

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California 93003

MINUTES
Saturday, March 16, 1985

I. Co-chair Dot Engel called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ginny Connell
Julie Elliott
Dot Engel
Brook Hubbell
Candace Matson
Sandra Ryder
Martha White

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer
Louise Grethel
Mary Jane Johns
Mary Silverman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ray Clayton
Tila Estrada

GUESTS:

Lee Anderson, President of the Friends of the Commission
Evelyn Brubaker
Pat Esseff, Rape & Sexual Abuse Center
Clinton Tatum, CAO Administrative Analyst
Sylvia Preston, Child Development Resources
Ruth Pettigrew
India Preston, student
Donna Gholson, Rape & Sexual Abuse Center
Bonnie Warrington, V.P., Friends of the Commission

II. The minutes of the February 9, 1985 meeting were approved as submitted.

III. Executive Secretary Ryder reported on correspondence:

Received from:

- . Sally Newell, Executive Director of CAAN, re: her Salute to Women award.
- . Frances Scharli requesting information about the Commission.
- . Maricarmen Ohara, Ph.D., Ventura College, offering her services as speaker.
- . 9to5 Ventura Working Women with information and questionnaire.
- . California CSW, informational items.
- . Mamie Island re: sponsorship from Delta Sigma Theta and her Salute To Women award.
- . Jones Intercable re: a new local TV news program.
- . Ventura County Apprenticeship Committees re: apprenticeship training in various non-traditional fields for women.
- . Elaine Herzog, new Executive Director of the Coalition Against Household Violence, to Commissioner Johns.
- . City of Oxnard re: Women's History Week proclamation.
- . Erin Sheffield thanking us for her plaque.
- . Cherri-Lou Jacobson, Simi Unified Schools Social Science Mentor Teacher, re: women's history information.

Correspondence sent to:

- . Ventura County CAO Richard Wittenberg requesting reimbursement for mileage for commissioners.
- . Linda Crowl, Oxnard, re: availability of speakers from the Commission.
- . Frances Scharli
- . Delta Sigma Theta
- . Maricarmen Ohara
- . President Reagan re: the U.N. Conference in Nairobi in July to mark the end of the "U.N. Decade for Women."

IV. Financial Report

As of March 1, 1985, 69% of the fiscal year had elapsed with 54% of the budget expended.

V. Friends of the Commission

President of the Friends, Lee Anderson, reported on the dinner held on March 12 which was designed to facilitate community education about, and volunteer recruitment for, the needs assessment project.

The next meeting of the Friends' Board of Directors will be at 7:30pm on March 19 in Camarillo, 2220 Ventura Blvd., at which time they will discuss the timeline for the next Salute To Women awards banquet.

VI. Committees/Task Forces

A. Needs Assessment Steering Committee

Commissioner Connell reported on the first of the public hearings which was held in Simi Valley on March 13. Twelve oral statements were given and 5 or 6 written statements were submitted. The major issue raised was lack of affordable housing. Pre-event publicity in the Simi and Thousand Oaks newspapers was helpful.

Commissioners Engel and Silverman will receive testimony at the March 20 hearing in Ventura. Personal contacts are needed to encourage people to participate.

Ruth Pettigrew and Connell discussed the fundraiser packet and procedures to follow in contacting private enterprise for financial support of the project. Commissioners should send a list of companies they intend to contact to Ginny Connell to avoid any duplication of contacts. Contacts should be made within the next two weeks. Donation checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Commission for Women. Give the donor a stamped, self-addressed envelope addressed to Friends of the Commission, in care of the person requesting the donation.

B. Child Care Committee

Clinton Tatum, Administrative Analyst in the Chief Administrative Office, discussed the final report of his committee on the county employees' child care needs assessment. The report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 19 at their regular Board meeting.

The report recommends that the Board: 1) Recognize that there is a need for child care assistance among County employees; 2) establish a child care information and referral service for County employees as part of the County Personnel Department's employee benefit program effective July 1, 1985; 3) direct the Personnel Department to explore other alternatives under the employee benefits program which are designed to assist County employees with child care problems.

Tatum stated that the County is involved in this issue because of a long-standing concern that child care is a problem which affects employee attendance, productivity and morale. The needs assessment is an attempt to document the problems involved.

Findings indicate that it costs the County approximately \$273,000 annually based on estimates of the number of days missed by employees due to a sick child. An additional \$139,500 is lost due to absenteeism caused by a breakdown in child care arrangements.

The Information & Referral Service costs would be offset by gains to the County in the above mentioned areas. Information & Referral could monitor services provided and provide counseling on what to look for in child care facilities.

An on-site child care facility was not recommended at this time because issues involved would require another study to evaluate the cost, liabilities, location, fees, etc.

Questions may be directed to Clinton Tatum, CAO Office.

Dot Engel expressed the appreciation of the Commission to Mr. Tatum and the other members of his committee for all their hard work.

Commissioner Hubbell reported on a meeting of the child care sub-committee at which she, Dot Engel and Sandy Ryder drew up plans for a campaign to encourage more county employers to consider the alternatives for providing child care for their employees. The campaign will include: 1) A mailing to a selected list of employers with a brochure and cover letter requesting an interview with a top manager; 2) a training session for presentation teams of two to fill requests for interviews; 3) a kit of presentation materials with overhead transparencies for teams to use in interviews; 4) an intensive time schedule (May-June) for follow-up calls and presentations.

A 2-hour training session for the presentation teams will be held on Thursday, April 4 at 10 a.m. at Brook Hubbell's home.

The brochure to be mailed to employers will be developed by Commissioner Ryder and will provide updated information and focus on county employers who are already involved in some level of child care assistance.

- VII. The Agenda was amended to allow the presentation by Ms. Donna Gholson, coordinator of the Child Assault Prevention Program (CAPP), a project of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center of Ventura County.

The Rape & Sexual Abuse Center provides a hotline for crisis counseling, in-person counseling, group counseling, advocacy and follow-up and, since 1980, community education programs. In January 1985 in Ventura County, 2900 students were involved in their education workshops.

The CAP Program provides workshops that are age-appropriate for all grade-level students. The complete program includes adult workshops to educate parents, teachers and community members about child sexual assault and prepares them to respond effectively to a child in crisis.

The CAP Program was begun in Columbus, Ohio in 1979 by teachers after a 2nd grade student was raped. They wanted a way to help ease the fears of other students and to prevent such a tragic situation from happening again.

Statistics show that 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually abused before they are 18. 80%-85% are abused by someone they know. The CAPP workshops are used to break down the walls of silence regarding child sexual abuse.

The emphasis of the workshops is on the children's problem-solving ability in helping them to identify and diffuse potentially dangerous situations. Through role plays and guided group discussion, children learn assertiveness, peer support and communication skills. Children learn that they have a right to be safe, strong and free and that they can say 'no' to an adult to may try to hurt or frighten them.

Ms. Gholson's presentation included a video of a CAPP workshop with a group of young children.

Some area schools which have already participated in a CAPP presentation are: University School and St. Paschal in T.O.; St. Jude's, Westlake; Poindexter Middle School, Moorpark; Montalvo Elementary, Ventura; Saint Rose, Simi. Nine other schools are scheduled, including four pre-schools.

The CAPP for elementary schools will be available in Spanish soon.

VI. Committee Reports (Resumed)

C. Women's History Week

Commissioner Connell reported that the luncheon held by the Women's Equity Coalition/Women's History Task Force raised \$362 to go toward expenses for the teachers' women's history workshop and for educational materials for the county schools system.

Evidence of the "blossoming" of the efforts of the task force over the past several years is apparent in the various community and school activities and observances of Women's History Week. Some of the Community Resource Women had filled schedules for presentations to classrooms and other presentations were made to various community organizations as their monthly meeting program. The County Board of Supervisors, the Community College District Trustees and six city councils issued Women's History Week proclamations.

D. NACW report postponed until April meeting.

E. Awards Selection and Banquet Committee

Commissioner Matson presented the revised plan for handling the Salute To Women awards. The plan, which was approved by the Commission, includes the following:

- . Expansion of the dissemination of nomination forms
- . Revision of the nomination form
- . Cover letter explaining the awards and criteria for nomination
- . A three-stage selection process

Nomination forms will be distributed in April, May and June. The deadline for receiving nominations in the Commission office will be July 1. Selections will be made by Sept. 1. The banquet will take place on Wednesday, October 30, 1985.

F. Legislative Analysis

Commissioner Connell recommended the article by Sen. Diane Watson in the recent issue of "California Women", the newsletter of the California Commission on the Status of Women, which discusses the line item vetoes in the state '83-'84 budget. The result was severe damage to programs that directly benefited women and children. Sen. Watson says that "women must undertake a rescue mission to prevent further erosion of programs."

Federal:

The 1985 Civil Rights Restoration Act (known as HR700 in the House and S431 in the Senate) would restore the full meaning of Title IX which prohibits discrimination because of sex, age, handicap in all institutions that receive federal money. Connell suggests support for these measures but opposition to the following:
S272 (Dole) deals only with education and does not refer to discrimination in other institutions that receive federal money.

Commissioner Connell recommended a book made available by Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy's office, The Feminization of Poverty. It is a compendium of material on several issues including child care, child support, pay equity, income security and others. Copies are available at \$4 each from the office of the Lt. Governor, State Capitol, Suite 1028, Sacramento, CA 95814.

G. and H. Reports from the Domestic Violence Services Committee and Communications was postponed to April.

There being no further unfinished or new business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Submitted by

Martha Baskerville

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Commission Staff

Commissioners and volunteers are asked to keep records of time, expenses and mileage incurred in commission or support activities. Activity record sheets are available from the Commission office. Commissioners, Committee Chairs and Friends - Please prepare your information for the annual report and give it to Commissioner White at the May 18 meeting.