



**VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
Committee on the Status on Women & Girls in  
Ventura County 2009 Report**

Human Services Agency  
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 117,  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 658-4193  
WWW.VCCW.NET /

**Notes – June 11, 2008**

***Diana Goodrow (Co-Chair), Lee Riggan (Co-Chair), Deborah DeVries, Carmen Hurd, Janet Barron, Karen Peters, Shanté Morgan Durisseau, and Jan Lawrence.***

COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

The second meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women Committee on The Status of Women & Girls 2009 Report was held at Café on A, A Street, Oxnard, on Wednesday, June 11, 2008. The Co-Chair Goodrow called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.; the Co-Chair Riggan served as Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

Present were Co-Chair Diana Goodrow, Co-Chair Lee Riggan, and members Janet Barron, Karen Peters, Shanté Morgan-Dunsseau, Carmen Hurd and Commissioner De Vries.

ROLL CALL

The Agenda was adopted by general consent.

AGENDA

Commissioner Hurd ask to speak during Public Comment. She said that the work of a committee should be handled within the committee and not to be discussed within the regular meeting of the VCCW other than to give a report. Commissioner DeVries suggested using the term "Process Check" when a member believe the meeting is off and the committee needs to return to the agenda.

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Sonoma County – Commissioner Goodrow – A complete report and Executive Summary was picked up by Goodrow on her trip. It was felt that a plan of action needed to come out of the report. Sonoma's report recommended policy changes. They utilized the SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). [www.sonoma-county.org/hr/cid/csw.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/hr/cid/csw.htm)

MEMBER  
REPORTS

Montgomery, Maryland – DeVries – DeVries liked this study because of its inclusion of women in prison and sex discrimination. Although it had few recommendations it made local and national comparisons of significant issues.

Rock County, Wisconsin – Peters – submitted a written report on her findings. Sue Conley, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin responded to her questions. They used secondary research.

San Diego – Goodrow

San Francisco – Goodrow – They are just beginning their study. Their March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes describe their process. Contact Ann Layman. Their first report was done in 1996 and they did an update in 2003. They can be contacted at [www.sfgov.org/cosw](http://www.sfgov.org/cosw).

Marin County – Morgan-Durisseau – Commissioner Morgan-Durisseau was able to get a complete report from her contact, Marcia McLean. This report was significant in that it did the report in Phases. Phase I was a qualitative report based on interviews and focus groups conducted by the consultant, Mary Jo Lazear. Phase II will include a quantitative report based on “The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool” by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. For that study they will hire an intern who will be overseen by one of the Commissioners. Another portion of Phase II or Phase III will be a comparison of statistics and findings in a report by Marin Council of Agencies (1992) with a review of resources by the Access to Resources Focus Group. This group will also conduct additional interviews where needed. This Phase will also include four Town Hall meetings organized by the Leadership Focus Group with one convened by a city councilwoman which indicate the interest of city government. They pulled out for one report all the statistics which was significant in that the document identifies the source of all the data.

US Census 2010 – Morgan-Durisseau – Jerry Green, Chief Advisor, U.S. Census said that Census 2010 is already forming. There is no need to wait for this report as annual analyses are found on American Community Survey which have more detail and updated information.

Budget – Goodrow –

Partners – CLU, CSUCI, Dept. of Justice, Women’s Legacy Fund, VCCF, VCCW, League of Women Voters, VCHSA, the ten cities, etc.

After discussion of the reports Commissioners highlighted the following key points: 1) University interns could be very resourceful and partnering with a university should be part of this study;

2) A coordinator with experience in research is needed to be directly involved in and to guide this study;

3) We need to know why we are doing the study, what we hope to get out of it, and it needs to be done in an organized fashion;

4) Conducting the study in Phases is an attractive method to use.

5) Holding town hall meetings is a good method to include;

6) We want people to buy into the study and that means involving them from the beginning;

We will develop a letter of our position and proposal to VCCF and the Women’s Legacy Fund. This proposal will include the following:

- 1) Cost - \$100/hour for a full time Project Coordinator;
- 2) Timeline – one year
- 3) Townhall meetings
- 4) Action Plan
- 5) Data – Spread sheet (Fact Sheets)– Primary & Secondary Sources

DISCUSSION

PROPOSAL TO  
VCCF &  
WOMEN’S  
LEGACY

- 6) Conduct study in Phases
- 7) Publication & Dissemination
- 8) Follow-up
- 9) Advisors – VCCW
- 10) Preference is for a woman consultant
- 11) Model to use – A Community Research Tool – as a result of researching over 8 different models. IWPR No. 300

The Co-Chairs will deliver the letter once it is completed.

Next Meeting – A Conference Call. Table future meetings until a response is received from VCCF & The Women's Legacy Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNED

See Attached Chart:

**Commissioners' Research on Studies**

## Commissioners Research on Studies

Prepared by	Karen Peters	Diana Goodrow	Shanté Morgan-Durisseau
<b>Questions/Contacts</b>	Sue Conley 608-758-0883 Rock County, WI Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, 111 N. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545	Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, 2300 County Center Dr, Ste. B 167, Santa Rosa, CA	Marin County
<b>Did they do their own original research as opposed to secondary research;</b>	Primarily secondary research – primarily Census Data. Followed the Research Blueprint provided by Wisconsin’s Women’s Council	Primary & secondary sources; gathered data, held forums and interviews, conducted site visits,	A combination of Census and original research – Town Hall meetings, interviews,
<b>May we have a copy of their guidelines/framework for their research</b>	"The Status of Women in Wisconsin Counties – A Research Blueprint" <a href="http://womenscouncil.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=6118&amp;locaid=2">http://womenscouncil.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=6118&amp;locaid=2</a>	Full report is at <a href="http://www.sonomacountywomenscommission.org">www.sonomacountywomenscommission.org</a> Also <a href="http://www.sonoma-county.org/hr/cid/csw.htm">www.sonoma-county.org/hr/cid/csw.htm</a> Identified study areas	Yes – they gave report to Shante
<b>Who did the work – staff, volunteers, consultants, universities, etc</b>	Volunteer driven; Local college professor helped format the raw data into a report.	Committees & assigned staff; Chico State University & Sonoma State, used interns, statistic consultants, commissioners, junior commissioners, & community contributors, Graphic Designer, readers & editors, & a commissioner served as Report Steering Committee Chair.	Volunteers, Commissioners, Intern from a University, hired consultant
<b>How did they cover the cost</b>	No cost. Printer donated printing report.		They have a budget
<b>Would they be willing to share their budget and survey questions;</b>	No budget. See Blueprint for questions.	Ballpark cost was \$75,000.00	Their survey was based on the Institute. Shante will email it.
<b>What did they learn about the process; what would they do and not do next time;</b>	Volunteer labor is very inefficient. Takes too long. However having the community driving the process, rather than just doing a report to get it done, was meaningful.	Lack of data collected by race & gender was a challenge in address needs of ethnic females. Serves as springboard for the future & creates baseline to measure progress.	They are still learning.
<b>Timelines; how long did it take;</b>	9 months to gather data. One month for write-up.	18 months	
<b>How did they organize and direct their work and work of others?</b>	Getting the availability of the College professor was very dependent on the school calendar. Eventually she got too busy. They have been disappointed the report has not been more a catalyst for change. They realize the information has not been driven out to the community as well as it should have. Even a situation of higher incidence of Lung Cancer in their county hasn't gotten attention.	Each study area was chaired by a Commissioner & committee included commissioners, CBO reps, educational institutions, and individual volunteers. They will convene Focus for Community Action Groups & initiate a community dialogue on the topic.	



# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency  
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 117,  
Ventura, CA 93003  
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 658-4193  
[WWW.VCCW.NET/](http://WWW.VCCW.NET/)

## Ventura County Supervisors

Steve Bennett  
Linda Parks  
Kathy Long  
Peter C. Foy  
John K. Flynn

## COMMISSION MEMBERS:

### DISTRICT I

Diana Goodrow  
Janet Barron  
Vacancy

### DISTRICT II

Lee Riggan  
Mary Pallant  
Karen Peters

### DISTRICT III

Sharon Hillbrant  
Nancy Lee Phillips  
Elvia Guizar

### DISTRICT IV

Jan Lawrence  
Shanté Morgan  
-Durisseau  
Vacancy

### DISTRICT V

Ina Howard  
Deborah De Vries  
Carmen Hurd

June 17, 2008

Hugh Ralston  
Ventura County Community Foundation  
1317 Del Norte, Suite 150  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Roz McGrath  
President  
The Women's Legacy Fund  
1317 Del Norte, Suite 150  
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear Friends:

The Ventura County Commission for Women believes that now is the time to identify the status of women and girls in Ventura County. Toward that end they have appointed a committee to research formats and budgets and to identify partners in this effort. The committee has looked at studies that have been conducted by Marin County, Sonoma County, Montgomery, Maryland, Rock County, Wisconsin, San Diego, and San Francisco. They have talked to leaders in each of those areas as well as to The Institute for Women's Policy Research and the U.S. Census.

They have sought answers to questions that were important to conducting a study in Ventura County. These questions were: Did they do their own original research as opposed to secondary research; may we have a copy of their guidelines/framework for their research; who did the work (staff, volunteers, consultants, universities, etc.); how did they cover the cost; would they share their budget and survey questions; what did they learn about the process and what would they do and not do next time; how long did it take, what was their timeline; how did they organize and direct their work and work with others?

Sadly, the committee was not successful in obtaining a budget from any source however one person estimated their expenses at \$75,000. It is our belief that the budget should include the salary of a Project Coordinator for a period of one year which is our estimation of the time required to complete the study. (We learned that the timeline for two studies ranged between 10

# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency  
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93003  
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460, Ventura 93003  
(805) 658-4193  
[WWW.VCCW.NET/](http://WWW.VCCW.NET/)

months and 18 months.) It must also include funds for the different components or phases of the study such as the community forums. The committee also found that research was often a combination of both secondary research (statistical studies) and primary research through data collected by community based organizations from clients served, and field research conducted by the study groups through town hall meetings, community forums, focus groups and individual interviews. It seems that all the studies followed the guidelines provided by The Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool."

The VCCW Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report Committee recommends that these guidelines be followed for Ventura County's study, and that the "Models for Action: Making Research Work for Women" be included in order to draw attention to issues critical to the status of women rather than having the report gather dust on various shelves in Ventura County. It is the committee's belief that partners need to be recruited at this beginning who will gladly utilize the report to address the issues identified. The committee was relieved to learn from the U.S. Census that there is no need to wait for 2010 because annual analyses are found in the "American Community Survey."

In summary, VCCW has identified the following as necessary to be included in the project to complete the "Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report:"

- (1) Recruit universities, government, women's groups, and community based organizations as partners and sponsors
- (2) Hire a Project Coordinator and pay her approximately \$100/hour
- (3) Follow the guidelines from The Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool"
- (4) Develop Action Plans that include those in the Institute for Women's Policy Research – "Models for Action: Making Research Work for Women"
- (5) Conduct the Project in Phases and plan for a 1-year timeline
- (6) Produce fact sheets on key findings such as the Demographic Data Sheet
- (7) Establish independent statistical data
- (8) Conduct Community Forums to develop original research
- (9) Conduct a Five-year follow-up report to determine the accomplishments
- (10) Include in the budget funds for publication and distribution

# VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Human Services Agency  
4601 Telephone Road, Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93003  
Mailing Address: 4360 E. Main St. #460, Ventura 93003  
(805) 658-4193  
[WWW.VCCW.NET/](http://WWW.VCCW.NET/)

The VCCW is honored to partner with VCCF and The Women's Legacy Fund to conduct the "Status of Women & Girls in Ventura County 2009 Report" following the guidelines provided by The Institute for Women's Policy Research and their Models for Action. VCCW stands ready as a partner to serve in each phase of the study, from recruiting partners, selecting a consultant, research, town hall meetings or community forums, expert comments, conclusions, goals, and recommendations and best practices, distribution, publicity, and action plans. VCCW would also like to have your assistance in tracking the progress and assuring in perhaps five years that this report and action plan have made a difference.

Sincerely,

VCCW Committee on Status of Women & Girls  
in Ventura County 2009 Report:

Diana Goodrow, Lee Riggan, Janet Barron, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau,  
Carmen S. Hurd, Janina J. Lawrence, Karen Peters, Deborah D. DeVries

Diana Goodrow  
Co-Chair

Lee Riggan  
Co-Chair