

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3482 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California
November 14, 1981

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Lauren Anderson
Mary Baird '
Yvonne Gallegos Bodle
Virginia Connell
Dorothy Engel
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Carol Keochekian
JoAnne Le-Fils Moore
Sandra Smith Ryder
Erin Healy Sheffield
Stephen Wiman

STAFF

Jean Getchell
Beverly French

CALL TO ORDER

The November meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair for the Commission, and was held at Dupars Restaurant, Thousand Oaks.

After introductory remarks, Ms. Bodle called for a review of the Minutes from the Commission's October meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Stephen Wiman moved that the Commission dispense with the reading of the Minutes from the October meeting. Jean Getchell then brought up the matter of a correction in the October Minutes, on page three, paragraph three. The Minutes were then approved as corrected.

GUESTS

Theresa Callaway (Coalition
Against Household Violence)
Elaine Herzog
Roswitha Jung (Coalition
Against Household Violence)
Linda Kovacs (Interface)
Kate McLean (Interface)
Roz McGrath (Coalition
Against Household Violence)
Marion Schetle (League of
Women Voters)
Bonnie Warrington

CLERICAL REPORT

Clerical secretary Beverly French reported on the use of the Commission Office at 3482 Loma Vista Road, Ventura. She also brought up the matter of having a sign made up reading "Commission for Women" to put on the office door. Use of the secretary's time and services by Commissioners was also discussed. Virginia Connell discussed the possible uses of the Commission office and its materials, which are available to all Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary Sandra Ryder read a letter from the State of California's Industrial Welfare Commission, which is inviting nominations for four new wage boards. It was decided that anyone interested in being nominated for one of these positions should send in a resume to the Commission's clerical secretary at the office in Ventura.

Theresa Callaway, guest at the meeting, expressed interest in being nominated. It was moved, seconded, and passed, that she be nominated for such an appointment. Mary Jane Johns also expressed her wish to be nominated for one of the wage board positions. She, too, was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin Sheffield, Finance Officer, briefly discussed the Commission's financial status. It was pointed out that Kathy Chester is the liason between the Commission for Women and Public Social Services Agency's fiscal office. Kathy Chester requires two signatures to order budgeted items (Co-Chair Yvonne Bodle and Finance Officer Erin Sheffield).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Next on the Agenda were reports from the Commission's standing committees. These included By-Laws Committee, Child Care Project Committee, Communications Committee, Resources Development Committee, and the Legislative Analysis Committee.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Virginia Connell
Yvonne Bodle
Lupe Gonsalves

Copies of the by-laws were passed out to all persons present at the meeting. Virginia Connell discussed changes made from the last meeting regarding the by-laws.

Article IV, Section 4: A new section was added regarding an Executive Committee. After much discussion, it was decided the Commission would make use of an Executive Committee. However, Section 4, as written in the by-laws, was inadequate to express the feelings of the Commission on this matter. Carol Keochekian moved that the Executive Committee section be rewritten by the By-Laws Committee and brought back at the December meeting for reconsideration. Motion seconded and passed.

Further consideration of the by-laws included nominations of officers and the standing committees of the Commission.

Article VI: It was the consensus of the group that a further clause needed to be added regarding removal or vacancy of officers. The final copy revision of the by-laws will be presented at the December meeting of the Commission before being presented to the Board of Supervisors.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Dorothy Engel
Brook Hubbell
Steve Wiman
Mary Baird
Ida Richardson
Lupe Gonsalves
Yvonne Bodle
Mary Jane Johns

Non-Commission Members:

Susan Minich
Jarryl Larsen
Pam Waldron
Cedra Reskovac

The Child Care Project Committee met on November 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room at Children's Services, 3482 Loma Vista Road, Ventura. Dorothy Engel, Chair, reported on the Committee's activities. Discussion ensued regarding Sue Minich's ongoing research for a directory of licensed providers of child care.

Steve Wiman has an appointment with Mr. Hill of the State Department of Social Services. They will examine the statutes and regulations that currently govern child care facilities.

At the Child Care Committee meeting, Brook Hubbell presented a plan of strategy, and she is also drafting an introductory statement to limit and define the scope of the plan. Also, a letter is to be sent to key businesses and institutions, soliciting information about any child care provisions they have for their employees.

There was also a discussion of babysitting services for women in Alcohol Programs. More information is needed and will be available by the next meeting. The next meeting of this Committee will be on Saturday, November 21 at the Simi Valley Library.

It was decided that Yvonne Bodle will be a representative on the Child Care Project Committee from District 3, and Mary Jane Johns will serve as a representative from District 5.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Erin Healy Sheffield
Sandra Smith Ryder
Dorothy Engel
Lauren Anderson

Ida Richardson
Mary Jane Johns
Mary Baird

The Communications Committee met on October 24. Sandra Ryder discussed an informational packet that will be prepared to present to Ventura County Supervisors explaining and supporting the request for a directory for women's organizations and goods and services provided by women. Virginia Connell pointed out that the Commission does not want to get involved in a county-wide directory of women in business, since this does not touch women at the bottom, those on welfare. Ms. Connell indicated that the Commission could use other business women's directories, namely, those of the Ventura County Business Womens' Network and Interface.

Ms. Connell moved to strike last month's recommendation to publish a women's directory. Instead, the Commission will support and approve other women's organizations who publish such directories. Motion was seconded and passed.

The Committee decided to begin publication of a newsletter in January 1982. The newsletter will be published by-monthly and will include a variety of information of interest to women throughout Ventura County.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Erin Healy Sheffield
Rita Hernandez Romero
JoAnne Le-Fils Moore
Erica Neville (Non-Commission member)

There was no report from this Committee for November.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Virginia Connell
Bonnie Warrington (Non-Commission member)
Stephen Wiman

Steve Wiman reported on the Commission's soliciting information from various legislative groups. The question arose as to why that information was needed. Virginia Connell pointed out that the Commission needs to know about legislature that is offensive or discriminating against women, since it is the Commission's job to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about these matters. Ms. Connell volunteered to be on the Legislative Analysis Committee. It was moved that Ms. Connell chair that Committee. Motion seconded and passed. Bonnie Warrington also volunteered to be a member of that Committee and was approved by the Commission for that position.

OLD BUSINESS

At the Commission's October meeting, the question arose as to whether to tape meetings or not. It was decided that the clerical secretary would poll various Ventura County Commissions to see how many Commissions used tapes. Of the 18 Commissions polled, 14 said YES they do, 3 said NO, and one said SOMETIMES they do.

Steve Wiman moved to tape the Commission meetings and to make the tapes available to the public, and as an aid to the secretary in doing the Minutes. Motion seconded and passed.

Yvonne Bodle offered to make a tape recorder available for Commission use and Mary Jane Johns volunteered to bring the tapes to use. It was decided the tapes would be kept for a short period of time (e.g., 3 months) and then reused.

It was further moved that an amendment be added to the first motion to allow no public access to the tapes. The motion was denied.

COALITION AGAINST HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE

Roswitha Jung of the Coalition Against Household Violence asked the Commission to approve and support the establishing of a shelter for battered women and their children on the west side of Ventura County. A house has already been located in Ventura. The shelter would be open on a trial basis for the first six months, and would offer shelter to four women and their children. After that, it would be able to provide for eight women and their children. The shelter would have an operating budget of \$55,000 for the first year. To help support the shelter, the Coalition would sponsor a pledge drive, get help from fund raisers, and would have an open house when the shelter was opened.

The Coalition representative, Ms. Jung, asked the Commission to support the decision to provide a shelter. There followed a discussion of the Commission's feeling about supporting this issue.

Kate McLean from Interface spoke about emergency shelters provided by Interface. Resources available for setting up new shelters were considered. The matter of demand versus need was examined and discussed.

JoAnne Moore moved that the Commission write a letter to the appropriate funding agencies in support of the funding of a shelter on the west side of Ventura County through the Coalition Against Household Violence. Motion seconded and passed.

VENTURA COUNTY BUSINESS WOMENS' NETWORK

The Ventura County Business Womens' Network had a meeting on Thursday, November 12, in Oxnard. Sandra Ryder attended and reported on the meeting. There was a presentation on what are you trying to do for people, and also, a presentation on the purpose of a network. There were approximately 140 people present. The next meeting will be on January 20. Ms. Ryder will pursue an honorary membership for the Commission in this Network. She plans to attend their meetings.

PHONE COMMUNICATIONS

There was a discussion about assistance for widowed women receiving help. The Commission's office received a phone call requesting further information on this subject. It was suggested that a member from BREAKTHROUGH be invited to the next meeting of the Commission on December 12.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Simi Valley Adventist Hospital regarding the Leal V. Grunke Child Learning Center for the employees of Adventist Hospital. They have experienced difficulty in obtaining a city planning commission special use permit. Mary Baird moved that the Commission send a letter in response to the Simi Valley Environmental Services Commission giving our support of the day care center, and encouraging that everything possible be done to speed up the obtaining of the needed permit for which they are applying. Motion seconded and passed. The record will show that JoAnne Moore abstained from voting. Executive Secretary Sandra Ryder will draft the letter, as approved by the Commission.

INTERFACE

Kate McLean briefly outlined the work that Interface is doing. She briefly described the four programs that Interface runs: Youth Crisis, Domestic Violence Intervention, Adolescent Treatment Program, and the Family Counseling Program. Over 7,000 people were aided through one of these four programs last year. Ms. McLean plans to attend next month's meeting to speak further about the Interface Programs.

GRAND JURY REPORT

Jean Getchell, Administrative Analyst for the County of Ventura, met with the Grand Jury regarding the child development issue. The Grand Jury expressed curiosity about the formation of the Commission for Women when funds are so low. The group on ethnic minority singled out the Commission for Women as an inconsistency in the Board of Supervisor's funding. There is a good opportunity for the Commission to accomplish something worthwhile for all of Ventura County through its work in the area of child care. Unless the Commission can demonstrate some really significant accomplishments, it will be difficult for the Board of Supervisors to give more money to the Commission. There is a need to justify the Commission's existence by means of a worthwhile final product. The Commission can provide an essential coordinating function in the light of these budget cuts.

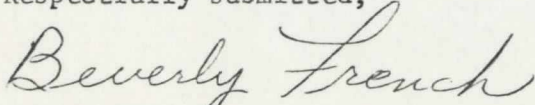
Ms. Getchell also reported that the question was asked as to how much interest is being earned on money being funded for domestic violence. The facts show that interest earnings are being lost. It was moved that the Commission for Women request permission from the Board of Supervisors to contact the State Commission on the Status of Women to encourage a revision of the law to make a provision for income through interest earnings from the funds derived from the marriage license fees and be retained in the domestic violence fund, and that a letter be directed to State Senator Robert Presley so stating. Motion seconded and passed. Executive Secretary Sandra Ryder will draft a letter to that effect.

Ms. Ryder was also directed to write to the Ventura County Grand Jury foreman and invite him/her to attend the meetings of the Commission for Women because of the concern the Grand Jury has expressed over the future of these programs.

It was moved by JoAnne Moore and seconded by Lauren Anderson to send Minutes on a regular basis to the grand jury.

The Commission was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by Yvonne Bodle. The next meeting of the Commission will be on December 12 at the Camarillo Library.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly French, Clerical Secretary
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN