are available for the county. The county is working to facilitate the paperwork requirements for these funds.
- (n) Explore the possible use of the former St. John's Hospital Facility.

SOURCES

"Baby Boom at Hospital Puts Strain on Staff," Los Angeles Times, February 24, 1991.

"Curing Kids," Los Angeles Times, February 21, 1991

Interview with Dr. Katherine Stewart, Physician at the Colonia Clinic, Oxnard.

"Many Poor Women Still Forgo Prenatal Care," Los Angeles Times, November 18, 1990.

"More Risk For Kids," Star Free Press, February 11, 1991

OB Services: Ventura County 1990: Dr. L. Dodds, M.D., Ventura County Public Health

Statistics from the Ventura County Health Care Agency, Ambulatory Care Department.

Ventura County Health Care Forums, December 1990 and April 1991

You Can Make a Difference: A Prenatal Care Action Kit for Corporate, Religious and Community Leaders. the Southern California Child Health Network of the Children's Research Institute of California, 1989.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Karen Flock, Chair, Commissioner Dist. I
Anna McVerry, R.N., Commissioner Dist. III
Eliza Thomas, R.N., Commissioner Dist. V
Connie Lawrason, Commissioner Dist. IV
Jeannette Scovill, Commissioner Dist. II
Tiffiney Lewis, CFW Staff Liaison to the Committee
Beth Von Gunten, Community Member
Noelia Chavez, El Concilio
Maria Luisa Jimenez, Saticoy Health Care Center

"The distance doesn't matter: only the first step is difficult."
-Mme. du Deffand

INTRODUCTION

The concept of establishing a Ventura County Women's Resource Center is an idealistic project. It is the belief of the Commission that a facility remains an important missing component, necessary in the formation of an economical, cohesive and coordinated system to deliver services designed for, and on behalf of the women and families of Ventura County.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND OBJECTIVES

During the Commission for Women's annual organizational retreat in August of 1990, we were challenged with the task of identifying the most significant needs of the women in Ventura County. The goal was to create a more efficient and effective opportunity for the Commission for Women to accomplish specific goals. Our members are successful women representing many diverse and special interests. By collectively identifying specific projects we set about to create an environment which would allow us to better channel our energy in the right direction.

As a result of creative brainstorming two specific projects were identified and focused on by the Commission for 1990/1991, women's health issues and a women's resource center. Through this process the concept and development of a Countywide Women's Resource Center was first explored and determined to be a critical issue facing the women in Ventura County. The long-range plan developed through the Commission is outlined as follows:

Women's Resource Center Long-Range Plan

Mission Statement

Provide a central location where women can receive advice, counseling, and other information resources or specific services to meet their individual needs.

Short Term Goal

Present a report on the needs and a concept for a Women's Resource Center to the Board of Supervisors for approval to proceed with its creation.

Time Frame: September 1991

Long Term Goal

Form a public/private partnership Women's Resource Center. Time Frame: 1995.

Action Plan

Form a Research and Development Committee of Commissioners and community members to compile a comprehensive report by using existing and available data and resources.

- Present report to Commission for review, discussion and consensus.
- Establish a Task Force by April 1991. Task Force Report due July/August 1991 to Commission. Subsequently report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Subject to Board approval - task force would develop final concept for the "Center."
- Long range planning/implementation tentatively scheduled for September/October 1991.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The committee was comprised of Commissioners, women's needs service providers and interested community members at-large. The primary focus of the committee during the past year has been to gather information and investigate Centers in other areas. Time was also devoted to evaluation of existing resources and women's groups and service organizations. Efforts were also made to tap into the expertise of persons operating single-purpose centers such as those designed for victims of physical abuse, etc. Additionally, serious forethought was given to the philosophy of not "reinventing the wheel", but rather to build the center using existing programs and know-how.

The goal, simple enough, was to establish a facility utilizing the "one-stop shopping," concept where services designed for women are housed under one roof. The Consensus of the Committee was that we strayed somewhat from our original plan. However, operating from the value system that there are "no accidents", significant progress was made but in a somewhat different direction. Our idea of a Women's Resource Center helped us to discover an underlying problem which we feel must first be addressed before the development of a center should be pursued.

There is shared concern among Commissioners serving on the Committee that the competitive conditions which exist for social service funds, both public and private dollars, may have created an environment of judgement and relative program value of each other's programs among some of the service providers. We believe that in order to accomplish the goal of a Resource Center, the support and "buy in" of these individual organizations and providers is key to its success.

It became apparent to us that the Center may be perceived as yet another competitor for these few dollars. This is not the case. One of the benefits envisioned when conceiving the development of a Center was better utilization of the available revenue base by consolidating many of the overhead costs. The potential also exists to reduce and even eliminate duplicate services. It is not unrealistic to believe that by consolidating services and housing many of these service programs under one roof, expenditures would be more focalized, thus creating an opportunity for a more efficient use of available revenues.

A promising, albeit as yet unforeseen, result of consolidating services and expenses is the potential to enhance existing programs and possibly provide services presently unavailable.

CONCLUSION

This is a very valuable project and it demands a more systematic and defined approach than was being utilized by the Committee. As a result of trying to include everyone's ideas and energy into the process we lost sight of the original concept and intent of our goal. The Commissioners serving on the Committee are now of the opinion, that at least in these early stages of blueprinting the concept, our accomplishments will be greater if a more precise action plan is formulated before outside agencies and other interested members are included in the process. We sense the need to first eliminate any fear or concern that the intent of the Center is in any way intended to replace existing services and programs. Therefore, the Committee now proposes to investigate a fresh approach to bringing a Women's Resource Center into fruition for the women in Ventura County. As we reorganize, a first order of business will be compilation of data and information to support our premise that there are financial advantages to be realized through consolidation and mutual cooperation.

We know this is an idealistic and entrepreneurial endeavor; however, we also know it is a realistic and attainable goal, achievable only in stages, and by taking one step at a time.

"Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little,
has its stages of drudgery and triumph:
a beginning, a struggle, and a victory."
-Anonymous

Submitted by Commissioners:

Stacey B. Mac Donald, Dist. III
Committee Co-Chair

Suz M. Montgomery, Dist. I
Committee Co-Chair

Child care is one of the hottest political topics of the 1990's on both a national and local level. This has also been a year of growth for child care advocates throughout Ventura County and it is obvious that an awareness of this important issue is rising within local communities.

Many child care committee activities described in last year's annual report were translated into concrete action during 1989-1990. This growth is evidenced by the following:

- * Continued funding of a Child Care Coordinator for the County of Ventura.
- * Continued funding of a Child Care Coordinator for the City of Ventura and the subsequent development of the Alliance for Child Care Solutions.
- * Opening of the County's first program for mildly ill children (Hickory Dickory Doc at Ventura County Hospital) last year has now been opened to employees/employers in the Ventura area.
- * Continued efforts of Child Care Councils in Camarillo, Simi Valley, Ventura, Santa Paula, Ojai and Oxnard Plains.
- * "Family to Family" funds granted to Child Development & Resources for recruitment, training and accreditation of family day care providers.
- * Development and implementation of a Ventura County Child Care Planning Council to assess the needs for child care in Ventura County and to develop a plan to meet those needs within directives of the Child Care and Development-Block Grant which has been funded by the federal government.

The commission's child care committee continues to support these efforts and to encourage development of other viable child care solutions through participation in child care task forces, serving on ad hoc committees, speaking on panels, attending seminars and conferences and doing whatever must be done to promote the quality of child care for Ventura County's children and families.

Our focus in this effort is to actively support the need for child care (recently assessed by Child Development Resources to total over 144,000 children in Ventura County needing care by only 16,100 licensed child care spaces available for them) but to also address the issues of affordability, accessibility and quality of child care benefits for employees with options ranging from parenting seminars, to DCAP programs to on-site child care centers.

Therefore, in addition to acting as a child care resource in the county and activity stimulating the development of creative solutions, strong support will be given by the commission to state and federal legislation that accomplishes the following priorities:

1. Provides child care assistance to low income families with subsidies based on a sliding income scale.
2. Provide funds to start and/or expand child care programs.
3. Train and provide technical assistance to child care providers (within centers or family day care homes).
4. Establish programs to help parents to make informed child care decisions.

The commission recognizes that as the percentage of working mothers in the workforce increases, more and more children will be placed in child care situations. Strong child care advocacy efforts are essential if all children placed in out-of-home care are to be assured of safe, affordable, high quality care. The problem is that quality care is very expensive and someone has to pay the price.

Anita Garaway-Furtaw Chair 12/89 - 4/91
Carol Breyman Chair 4/91 to present

The Commission is a member organization of Networking for Housing in Ventura County (Networking), a coalition of public and private groups that seeks to increase the availability of decent affordable housing for local residents whose incomes are 80% or less of the median income in the county. Networking proceeds from the conviction that people are entitled to decent housing, and will work to generate an environment for the creative solution of housing problems. Networking's activities include education of the public, advocacy regarding housing policies, identification of resources, coordination of efforts of diverse agencies, and initiation and structuring of particular programs. It works throughout the county and seeks the cooperation of all levels of government and the private sector.

Networking's member organizations, each of which has a representative on the Board of Directors, include: Affordable Communities, the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura, Blacks in Government, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, El Concilio del Condado de Ventura, Many Mansions, NAACP, Project Understanding, the Religious Coalition for the Homeless, and the Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns, as well as the Ventura County Commission for Women.

Networking has continued to build up its Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund to assist in predevelopment activities of affordable housing for low income families. This year the Fund made loan commitments to a 150 unit senior housing project sponsored by the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation in Santa Paula, which is now under construction; and a senior housing project in Simi Valley sponsored by the Ventura County Economic Development Association to sponsor an Affordable Housing Task Force.

Karen Flock

The Commission for Women's representatives continue monitoring the east county shelter in Simi Valley and the west county shelter in Ventura on a quarterly bases.

Shelter services in the east county area are being provided by Interface and in the west county by the Coalition Against Household Violence to the victims of domestic violence and their children.

The Contracts awarded by the County of Ventura for the provision of these services is in accordance with Chapter 146 of the Statutes of 1980. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 189290 et seq.

Funding for the contracts comes through the County Domestic Violence Programs Special Fund, commonly referred to as the Presley money, or the Presley bill.

Contracts for services are awarded and monitored by the Public Social Services Agency. The West County Shelter is consistently developing supportive programs for women and their children. The physical environment is warm and inviting and extremely responsive to abused women's needs for support, education and development of resource.

Several of the shelter's bedrooms have been redecorated by local service organizations and new toys purchased for the children. A new kitchen and renovated bath have been added within this past year. Also an inviting back yard has been renovated for use by families and their children.

Two members of the Commission for Women assist in monitoring the contracts through on-site visits to the shelters, review of the statistical reports and discussions with the directors of services. Their reports are made to the PSSA's Program Manager and to the full Commission.

Both shelters are very well kept with a pleasant environment making one feel welcome. The rooms are large enough to accommodate the children of a battered woman, and the facility helps the women with babysitting, counseling and employment. Battered women are from all spectrums of race and economic conditions, often a woman will endure frequent abuse rather than leave her secure environment; but both of these facilities with a 24 hour staff, clothing, food and toiletries make the transition easier and offer emotional support to the women.

Anita Garaway-Furtaw
Monitor West County Shelter

Beverlee Mc Grath
Monitors East/West County
Shelters

This is a new committee established by the Commission this year, and is structured after a coalition effort by the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER), and the California Women Legislators Caucus.

The mission of the Women's Political Appointments Coalition of Ventura County is to achieve gender-balance on boards and commissions throughout Ventura county, ensuring that women of all backgrounds have equal access to the appointment opportunities. The Coalition effort is to be broad-based, reflecting the ethnic, economic and political diversity of women in Ventura county, and to act as a clearinghouse for information and outreach. Endorsement of specific candidates is not a goal, as the Coalition is a non-partisan effort.

Through the Coalition's efforts, a larger applicant pool of women candidates for appointments will be made available to the appointing authorities, and the expectation for equal representation will be enhanced. Emphasis will be placed on identifying a subset of appointments to "power boards" and the "non-traditional" boards for recruiting. The Coalition will provide the necessary information, training and support to assist applicants with developing resumes and lobbying to secure appointments to advisory boards and commissions. The Coalition will work with elected officials to improve the notification process for appointment opportunities, tracking of openings, and other changes that may call for term sunsets and gender balance ordinances.

The Coalition has established an Executive Board composed of representatives from the League of Women Voters, AAUW, and other professional and community activist women. Their initial work is to refine a "Talent Bank" form for applicants, to assist in building a data bank. Additionally, a countywide workshop is being planned for the Fall, which will include the participation of CEWAER, women in elected office, and a network of women's organizations.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Commission to make a difference in the process, the network, and to improve the numbers of women representatives in the political arena. Anticipated to be an eighteen month project, with continuing long term management, the Commission is proud to be a leader in bringing this concept to reality for the women in Ventura county.

Kathy I. Long
Chairperson

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Category and Winner's Name:

"The Arts"

Marianne Torrance Elcar
Santa Paula

"Business"

Juanita Sanford
Oxnard

"Community Service"

Gail Beltramo
Camarillo

"Community Service"

Cathy W. Mullins
Ojai

"Community Service"

Dorothy J. Engel
Thousand Oaks

"Media"

Nancy S. Cloutier
Ventura

"Health"

Mary E. Schrock, R.N.
Oxnard

"Education"

Jacqueline Richardson
Simi Valley

"Law Enforcement"

Lisa C. Ragone
Ventura

"Young Woman of the Year"

Melissa M. Macias
Santa Paula

DISTRICT I

KAREN FLOCK
SUZ MONTGOMERY
HELEN SPENCER

KAREN FLOCK/BIOGRAPHY

Karen Flock was appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Susan Lacey in 1985. Since 1981, she has worked as a Project Manager for the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), a non-profit developer of low income and affordable housing. Ms. Flock serves on the Board of Directors of Networking for Housing in Ventura County, representing the Commission; as the Vice Chairperson of the Southern California Association for Non Profit Housing (SCANPH); as the Chairperson of Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County; and as Co-Chair of the Committee on Women in Agriculture. Ms. Flock lives in Ventura County with Classic, her Norwegian Elkhound, where she has a drought tolerant garden of native plants. She is an enthusiastic hiker in the Ventura County back country.

SUZ MONTGOMERY/BIOGRAPHY

Suz was appointed to the Commission in August 1990 by Supervisor Susan Lacey, First Supervisorial District.

She is presently the Program Administrator for Lynn Horton, M.D. Health Management Resources in addition to owner of Creative Concepts. This consulting business has primary focus in Public Relations and Marketing, Professional Non-Profit Fund Raising and new business start up for women.

She also provides business assessment and evaluation consultation to medical and dental practices in trouble. She also teaches behavior sales techniques, classes in marketing and interpreting prospective target markets (i.e. demographics, feasibility studies, etc).

She is UCLA graduate in Business Administration as well as graduate in Dental Hygiene from Cal State Los Angeles. She was also a School Board Member in Valencia California.

Professional Affiliations and Organizations include: Board Member/Fund Raising Chair of CAAN (Child Abuse and Neglect in Ventura); Arthritis Foundation of Ventura County; Board Member/Fund Raising Chair of VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Ventura County) which has recently become affiliated with Interface; NSFRE member; Co-Chair Women's Resource Center Committee Ventura County Commission for Women.

My Mission Statement:

It is my personal dream and private agenda item to see a Women's Resource Center become a reality. Even though it wasn't there when I needed it such a center would enable Ventura County women to have a better quality of life, help make a difference by touching lives, and by sharing the gifts that were given me.

Suz is a six year resident of Ventura County, single with two grown children Lisa, 23 and Stephen, 21.

HELEN M. SPENCER/BIOGRAPHY

Helen Spencer is a recent appointee of Supervisor Susan Lacey, First Supervisorial District.

Her professional background in administration highlights strong skills in organization, time management, writing/editing, budgeting, public relations to name but a few.

She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Denver, Denver Colorado. (Curriculum Development and Instruction, International Relations and Global Perspectives). Continuing Education - Guidance/Counseling, Exceptional Students, Emotionally Disturbed Students, Individually Guided Education, Remedial Reading, Leadership Training, School Budget/Finance, School Law, Grants/Proposal Writing, Classroom Management, Aerospace Education. Bachelor of Science, Northwest Missouri State University, Music Education and Business.

Professional affiliation: National Education Association.

Since relocating to California in 1988, her community involvement includes Community Curriculum Committee for Ventura Chamber of Commerce to the Ventura Unified School District; Youth and Education Committee and Governmental Relations Committee to the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce; and represented this "Greater" Chamber at the Tri-County Education Coalition (Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties).

ANITA GARAWAY-FURTAW/BIOGRAPHY

Anita Garaway-Furtaw was originally appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Madge Schaefer and re-appointed by Supervisor Maria VanderKolk in early 1990. She is the Director of Family Services for the Lost Arrow Corporation, Ventura, which operates an employer-supported child care system.

She is also a part-time instructor in Child Development at California Lutheran University, in Thousand Oaks. She directs workshops for Early Childhood Professionals dealing with such topics as creating responsive learning environments for young children; parent/teacher conferences; effective communications in the early childhood classroom and advanced issues of Administration within the Early Childhood setting. She has served in a variety of leadership roles with the Tri-Counties Association for the Education of Young Children and is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She served as the past Co-Chairperson of the Ventura City Child Care Coordinating Council and has past involvement in the United Way's Child Care Task Force and Implementation Committee and Ventura School District Child Care Assessment Team.

Editor's Note:

Commissioner Garaway-Furtaw resigned from the Commission April 4, 1991 to accept a new position with the Lost Arrow Corporation as Director of Family Services: "I find that my new position....represents an increasing.... commitment of time and energy and combining that commitment with my family life is becoming increasingly difficult".

Her letter of resignation continues: "the Commission for Women has been successful in making child care an important issue in Ventura County. Employers have been educated about the positive effects of providing services to employees and the County has hired a Child Care Coordinator. Groups are networking and the needs of children are being met through a wide variety of quality options. It's obvious that the Commission's advocacy for children and commitment to an increasing awareness if their need has paid off. Please continue to use me as a resource when you have questions related to child care. My focus continues to be quality care for all children".

Anita will be greatly missed but her dedication to children will continue as programs in which she played a major role are implemented throughout Ventura County.

DISTRICT II

CAROL BREYMAN
PAT HARRIS-MURRAY
JEANNETTE SCOVILL

CAROL BREYMAN/BIOGRAPHY

Carol Ann Breyman was appointed by Supervisor Maria Vanderkolk in January, 1991. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Arizona State University. Carol's diverse background includes five years as Executive Director of Phoenix Special Programs, Inc. (a non-profit educational corporation), as well as, working as an agent for Coldwell Banker and managing Beck Realty. After finishing her degree, Carol combined this experience and became a program consultant to business and schools. She conducted a needs assessment and designed community school programs for the Creighton Elementary School District. Her community and political involvement led her to serve as manager of the campaign office for her friend, Carolyn Warner, when she ran for Governor of Arizona.

During her tenure as a history teacher at an inter-urban high school in Phoenix, Carol was the Academic Decathlon Coach, and gifted facilitator. In addition she served as school representative to the district U.S. Core Competency Program. At the school level, she participated in developing a U.S. History outcome based curriculum. Her interest in education extended to serving as a counselor for Phi Delta Kappa's Western camp for prospective teachers for two years prior to moving to California.

Her specialty, "women's history", as well as her experience as a single woman for 15 years led to an interest in women's issues. This interest was further intensified as she saw the needs of unresolved women's issues reflected in the students she taught and led to accepting an appointment to the Commission for Women.

Since joining the commission, Carol has served on the subcommittee for the Women's Resource Committee, liaison to the Women's History Project Awards Night, Local Appointments Coalition ad interim liaison to the Child Care Coordinating Council.

PAT HARRIS-MURRAY/BIOGRAPHY

Pat Harris-Murray, was appointed to The Ventura County Commission for Women in May 1991 by Supervisor Maria Vanderkolk. A registered nurse for over 18 years, Pat has been in private practice as a psychiatric nurse therapist for the last six years. Her practice specialties include adults with relationship issues such as adult children of alcoholics, codependents and adults with depression. She also teaches stress management and provides psychological support for persons living with chronic illness. Since 1986, she has been an instructor at The Learning Tree in Thousand Oaks, and has taught such varied courses as: meditation and relaxation, assertive communication, anger workshops, the mind/body connection, grief work and therapeutic communication. She received their "Teacher Award for Excellence" in 1987 and again in 1990.

As a community volunteer, Pat has presented various mental health seminars and workshops throughout Ventura County. She has been a workshop instructor for "Creative Options A Day for Women" at California Luthern University every year since 1987.

Before earning her Master's Degree in Community Mental Health from UCLA, in 1985, Pat worked as a hospital nurse in the acute care units (ICU, CCU, and emergency rooms) of various Los Angeles hospitals. She worked as a staff nurse, head nurse and supervisor. In 1977, she moved to Ketchikan, Alaska and was the hospital's evening supervisor. In 1980 she returned to Los Angeles to continue her nursing education and worked as a staff nurse in acute care while she attended college. In 1982 she married as she states: " my wonderful husband", Richard. They moved to Oak Park in 1986.

"I have been looking for a way to become more involved in my community and to give back some of the gifts and joys I have come to know. I work with women and their challenges on a daily basis. My varied background has given me a keen awareness of the issues of women in our society, and I look forward to further service on the Commission for Women".

JEANNETTE SCOVILL/BIOGRAPHY

Mrs. Jeannette Scovill started her family and planted a backyard garden 27 years ago in Marin Co., north of San Francisco, California. As her garden grew she began compassing. As her family grew she developed a summer recreation program for the local elementary school and began backpacking in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Soon she became a Training Director for the Camp Fire Girls of America and taught Camp Fire Leaders how to be resourceful in planning programming and how to use recycled materials for craft projects.

After moving to the country where she could have horses and a larger garden (and a larger compost pile) she discovered they don't provide garbage pickup outside the city limits. So she began recycling - everything.

Moving back to Gilroy she started a program to provide a library for the local school and became a Cub Scout Den Leader. Working with the city and developers she implemented a water conservation program which soon had Cub Scouts installing conservation devices throughout her community.

In Salinas, California she developed and implemented a Women's Re-entry Program for the Hartnell Community College. She was also elected to represent the 103 community colleges and its 1.25 million students to the California Post Secondary Education Commission.

When her husband was transferred to Maryland, she became the State Chairman of the Arts for the Maryland Women's Club. She also managed a company called Wrap-Away. Her company was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. When she and her husband came to Thousand Oaks, she managed a local vitamin store, then a health food store. As President of the American Nutrition Society, she provided the Conejo Valley with four years of nutritional education and taught allergy free cooking.

Recently, she was elected for a second term as the Chairman of the Board of the California Vegetarian Association, a statewide, non-profit organization devoted to improving our environment by promoting the vegetarian lifestyle. For the last year she has also been the President of the Tri-Valley Environmental Committee. It was in this position that she brought Earth Day 1990 to the Tri-Valley Region and to California Lutheran University campus events which drew 15,000 people to all day workshops, exhibits and entertainment.

She is currently in the process of planning the fourth series of Public Access televisions shows, this one will feature International Vegetarian Cuisine.

DISTRICT III

KATHY LONG
STACEY MAC DONALD
ANNA MCVERRY

KATHY I. LONG/BIOGRAPHY

Kathy I. Long was appointed by Supervisor Maggie Erickson in 1988. Commissioner Long served as the Co-Chair for the Commission this past year and as a member of the Executive Committee. She also continued with the Public Relations needs for the Commission with press releases and media contacts. She is currently writing the articles and preparing the layout for the August newsletter. Press releases and contacts were made for the 10th Annual Salute to Women's event in August, and "Community Outreach" meetings. In addition, she served as a member of the Commission's Child Care Committee, the County Advisory Child Care Committee, the Camarillo Child Care Advisory Council, and as a member of the Women's Resource Committee. A new project for 1990/1991 is the Local Appointments Coalition, chaired by Commissioner Long. This committee is focused on developing a talent bank of women interested in appointments to Advisory Councils and Commissions throughout the County.

Commissioner Long is currently the President of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Ventura County Professional Women's Network. She and her husband Randy own "Fleabusters" of Ventura/Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo Counties, and Perfectly Dry Carpet Care. They have an 18 month old son Austin, and reside in Camarillo.

STACEY B. MACDONALD/BIOGRAPHY

Stacey B. MacDonald is a 1990 appointee to the Ventura County Commission for Women in Supervisorial District 3, and is presently serving as the 1991/1992 Commission for Women Chairperson. She has spent most of her life in Ventura County and now, along with her husband Jack and their two children, Carrie-Beth 15, and Jason 14, reside in the beautiful Santa Clara Valley, City of Santa Paula.

Stacey has been associated with government at both the State and Local levels since the late 1970's, first as District Office staff in the 36th Assembly District and since 1982 served on Staff with the City of Santa Paula. She has held the elected Office of City Clerk in Santa Paula since 1984, and is also the City's Administrative Analyst. Stacey is presently serving as the Southern California City Clerk's Association First Vice President.

Stacey is both professionally and personally active in the community supporting many volunteer efforts. She is a member of the Santa Paula Women's Club and serves as the City's liaison to Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA), and was recently appointed as the City's representative to the Ventura County Homeless Coalition.

Stacey has also been the recipient of statewide awards from professional organizations honoring her excellence and innovation for special projects relating to community improvement, as well as other public administration enterprises. As a Certified Trainer in professional and organizational development she participates and trains in a statewide program on leadership and professionalism for public officials. She has designed and participated in workshops and seminars focusing on personal and professional development for men and women in all areas and levels of local government.

ANNA MCVERRY/BIOGRAPHY

Anna McVerry was appointed to the Commission for Women by Supervisor Maggie Erickson Kildee in January 1991. She is serving on the Commission's Health Care Committee and the Selection Committee for the 10th Annual Salute to Women's Award Ceremony.

Anna is a nurse, graduating from the U.S.C. School of Nursing in 1976. She has worked at the Los Angeles County - U.S.C Medical Center, The Hospital for Sick Children in Washington D.C., as a visiting nurse in Los Angeles and a pediatric nurse with the Ventura County Medical Center. While with the Pediatric Clinic at Ventura County Medical Center, she helped organize the hospital's first Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic and Pediatric Neurology Clinic.

Anna lives in Camarillo with her husband Kevin, a lawyer, and their two daughters, Catherine 9, and Margaret 7.

DISTRICT IV

CONNIE LAWRAZON
MARILYN MAURER

CONNIE LAWRAZON/BIOGRAPHY

Connie Lawrason, appointed by Supervisor Vicky Howard, Fourth Supervisorial District, to serve on the Ventura County Commission for Women in January, 1991.

Connie says she is really a "Domestic Engineer" but her activities prove otherwise. She chairs CTAC/SSTAC (Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee/Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee; is CTAC/SSTAC's representative to CPP (Countywide Planning Program - Citizens Advisory Committee; CPP's alternate to ALTAC (Agricultural Land Trust Advisory Committee).

Within the city of Moorpark Connie serves on the Board of Kiwanis International and she and husband Paul are the first couple to ever be chamber members of a Kiwanis International Club; VP/Board Member of Moorpark Historical Society and Life Member, Board of Moorpark Beautiful/Life Member; Board of Ventura County Crime Stoppers; member of Moorpark Woman's Fortnightly Club; served on her ~~almoners~~ association board; and is a citizen member to Moorpark's Disaster Committee.

Connie Served on the 1988-1989 Ventura County Grand Jury.

HOMEOWNER'S

Connie is married to Paul Lawrason, Director of Contracts/Pricing for Teleflex Control Systems in Oxnard, and he is also the first elected Mayor of Moorpark. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

MARILYN MAURER/BIOGRAPHY

Marilyn Maurer is a recent appointee of Supervisor Vicky Howard, 4th Supervisorial District.

Marilyn is a retired school teacher with the Los Angeles School District. Her education is Bachelor of Science (Home Economics Major) UCLA and holds a Life California State Teaching Credential.

She is active in her community on the Neighborhood Council #2; Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce (representative for the Simi Valley Republican Women's Club); Simi Valley Historical Society and the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Association.

Other clubs and organizations which she is involved: American Home Economics Association; Future Homemakers of America (Chapter organizer and Advisor, 5 years); Concerned Women of America; Intercessors for America and the Right to Life Foundation. She has been the Past President for 2 terms of the Simi Valley Republican Women's Club; California Federation of Republican Women, Southern Division; Ventura County Republican Central Committee and a founding member of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation.

Marilyn is married to Anthony L. Maurer. No children. Guardian to neice, Michele. And a California resident since 1954.

DISTRICT V

AURORA DE LA SELVA
BEVERLEE MC GRATH
ELIZA THOMAS

BEVERLEE MCGRATH/BIOGRAPHY

Beverlee McGrath appointed by John Flynn.

Currently sponsor of AB110 and lobbying coordinator (statewide) for California Legislation dealing with animals used in produce testing. Membership chairman of the Ventura County Republican Women, the AIDS Council and Ventura County Humane Society. She has always been interested in community affairs recently past-president of the Oxnard Republican Women, having also served as vice president, Program chairman and chaplain. She spearheaded and implemented a senior citizen's referral program, participated in forming the Cultural Council, served as Congressman Bob Lagomarsino's alternate on the Ventura County Central Committee Vice President of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, spokesperson for the Right to Life League, Catholic Charities board member, and peer-counselor at the Colston Home for Girls.

Beverlee has worked as a featured nightclub entertainer working nationally and internationally, appeared in major films and television series as well as numerous TV commercials. She recently received a decency award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Beverlee has bee married for 30 years to Superior Court Judge Charles R. McGrath, has raised 4 children and is currently engaged in property management.

ELIZA THOMAS/BIOGRAPHY

Eliza Williams Thomas was appointed by Supervisor John Flynn in 1989. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1965, from Florida A&M University; a Masters Degree in Nursing in 1972 and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology in 1986 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California. Eliza has served as Assistant to the Director of Health Sciences at Ventura College and has taught in this division for 18 years. She has served on various community advisory committees. Eliza introduced and was co-founder of Ventura County Adopt-A-Grandparent Program. She is active in the State Department of Education and presently serves as consultant on recruitment and retention of disadvantaged students.

Also 1990-1991 Co-Chair of the Commission.

STAFF

BONNIE M. WARRINGTON
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE

TIFFINEY B. LEWIS
OFFICE ASSISTANT III

BONNIE M. WARRINGTON/BIOGRAPHY

Bonnie M. Warrington is currently the Administrative Aide to the Ventura County Commission for Women. Her involvement with the Commission stretches back to its inception in 1981 when she served on various Committees as a community member.

Later she was appointed to the Commission, by Supervisor Jim Dougherty to be one of the representatives from Supervisorial District 4. As a Commissioner she served as Executive Secretary, member of the Child Care Task Force and was Chair of the Family Law Task Force with implemented the first Family Law Forum in 1988.

She continues active involvement in her community as a member of the Simi Valley Unified School District's Family Life Education sub-committee; currently District Finance Chair of the Monte Grande District, Ventura County Council Boy Scouts of America, "Silver Beaver" recipient and recently honored by BSA for 25 years service as adult leader and Citizenship Merit Badge Counselor. Additionally, she is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Widowed Persons Service (of Ventura County) and recently re-appointed to the Ventura County Council on Self Esteem and Social Responsibility by Supervisor Vicky Howard, 4th Supervisorial District.

She was honored in October 1990 by Oxnard College as the Woman of the Year at their 4th Annual Oxnard Women's Day. She served as a Facilitator Trainer of the Commission sponsored Women's Financial Information Program in conjunction with AARP and Ventura County Superintendent of Schools.

TIFFINEY B. LEWIS/BIOGRAPHY

Tiffiney B. Lewis is currently an Office Assistant III to the Ventura County Commission for Women. She serves as staff liaison to "Health Care for Women and Children Committee". She is a graduate of Sawyer College as a Legal Word Processor, she is currently enrolled at Ventura College.

She has been with the County of Ventura for seven years in October of 1991. Her employment began with JTPA (Job Training Placement Association), later with VCMC (Ventura County Medical Association) Insurance Department, Building and Safety (Camarillo Branch) and last with the Probation Department DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Team before moving on to the Commission in 1989.

Tiffiney though originating from Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been a Ventura County resident since 1978. She, her husband Mark and daughter Vanessa (5 years old) live in Port Hueneme.